



Humanitarian Engagement with Non-State Armed Groups: Enhancing the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict

Agenda:

8:30 a.m.

Breakfast

9:00 a.m.

Welcome

Dr. Edward C. Luck, *Senior Vice President for Research and Programs, International Peace Institute (IPI)*

9:10 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Introductory Remarks

Ms. Heidi Grau, *Deputy Permanent Representative, Mission of Switzerland to the UN*

Sir John Holmes, *Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator*

9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Panel I: Rationale and Strategies for Engaging Non-State Armed Groups

Why is engagement with non-State armed groups important and how can it best be effected? When and how should such groups be engaged? What are the incentives for non-State armed groups to comply with international humanitarian and human rights law? How can external actors better coordinate their efforts in the field and share best practices in engaging with such groups in order to better protect civilians in armed conflict? How can Member States encourage the adoption of strategies to support non-State actor compliance with norms affecting the protection of civilians?

Chair:

Dr. Edward C. Luck, *Senior Vice President for Research and Programs, IPI*

Speakers:

Ms. Elisabeth Decrey Warner, *President and Co-founder, Geneva Call*

Mr. Louis-Georges Arsenault, *Director of Emergency Programmes, UNICEF*

11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Coffee Break

11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Panel II: Case Studies, Lessons Learned, and Best Practices

What lessons can be learned from previous experience in engaging non-State armed groups? What were the major issues involved in each case? What strategies for addressing these issues were most effective and why? What are the main challenges associated with humanitarian engagement with non-State armed groups and how have these been managed? What specific lessons and best practices can be learned from each case? How can they be applied in future situations?

Chair:

Mr. Hansjoerg Strohmeyer, *Chief of Policy, Development & Studies Branch, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)*

Speakers:

Mr. Sayed Aqa, *UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Bahrain (formerly Coordinator of the Afghan Campaign to Ban Landmines) (tbc)*

Reverend Francisco de Roux, *Director of the Programme for Development and Peace in Magdalena Medio, Colombia (tbc)*

Mr. Jonathan Somer, *Legal Advisor and Programme Coordinator on Children and Non-State Actors, Geneva Call*

12:45 p.m. –1:00 p.m. **Closing Remarks**

Mr. Hansjoerg Strohmeyer, *Chief of Policy, Development & Studies Branch, UN OCHA*

Dr. Edward C. Luck, *Senior Vice President for Research and Programs, IPI*