Our Common Peacebuilding Challenge: the Contribution of ‘International Geneva’
Tuesday, 6 November 2007

**CONCEPT NOTE**

The overall objective of the one-day conference is to nurture a greater engagement between the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and the key stakeholders located outside of United Nations Headquarters, with a view to ensuring that the practical experience and expertise of this multitude of actors feed into the deliberations of the Commission. The aim is for the discussions to produce practical recommendations that could serve to inform and bolster the international community’s peacebuilding response through the PBC. The conference is conceived of as a two-part dialogue: the opening is framed to allow ‘New York to talk to Geneva’, while the afternoon is oriented towards showcasing ‘International Geneva’s’ peacebuilding capacity. The three sessions have distinct but complementary objectives.

The discussions take place under the Chatham House Rule, and active participation is encouraged. The GCSP and UNOG will publish a short summary of the conference proceedings on their respective websites, and compile recommendations coming out of the presentations and panels. The working language of the conference is English, and simultaneous interpretation English/French will be provided.

**Session 1: The United Nations Peacebuilding Commission: One Year On**

The opening session is intended to bring stakeholders based beyond United Nations Headquarters up-to-date on the progress achieved, the political, institutional and operational challenges faced by the PBC since its inception, and prospects for its activities. The panel discussion, which follows the keynote addresses, brings together representatives of some of the PBC’s stakeholder communities to present their own views on the achievements of the PBC to date, in particular on the modalities for their interaction with the Commission, and to discuss how their engagement could be strengthened.

**Session 2: The Contribution of ‘International Geneva’**

The GCSP will present the findings and conclusions of their comprehensive and structured survey of Geneva-based institutions involved in peacebuilding that is part of ‘The UN Peacebuilding Commission and International Geneva’ project. This analytical overview of the makeup of the ‘International Geneva’ peacebuilding landscape will be followed by comments from two key stakeholders of the ‘International Geneva’ community on the outcomes of the mapping exercise, as well as a discussion of the strengths and potential gaps that have been identified within ‘International Geneva’, and how this knowledge may best contribute to the work of the PBC and the broader peacebuilding cause.

**Session 3: Mind the Gaps: from Humanitarian Relief to Peacebuilding**

The panel focuses on a central theme in the current peacebuilding debate on which ‘International Geneva’ has particular expertise: the transition from humanitarian assistance to longer-term development.

**Closing Session**

The proceedings will be closed by a keynote address, looking ahead to how the multi-stakeholder approach in peacebuilding may be reinforced, without losing focus and accountability.