Expert Roundtable Discussion: Formalisation Processes in Extractive Sectors as part of State- and Peacebuilding Strategies

27-28 February 2020
Peace Academy Rhineland-Palatinate, University of Koblenz-Landau, Landau, Germany

Research Question & Context

To date, formalisation is one of the main instruments of natural resource governance and reform in the Global South. It is based on the idea that increased legalisation, regulation and monitoring are essential for ameliorating social, economic and environmental problems that resource rich countries are confronted with. Tackling these challenges is particularly vital and difficult in state- and peacebuilding contexts. Therefore, it is troubling that the way formalisation is currently being carried out often appears not to achieve the propagated socio-economic and -ecological improvements. For example, in developing or post-conflict settings, formalisation of resource sectors can cement adverse power dynamics, thereby (re-)creating contentious inequalities in access or benefit distribution. Against this background, the expert roundtable discussion will bring together researchers and practitioners in order to seek answers for the following question: What are workable alternatives to formalisation processes across extractive sectors in state- and peacebuilding contexts?

Concept

Structured with a focus on moderated discussion rather than presentation, the roundtable provides an intimate and interactive space for scholars and practitioners from the fields of mining, forestry as well as statebuilding. In preparation, each expert will share a short statement relating to the main question from their own point of view. Participants will then defend these inputs in brief opening statements. Based on that, several sessions will allow us to identify common ground or formulate points of contention. Next, the discussants will address their differences or consensus to jointly answer the main question of the event. Finally, the participants propose next steps and decide how to make use of the roundtable outcomes: We envision that anything from a discussion paper to a policy brief, a joint webinar or even a combination of the discussants’ ideas is possible.

Organiser

The event is organised by the Peace Academy Rhineland-Palatinate of the University of Koblenz-Landau. It is the closing event of the projects ‘Natural Resource Governance and Human Security in Post-Conflict Societies’ and ‘Transforming Conflict Economies: Natural Resource Sector Reform and Human Security’, which are funded by the German Foundation for Peace Research and the Gerda Henkel Foundation respectively. Both projects investigate the impact of natural resource governance on vulnerable populations in extractive societies. The first one examines diamond sector governance in Sierra Leone and Liberia and the second one focuses on forest sector governance in Liberia.

The Peace Academy Rhineland-Palatinate seeks to promote and strengthen strategies of crisis prevention and civil conflict management, further peace research, inspire the political discourse and train those that are faced with potentials for conflict and violence in their work. As a unique interface institution in Rhineland-Palatinate, it promotes the mutual exchange between academic research and civil society actors. One of our core research areas focuses on environmental and resource conflicts. If you wish to find out more about our work, please click here.

The expert roundtable discussion is organised with the kind support of the German Foundation for Peace Research and the Gerda Henkel Foundation.
Application Process

Please send a copy of your CV, as well as supporting evidence (e.g. articles, reports, videos, blogs) clearly reflecting your experience either in the field of natural resource governance (esp. regarding formalisation processes in the fields of mining and forestry) and/or state- and peacebuilding. This experience can be academic and/or practical.

The deadline for application is 15 January 2020. We will inform you by 17 January 2020 if you have been selected to participate in the roundtable.

Please send your application documents and any questions to the following email address: welter@uni-landau.de

Expenses

The Peace Academy RLP will book a hotel room and refund your transportation costs. A limit of 300 € applies to transportation.