



Núcleo de Estudos para a Paz
(NEP)

Background Information

EXPERTS MEETING ON THE PROJECT “PEACEBUILDING PROCESSES AND STATE FAILURE STRATEGIES – LESSONS LEARNED FROM FORMER PORTUGUESE COLONIES”

A project financed by the Ford Foundation

1. The Research Project

Project's Goals

The main goal of this research project is to analyse the impact of donor cooperation policies in the consolidation or fragilisation of the state-building processes of three former Portuguese colonies: Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique. The general hypothesis that guides this study is that contemporary peace-building processes adopt a model whose policies are precisely the ones that lead to situations of state fragilisation or even of state failure.

Within this framework, the specific objectives of the project are threefold. In a first moment, a comparative analysis of the development aid policies' declared strategies and aims towards the three countries; second, a comparative analysis of the impact and results of these policies in the three mentioned cases and their regions; finally, an identification of possible alternative policies, based on a lessons-learned process.

Intensive field research will aim to analyse whether donor policies based on structural adjustment plans and political reforms take into due account the internal dynamics and context specificity of each case and are able to contribute to reinforce the state's performance or, by the contrary, if they supply strong exogenous elements to its fragilisation.

2. The Experts Meeting

Objectives of the Experts Meeting

The main objective of this meeting is to produce theoretical, methodological and empirical inputs for the analysis of donor cooperation policies in the State consolidation or fragilisation of the three case studies: Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique.

Meeting format

For each thematic panel, selected participants will be asked to present a specific topic, elaborating on questions noted here. At the end of each session, there will be an open discussion for comments, examples and feedback. It is expected that all participants will contribute to the discussions, as well as in the formulation of final recommendations and conclusions.

Participants who are asked to present on a given topic will contribute a short paper (5-6 pages). These contributions will be included in a working paper that incorporates these

syntheses and final conclusions. A draft of the working paper will be circulated to participants for feedback before final publication.

Outputs

- A working paper on the project – to be distributed following the meeting.
- A special edition of the online bulletin [P@x](#) (NEP/CES) in Portuguese and English with a synthesis of the contributions to the meeting and main conclusions.
- Consolidation of a network of experts / international advisory board on the theme of the project.

Organizing institution

Peace Studies Group from the Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra (NEP/CES) has been developing research on peace and conflict studies for the last four years. One of its main research lines are the roles played by “new” actors within peaceful settlement of conflicts and within rehabilitation processes in war-torn countries. The Group works within the Centre for Social Studies, which has been developing interdisciplinary studies on the multiple dimensions of globalization processes and the different impacts they produce and also the new tensions and relevant actors of the North-South agenda.

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AGENDA

Venue: School of Economics, University of Coimbra

Date: March 31st /April 1st, 2006

DAY 1 - March 31st

PANEL 1

15:00: *Presentation of the project's aims and theoretical framework*

José Manuel Pureza (Peace Studies Group/CES, University of Coimbra)

15:30/16:00: *"Failed states" and their insertion in the international system*

Mark Duffield (Bristol University)

Questions

- The importance of the 'failed states' terminology and its consequences in the definition of policies towards these states
- Growing international consensus seems to be building around three options to deal with the so-called failed states: conditionality, international protectorates or indifference. Can we draw any alternative perspectives/policies/solutions to avoid this trend?

16:30: Coffee-break

17:00/18:00: *Debate*

Discussants:

Robert Matthews (Centre for Peace Research, Madrid)

Nuno Vidal (School of Economics/Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra)

20:30: Group Dinner

DAY 2 - April 1st

PANEL 2

Moderator: *Tatiana Moura (Peace Studies Group/CES/University of Coimbra)*

10:00/10:30: *Peacebuilding and “Failed States”*

Susan Woodward (City University of New York)

Questions

- What are the most frequent obstacles that the use of this terminology poses to peacebuilding?
- Is statebuilding a peacebuilding strategy?
- Is it possible to identify State performance indicators for peace consolidation?

10:30/11:00: *Development Policies, Peacebuilding and “Failed States”*

David Sogge (Transnational Institute, Amsterdam)

Questions

- How can development policies towards African countries be evaluated?
- In the definition of development policies, is there opportunity for African states to play an important role as development actors?
- Do the external actors always have a say? The importance of internal dynamics and their impact in the results of development policies

11h00: Coffee-break

11h30/13h00: *Debate*

Discussant:

Mariano Aguirre (Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior - FRIDE)

PANEL 3

Moderator: *Kátia Cardoso (Peace Studies Group/CES/University of Coimbra)*

15h00/16h30: The role of external development actors in post-conflict scenarios:

The case of Mozambique

Teresa Cravo (NEP/CES)

The case of Angola

Fernando Pacheco (Acção para o Desenvolvimento Rural e Ambiente, Angola)

The case of Guinea-Bissau

Mamadú Jao (Instituto Nacional de Estudos e Pesquisas, Guinea Bissau)

16h30: Coffee-break

17h00: Comments to the case studies and main challenges - debate

Discussant:

Ulrich Schiefer (ISCTE, Lisbon)

18h00: General conclusions and closing

20h00: Group Dinner