

AGENDA

The Business Case for Building Resilience and Pursuing Peace

59th Strategy for Peace Conference
October 17–19, 2018
Airlie Center, Warrenton, Virginia USA

In 2017, violence cost the global economy \$14.8 trillion; the economic impact of such violence and conflict has a significant impact on small and medium enterprises, or SMEs, which often lack the same risk-mitigating tools of large multinational corporations. Research from multiple sources all demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of successful conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts, and prevention is financially more cost-effective than response during and post-conflict. While the rationale for private sector engagement in prevention efforts is clear, detailed analysis of *how* the private sector can effectively engage in and benefit from preventative actions remains murky at best, and noninclusive of business perspectives at worst.

Now is an opportune moment for a new conversation, bringing together disparate conversations for better informed multisectoral collaboration to prevent violent conflict. The following agenda outlines the key points for discussion as well as guiding questions for dialogue in the pursuit of recommendations for civil society, private businesses, and all others working with governments.

October 17, 2018

Welcome and Introductory Sessions

5:00 – 7:30 p.m. Dinner—Federal Room

7:30 p.m. Opening Session

After dinner, we will convene in our roundtable room for a short welcome and framing of the discussion and agenda. Participants will briefly introduce themselves and share what they most hope to gain from this roundtable discussion.

As this session comes after a day of travel for many, we will be as efficient as possible so that participants can have a restful and relaxing evening with time for informal conversation and enjoyment of the Airlie retreat center.

October 18, 2018

The Business Case for Peace and Resilience

9:00 – 12:00 p.m. **Setting the Stage: Status, Key Evidence and Analyzing Rationales for Business Involvement in Peace and Prevention**

- **Status:** What is the state of this conversation? What are the areas where gaps exist and progress could be made? What questions need to be asked and answered?
- **Definitions:** What are the parameters of this discussion? What types of businesses are we talking about? What point in the conflict and peace cycle are we concerned about?
- **Key evidence:** Review of recent research as well as case studies and examples that demonstrate effective and collaborative partnership with SMEs or other larger corporations in prevention and resilience.

- **Rationale:** What are the compelling and most effective arguments or justifications for private sector involvement in these spaces?
 - What advantages are there for corporate actors to invest in peace, and how should they do so with a conflict-sensitive approach? How do the “investments” that SMEs and larger corporations can make differ?
 - Is the strongest rationale moral or economic, *or* perhaps a combination of both?

12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Lunch

Partnerships, Collaboration and Messaging

2:00 – 5:00 p.m. **Analysis of current actions and networks:** Where is there progress in collaboration across the private sector, civil society and others? What tools, mechanisms and platforms exist for productive partnerships?

- How does the private sector successfully partner with civil society and academia?
- What are the mutual needs and interests from civil society and the private sector?
- What is the governmental or multilateral role in facilitating such collaboration?

Investments in resilience: What are the opportunities and challenges for innovative finance mechanisms in the pursuit of resilience and peace?

Identifying collaborative opportunities:

- Where are there opportunities for greater inclusion of diverse voices and representation?
- Are there efficiencies that can be created across numerous networks and activities?

Messaging for impact, including a review of strategies thus far and consideration of valuable opportunities and approaches.

- What case studies or examples demonstrate effective collaboration between the private sector and others?
- What important lessons can be shared from these cases, and moreover what are the crucial messages for corporate leaders, civil society actors and multilateral engagement?

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. **Reception Event—The Pavilion**

7:00 p.m. **Dinner—The Pavilion**

October 19, 2018

Recommendations

9:00 – 12:00 p.m. **Review of Key Discussion Points and Generating Further Recommendations**

Participants will review the status of answered questions as well as any significant gaps for further discussion. While the organizers have worked to identify achievable goals and questions for discussion, some areas may require further elaboration through future engagements and next steps.

Participants will also provide any final comments and insights from the previous day’s discussion, and will begin to brainstorm next steps. These observations, highlights from previous session dialogues, and considerations for next steps will be synthesized into a Policy Memo and Policy Dialogue Brief that will be published by Stanley Foundation and shared with participants following the roundtable.

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. **Lunch**