

Promoting lasting solutions

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**Session IV
Making it last: building Infrastructures for Peace
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Content I

- South Africa
- Why an Infrastructure for Peace (I4P) ?
- Description
- Key Components
- Case Ghana

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South Africa

- National Peace Accord in 1991, between 27 stakeholders:
 - National Peace Committee (NPC) with all 27 signatories
 - 11 Regional PCs
 - 260 Local PCs
- This peace structure managed to contain violence before '94 elections

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Why an I4P?

- World becoming less safe & secure
- Some 90 countries fragile or affected by conflicts
- Most countries lack conflict analysis, EWER and adequate peace-structures
- Elections more contested & violent
- I4P works

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Description of I4P

- Network of interdependent systems, resources and skills
- Held by government and civil society
- Promoting dialogue, conflict prevention and mediation
- At all levels, national, district & local

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Key Components

- Peace Committees, at all levels and interdependent
- National Peacebuilding Platform with main stakeholders
- Conflict Analysis & EWER
- Building national capacities

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Case Ghana

- Origin violence & conflict in 1994 and 2002
- Decision on Peace Architecture in 2006
- Peaceful elections in 2008 & 2012
- NPC Law in 2011
- Main task: mediator in social & political conflict

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Content II

- Role of government
- Local Peace Committees (LPCs)
- Peaceful elections
- Urgency

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Role of Government

- Important, but not steering
- In fragile countries, government maybe partisan & may lack legitimacy
- Need for an I4P as bridge builder
- Preference for PC with respected civil society leaders and for (semi-) independent I4P (Ghana/Kenya)

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Local Peace Committees

- Important role for LPCs when government lacks legitimacy
- Vital functions in : - fostering dialogue in divided communities;
 - managing conflict
 - and protecting communities from violence
- Often, LPCs have working relationship with local government.

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Peaceful Elections

- Elections are structured processes of competition for power
- Elections make deeply rooted social conflicts visible and expression of grievances
- Urgent need for more emphasis on prevention of electoral violence
- UWIANO Peace Platform, Kenya
- IDEA Guide with Action Points

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Urgency

- Let us learn from SA in 91-94 !
- Potential for violent conflict rising
- Peaceful elections very good entry-point
- I4P highly cost-effective
- Need for Global Forum on I4P, with key actors (gov, UN, IGOs, CSOs)

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