CONCEPT NOTE

PDA Fellowship Programme on
'Inclusive Dialogue'

UNDP Oslo Governance Centre (OGC) and the UNDP-DPA Joint Programme

Inclusive dialogues have proven useful in many contexts leading to participative and consensus solutions for political and constitutional reforms in times of political transitions, expanding the ownership of agreements during peace negotiation, supporting reconciliation processes, or contributing to more consultative national strategies.

Most PDAs support dialogue efforts in their country of deployment, engaging with local communities and national stakeholders to build collaboration and consensus to address recurrent conflicts and violence, such as those related to governance systems, contested political transitions and elections, marginalization or exclusion, disputes over natural resources, among others. In some instances, PDAs have either directly supported or indirectly complemented formal UN engagement at Track 1 level, while oftentimes supporting Track 2 or Track 3 processes.

The Fellowship will be designed to allow PDAs to reflect on the current practice of dialogue processes, with a specific focus on the inclusiveness aspect, drawing on their concrete experience from various regions in the world. During the Fellowship, PDAs will 1) analyze a role of an inclusive dialogue in supporting substantive change in the society, and discuss the role of dialogue as a process, why it is appropriate in certain contexts, and should be seen as a sustained process rather than one-off event (why dialogue?); ii) analyze the meaning of inclusivity in different processes and provide a comprehensive mapping of entry points, tools and formats used in various contexts, 2) provide concrete lessons and best practices to keep in mind when designing, facilitating or in other ways supporting an inclusive dialogue process, and draw attention to lessons learned and good practices pertaining to the UN's role (and the complementarities across the UN when supporting inclusive dialogue, including possible roles of PDAs) with the aim to 3) strengthening an inclusive approach to addressing social unrest and conflict in a society, and building national capacities.

Key points of reflection

- **Contexts and entry points:** What are some country examples where the UN has played different roles in supporting inclusive dialogue process? How is inclusive dialogue defined and managed in these different processes and contexts? What have been the entry-points identified and used by PDAs to engage or set up a dialogue process? What implications/ opportunities do these different roles have on the PDA function?

- **"Pre-Dialogue":** When do we "claim" that we supported a dialogue? How were dialogue participants supported to acquire the necessary skills and aptitude for working past mutual prejudice and towards constructive engagement? How were widely differing perceptions and expectations with regard to the method and objectives of dialogue reconciled? How to assure a positively centered design for a legitimate dialogue process? How was women's participation and gender

equality promoted as part of the process design? What UN assistance was offered to build the core relevant capacities for dialogue participants, and how was the facilitator/s supported in overcoming these challenges?

- **Tools and challenges:** What are the tools, mechanisms, approaches, and formats adopted by PDAs to ensure the inclusion of various stakeholders in a dialogue process? What are the commonalities and particularities in the approaches used to engage specific groups i.e. women, youth, private sector, religious and faith-based leaders, marginalized social groups, etc; across different cultural and political contexts? How did PDAs address some challenges linked to increased inclusivity such as the risk of decreased of efficiency, ensuring the representation and legitimacy of participants, etc. How has the gender of the PDA influenced the access and/or approach used to engage national stakeholders in an inclusive process? In cases where the UN has a formal mandate to support Track 1 initiatives, how did the PDA support the UNCT in identifying and advancing options for facilitating a broader, inclusive dialogue (or set of dialogues) that could serve to inform the high-level political format?

- **Sustainability:** How can inclusive dialogue processes be nurtured into more sustained local and national capacities to manage conflict peacefully? How can such processes be integrated into institutions or mechanisms that promote dialogue and consultation part of a broader peace architecture? How can a PDA support incorporation of the dialogue outcomes in a long term political strategies? How can a PDA can enhance national capacities for conflict prevention/dialogue?

- **PDA/Joint Programme role:** What has been the added value, and challenges specific to the UN, and the Joint Programme in particular, in supporting inclusive dialogue processes? How can DPA and UNDP work in a more complementary and effective manner when engaging in dialogue processes, recognizing the different networks, areas of expertise, and entry points available to each?

Resulting products:

Ahead of the Fellowship, the PDAs will be invited to produce a 2 page draft case study outlining their experience in supporting a dialogue process in a specific context, and providing an initial reflection to the key questions to be raised subsequently during the Fellowship.

At the end of the Fellowship, the PDAs will produce jointly the following products:

- 10-15 page document of "Critical Lessons" responding to the guiding questions of the Fellowship. It will integrate the case studies prepared ahead of the Fellowship.

- 2 page check-list for practitioners with key questions and consideration to be taken when designing or facilitating an inclusive dialogue process.

An initial draft will be proposed at the end of the Fellowship, and will need to be finalized 4 weeks after the end of the programme.