

## Training Course in “Land conflict, Peace-Making and post-conflict Peace Building”, New York City, USA

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Land in general and disputes over land in particular are often intimately connected to conflict dynamics, and are common drivers of violence at both the national and community level. Where this is the case, durable peace cannot be achieved without adequate attention to land and land rights in both peace making processes and post-conflict peace building.

Past experience shows that more work needs to be done to increase awareness amongst national and international actors about the inter-linkages between land, on the one hand, and conflict, on the other hand, including about how to successfully address conflict-related land issues in transitional contexts.

To fill this gap, IOM and UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), offers an introductory training course entitled “Land conflict, Peace-making and post-conflict Peace building” in New York. The target audience of the training are staff and representatives of Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York, UN agencies and NGOs who want to increase their understanding how land and conflict relate.

The training course, which is delivered by leading experts in the field with operational experience in transitional contexts around the world, aims to provide participants with a basic knowledge and understanding of land issues in conflict. The goal is to present participants with concrete tools and

information that they can use in their daily work.

Topics covered include an overview of the international and national actors typically involved in land issues; the relevance and impact of land issues on peace processes; ways to address and resolve land disputes in transitional contexts; links between forced displacement and land; and learning occurred in concrete case-studies, both positive and negative; and the management of natural resources' exploitation and its impact on conflict and peace.

The course embraces an operational approach and focusses on providing participants with an overview of the diverse international practice and experience in addressing land issues in peace making and peacebuilding processes. It includes several practical exercises and discussions around a broad range of case studies. It also introduces participants to different frameworks through which land can be addressed, highlighting challenges and opportunities of addressing land in transitional situations.

The first training took place in New York in May 2014 and saw the participation of more than thirty diplomats, international civil servants and NGO staff. IOM aims to continue providing this training on an annual basis.

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