

The Changing Landscape of Armed Groups: Doing DDR in new contexts

Date: **Tuesday, 1 May 2018**

Time: **10am to 12pm**

Overview: A panel discussion on 1 May 2018 will seek to delve into the changing landscape of armed groups and how DDR practitioners are adapting to these developments with flexible context-specific approaches. As peace operations grapple with situations of heightened political and security challenges, DDR practitioners have had to adjust to complex dynamics (e.g. no peace agreement or inclusive political process, transnational criminal networks, rising number of armed non-state actors, and regional armed group dynamics). Practitioners have to navigate through unclear political struggles and deal with legal constraints in contexts where violent extremism is a further challenge. On the ground, they have in some cases combined community-based programming with weapons management, and are engaging both combatants and youth-at-risk of recruitment while providing technical support to political processes at different levels. DDR efforts remain critical across the peace continuum as one of few non-military means in the UN tool box to directly engage members of armed groups.

The session seeks to build on a panel discussion held in Washington during the World Bank Fragility Forum in March 2018 on new approaches in DDR and will focus in particular on how they have been developed and reinforced through key partnerships. The panel will present on lessons learned from the closure of the Transitional Demobilization and Reintegration Programme (TDRP) and the opening of the Global Programme for Reintegration Support (GPRS). Furthermore, panel members will discuss specific contexts where the World Bank and the United Nations are partnering on DDR, especially second generation DDR measures such as Community Violence Reduction. Participants will further address how to reinforce and codify these innovative measures, applying and adapting these along the peace continuum from prevention to sustainable development as part of DDR interventions.

Purpose: The aim of the event is to articulate how DDR practitioners are adapting to the changing landscape of armed groups through partnerships aimed at addressing conflict and fragile contexts requiring prevention, sustaining peace and development.

Hosts: The World Bank Group, Global Programme for Reintegration Support and the Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration Section in the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations will host the discussion.

Format: The panel will open with a short introduction by the DDR Section followed by brief presentations from the moderator and panel members leading to a wider discussion.

Venue: The event will be held in Conference Room 8 in the United Nations Headquarters.

Participants: A wide-range of representatives from the United Nations, Member States, civil society and academia are invited to participate.