"Democratic governance truly contributes to development by enhancing individual freedom, and such freedom is founded in the protection of human rights and ensured by strong, national institutions".

Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen in his book, Development as Freedom

Democratic governance is the cornerstone of UNDP's approach to addressing poverty and inequality and promoting sustainable human development underscored by the UNDP Strategic Plan, 'Changing with the World' (2014-2017).

UNDP, with the UN Development Group, has played a key role over the past years in facilitating global and national consultations on the Post-2015 agenda, reaching out to more than 7 million people globally, including convening partners and experts globally to deliberate on how to measure governance outcomes.

## **PARTNER WITH OGC:**

The Oslo Governance Centre enthusiastically looks forward to developing strong and viable partnerships.

This might include:

- Co-production of research
- Sharing resources and expertise
- Knowledge co–creation and developing innovative approaches
- Analysis and learning
- Building a common approach to Governance and Peacebuilding



Picture: UNDP in Norway

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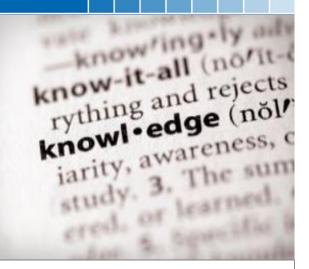
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**United Nations Development Programme** 

# OSLO GOVERNANCE CENTRE





# A KNOWLEDGE AND CONVENING HUB

"Recent outbreaks of violence reinforce a truth we have seen time and again: that where societies are not inclusive, and where governments are not responsive and accountable, peace, equality and shared prosperity cannot take hold."

UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, International Day for Democracy, 2014

# WELCOME TO THE UNDP OSLO GOVERNANCE CENTRE

#### Who we are:

The Oslo Governance Centre (OGC) is one of six UNDP Global Policy Centres, established in 2002 and working since May 2015 with a renewed mandate.

OGC is part of the UNDP Governance and Peacebuilding Cluster in the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS).

It works closely with its New York based Headquarters and other relevant UN and UNDP units strengthening the overall analytical and learning ability in the area of Governance and Peacebuilding.

The OGC draws on UNDP's expertise in human development, democratic governance and conflict prevention to support policy development and applied research with an overarching focus on democratic governance and peacebuilding in crisis, conflict and transitional contexts.

The Centre greatly values its partnership with its host, Norway, and has been set up with shared resources and under shared governance arrangements.

#### How we work:

The OGC acts primarily as a knowledge and convening hub, bringing together like-minded Norwegian, Nordic and Southern partners to support applied research and to develop policy options and tools for governance support. It draws on its unique access to UNDP's global outreach mechanisms and networks to support the sharing, exchange and cocreation of knowledge.

#### THEMATIC FOCUS AREAS:

1. GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES OF COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION

- 2. GOVERNANCE OF EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES
- 3. GOVERNANCE OF INCLUSION AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN
- 4. MEASURING GOVERNANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT RESULTS

#### Why we focus on these themes:

Inclusive and effective governance is essential for the achievement of sustainable human development – particularly for countries emerging from conflict or crisis, or those transitioning to new political settlements. Despite a popular will for change in many countries, the pathways towards more inclusive societies have proven to be far more challenging than anticipated. Transition processes have been unpredictable, and democratic reform has stalled or been captured by elites or fundamentalists.

The management of extractive sectors is both a major challenge and an opportunity for countries in transition. The exploitation of non-renewable natural resources has often triggered violent conflicts, degraded the environment, worsened gender and other inequalities, displaced communities and undermined democratic governance. Alternatively there are also many examples, including of Norway, of effective natural resource management supporting sustainable and equitable human development.

Sustainable human development is incomplete without women and girls being able to contribute meaningfully and equitably to society along with men and boys. Recent studies conclude that there is a strong and highly significant link between state security and women's security.

OGC through a participatory process decided on incorporating these as the main pillars of its work and hopes to continue engaging vigorously with all its partners in taking this work forward.

#### What we deliver:

- 1. The Oslo Governance and Peacebuilding Dialogues and Forum.
- 2. Cutting edge knowledge products and think pieces linked to our thematic areas.
- 3. Brown bag lunches and other knowledge events encouraging discussions and new ideas.
- 4. A linkage between Nordic discussions and UNDP's work on Governance and Peacebuilding.
- 5. Innovative approaches and ideas through the integrated use of the latest research and technologies linked to our Governance and Peacebuilding work.

### OSLO GOVERNANCE AND PEACEBUILDING DIALOGUES AND FORUM:

Quarterly policy dialogues stimulate debate and knowledge-sharing between government partners, UNDP practitioners, other UN entities, civil society organisations, development partners, academic institutions and think tanks.

These policy dialogues contribute to a bigger Forum organized annually in Oslo bringing a wider range of partners together.