



INEF-PANELS

at the Global Conference of the International Peace Research Organization (IPRA)

Leuven

Date: 15-19 July 2008.

Deadline for submitting abstracts:
15 February 2008.

Please send an abstract of 200-250 words to Tome Sandevski (tome.sandevski@inef.uni-due.de). Please indicate for which panel you would like to have your abstract considered and include your institutional affiliation and full contact information (postal and email address, phone, fax) in your submission. We aim to inform you about our decision by 29 February 2008.

Academics from developing countries are particularly encouraged to apply. Thanks to the support of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, partial or full funding for travel and accommodation expenses can be provided.

For further information please consult the INEF homepage (<http://inef.uni-due.de/page/?lang=en>) and the IPRA website (<http://www.ipra2008.org/>).

The Institute for Development and Peace (Institut für Entwicklung und Frieden – INEF, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany), will organize four panels at the 2008 Global Conference of the International Peace Research Organization (IPRA).

Concurrent with the Conference's theme »Building Sustainable Development: Enacting Peace and Development«, the panels will focus on issues connecting the fields of peace and development. Four specific themes are presented in more detail below:

Panel 1: The Internal Dynamics of Hybrid Political Orders

In most developing societies, the boundaries between the polity, the economy and societal institutions are blurred. This interpenetration of social spheres leads to the emergence of hybrid political orders which encompass the formal state apparatus, informal institutions, ›civil society‹ groups, as well as economic actors. These hybrid orders are characterized by a plurality of overlapping rule systems which has a profound effect on politics and policies in these societies. However, at present very little is known about these orders' internal dynamics. This lacuna includes such basic questions as: How do these orders form and how do they evolve? How do hybrid orders relate to external actors as well as broader processes of social change such as globalization, urbanization and modernization? And how do hybrid political orders influence processes of state-building and state failure?

Panel 2: Donors' Responses to Hybrid Political Orders

Hybrid political orders (see panel #1) are not only governed by a particular internal logic, their relationship to development and peace is ambiguous. While such orders can sometimes act as stabilizing institutions, development policy has a hard time coming to grips with these political formations. The questions that this panel will address are mostly empirical in nature: How have donors reacted to hybrid political orders? Have they adapted, broken off contact or are they turning a blind eye to these institutions? The panel particularly welcomes contributions that analyse the micro-level interaction between donor and recipient actors.

Panel 3: The Role of Youth in Development and Peace-Building

The category of youth is closely related to cultural definitions and to processes of social change. In the discussions of international donors and NGOs, children and youth have traditionally been perceived as victims (of maldevelopment as well as of violence), while the current debate focuses on youth as a security problem (e.g. youth bulges, former child soldiers). But for most developing societies youth represents an important potential for development. The challenge for national governments, as well as for international donors, is finding ways for how youth can be integrated into development and peace-building projects in spite of social stratification and limited economic prospects. What role does youth play in different social spheres and what are instruments for youth empowerment? Single case studies, comparative research, and policy-oriented contributions are equally welcome.

Panel 4: The Role of Regional Organizations in Conflict Resolution

In spite of great hopes being placed in them, regional organizations have yet to fully actualize their potential when it comes to the prevention and resolution of conflicts. Although there has been some recent progress (notably within the African Union), regional organizations have usually found themselves unable to decisively impact both inter-state and intra-state conflicts. And despite the widespread introduction of early warning mechanisms, preventive action still eludes regional organizations. The aim of this panel is to critically examine the role of regional organizations in different crises with the intention of addressing the broader question of whether these organizations do have the potential to prevent and resolve conflicts, or whether such aspirations will remain a pipe dream.