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YEARS/ANS



Forum of Federations
The Global Network on Federalism and Devolved Governance



Forum des Fédérations
Le Réseau mondial sur le fédéralisme et la gouvernance dévolue

What Works in Peacebuilding

Federalism as a Peacebuilding Tool in Divided Societies



THIS PANEL EXPLORES...

how federalism and federal state architectures have been used to support peacebuilding and conflict resolution processes (and their successes and failures). The panel aims to contribute to building knowledge on the dynamics between federalism and peacebuilding, and share specific experiences that might inform peacebuilding processes in countries that are considering federal model of governance as a tool for resolving conflicts and building sustainable peace. The use in practice of the shared knowledge from the panel discussion might ultimately contribute to efforts of building peace.

THE PANEL BRINGS TOGETHER...

practitioners and experts from three countries to consider how the federalism has either helped to establish peace in their countries (Ethiopia), or is seen as being at the heart of reconciliation and unity to end decades of conflict (Myanmar and Cyprus). The panel also considers the challenging processes by which federalism may be established.

BY DISCUSSING...

methods to resolve conflicts and maintain lasting peace, it is necessary to take into account the solutions that will ensure the sustainability of peace in a post-conflict environment. As there is no one size fits all solution of a federal model to be implemented, the panel experts draw from empirical evidence to present different models of potentially successful federal structures.

MODERATOR:



Rupak Chattopadhyay, President and CEO,
Forum of Federations.

PANELISTS:



Almaze Mekonnen, Former State Minister for
Peacebuilding and National Consensus, Ministry
of Peace, Government of Ethiopia



Htet Min Lwin, Country Director,
Forum of Federations Myanmar Office



Derya Beyatli, Peace activist & founding member
of the Third Community Forum.

Rupak Chattopadhyay, President and CEO,
Forum of Federations.

Mr. Chattopadhyay has been President and CEO of the Forum of Federations since 2011. He was previously a member of the Consultative Group on the Study of Intergovernmental Relations and Dispute Resolution Mechanisms, Inter-State Council, Government of India. In 2004/5 he was Advisor to the Chairman of the Observer Research Foundation. He is on the editorial board of the Indian Journal of Public Administration and is a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Federal Studies at the University of Kent. Over the last two decades he has contributed as an expert in support of political and constitutional reforms in Ethiopia, Mexico, Myanmar, Philippines, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and Yemen. He holds master's degrees in economics and political science from the University of Ottawa and the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) and did his doctoral work in political science at the University of Toronto. Rupak has authored, co-authored and edited a number of books and papers on federalism.

Almaze Mekonnen, Former State Minister of
Peacebuilding and National Consensus, Ministry of
Peace, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Almaze Mekonnen was State Minister of Peacebuilding and National Consensus between October 2018 and October 2020. She has over 24 years of versatile experience in government offices in different capacities. Ms. Mekonnen worked as International Relations Head at the capital Addis Ababa and has been member of Addis Ababa City council since 2008. She served as member of the Legal and Administrative Standing Committee for 5 years and also worked as Public and International Relations Department Head for Parliament. She also served as Head of Green and River Basin Development of Addis Ababa City during her time in the capital. Ms. Mekonnen has a Master's in International Relations and International law from University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Htet Min Lwin, Country Director, Forum of
Federations Myanmar Office.

As a student, Htet was actively involved in student and youth affairs and he served as public relations officer for All Burma Federation of Students' Union, Mandalay Division. His previous positions include research associate (2012) in Myanmar Egress for politics and socio-economic research programs, senior program officer (2012-2014) at Myanmar Peace Center. As a junior member of peace negotiation dialogues, he attended Oslo Forum (2013) and "Democratization, Peace and Global Governance for Mid-level Professionals" in GCSP, Geneva. Though trained as a medical doctor in University of Medicine, Mandalay, he holds a master's degree in political science from Central European University, Hungary. His interests are in the fields of religion and politics, federalism, culture and Burmese political philosophy.

Derya Beyatli, Founding Board Member of Cyprus
EU Association and the Third Community Forum.

Ms. Beyatli lived and worked in the United Kingdom, Belgium, Turkey, and France which helped her go beyond the traditional nationalistic narratives and look at the Cypriot society from a different perspective, a multicultural one. As a firm believer in equal rights and freedoms for all and unity in diversity, she took an active part in many different civil society organizations and has been working together with all communities of Cyprus, towards creating an inclusive, multicultural, democratic and equitable society for all. Ms. Beyatli is an international consultant managing social and economic development projects, has a weekly editorial column in YENIDUZEN, a Turkish Cypriot newspaper and organizes and presents discussion programs on local TV and Radio stations. Ms Beyatli has a number of publications on the rapprochement of communities of Cyprus and is also a member of the Bi-communal Gender Equality Technical Committee appointed by the Turkish Cypriot Leader under the UN-Led negotiations to find a settlement to the Cyprus Problem.