Peace Through Development?

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The present conflicts in Pakistan are diametrically different than other conflicts in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia. The present conflict in Pakistan is an outcome of geo-political and security policies operating in a different political and social environment. In the case of Pakistan, the conflicts in the South (Balochistan) and North (Khyber-Pakhtoonkhwa and FATA) represent two different strands but both capitalise and operate on the social and political deprivation phenomena.

The disconnect between policymakers and development practitioners may create a void that instead of facilitating peace building may lead to confusion. The concept of development may not necessarily lead to peace as sometime development initiatives could cause conflict or may worsen the existing conflict. The unilateral development initiatives may trigger or exacerbate violent conflict or endanger a fragile peace by challenging traditional values or authority structures; raising the stakes of economic competition would inevitably create winners and losers.

The term reconstruction should encompass the creation of new sustainable democratic institutions fair and responsive to the needs, concerns and aspirations of an entire population, with the ultimate goal of human security and global harmony subject to a vigorous evaluation processes.

The speakers are invited to send their abstracts focussing on:

- Peace building through sustainable development in post conflict scenario
- The compatibility of development initiatives with the social and political environment
- Reconstruction as the agent of social change
- Needs assessment for development as tool of peace building
- Physical and land use planning