

Progress Report

Research Partnership with NYU Center on International Cooperation AusAID Agreement Number 60470

This annual status report (FY 2011-2012) is being provided to summarize activities undertaken, key outputs, and progress towards achievement of CIC's core mission objectives, in accordance with the research partnership between AusAid and the Center on International Cooperation (CIC).

CIC's Strategic Role

The NYU Center on International Cooperation (CIC) is a New York-based research institution focused on actionable, policy-oriented research and analysis. Our core mission is to enhance international responses to global security threats and humanitarian crises through applied research and direct engagement with multilateral institutions and the wider policy community.

CIC has established itself as a key source of policy knowledge on issues of international importance. Coupled with its reputation for high-quality, actionable policy research, CIC generates impact from its work through a targeted communication strategy that makes use of extensive networks in governments and multilateral organizations. The Center's relationships with the United Nations (in particular, the Office of the Secretary General, members of the Security Council, DPKO, DPA, PBSO, UNDP, and OCHA among others), the World Bank, NATO, the AU and the League of Arab States give it singular intellectual influence in multilateral efforts today. Similarly, CIC enjoys strong relationships with several governments, including Australia, Canada, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, the UK, and US, as well as other middle powers.

Distinctly, through its partnership with the Brookings Institution in Washington, CIC maintains a close policy dialogue with both the United States (the White House, National Security Council, Departments of State and Defense, and USAID); and has a growing engagement with the emerging global and regional powers (particularly Brazil, India, China, Singapore, Abu Dhabi and South Africa). CIC is in the process of 'mainstreaming' these relationships throughout our programming, with a particular emphasis on outreach to and engagement with the emerging powers on the topics of peacekeeping, crisis management, and statebuilding.

FY 2011-2012 Progress

CIC's three-year program of work reflects the Center's overarching effort to capitalize on the opportunities presented by changing geopolitical trends in the following areas: (i)

supporting the UN; (ii) engaging with the emerging powers; (iii) improving development engagement; and (iv) Afghanistan.

(i) Support to the UN

During the reporting period, CIC has been engaged in support to UN **crisis management** through a number of work streams:

In October 2011, CIC released its second *Review of Political Missions* to highlight the growing role and importance of civilian political missions in managing international crisis. The volume provides analysis of strategic trends and challenges, coverage of individual missions by region, and deployment data for the United Nations, African Union, European Union, OSCE, and other regional organizations. The volume's thematic essays covered the role of political missions in responding to transnational threats and to unconstitutional changes of government. In parallel, CIC staff provided substantive input to the 2011 Report of the Secretary-General on Preventive Diplomacy.

During the past year, by request to the UN Department of Political Affairs, CIC also developed an assessment methodology to enable the department to better evaluate the impact of its good offices and negotiation activities, as well as to better communicate the results to donors and member states. The methodology was piloted in four cases: Sierra Leone (UNSMIL), Kyrgyzstan (UNRCCA), Madagascar (mediation advisor), and the Great Lakes Region (special envoy). CIC is currently adapting the methodology for application to EU civilian crisis management missions.

In February 2012, CIC launched the seventh *Annual Review of Global Peace Operations*. This year's volume focused on the role of UN peacekeepers in supporting extension of state authority. The volume notes, amid the global financial crisis, a slowing in the rate of growth for peacekeeping deployments. Overall deployments continued to rise, bolstered by the AU and NATO, but UN deployments contracted – by a modest half a percent – for the first time since 2003. The volume remains the authoritative source for information on UN and other multilateral peace operations.

During the second half of 2011, CIC's Deputy Director for Conflict Programs, Jake Sherman, also co-facilitated with staff from the International Peace Institute a process to reform the working methods of the UN Special Committee on Peacekeeping, which resulted in streamlining of the committee's report and substantive debates during the current February-March 2012 session.

CIC engaged in exchanges with AusAid regarding its proposed Output #1 – a paper on Timor-Leste Transition Planning. However it was decided that the proposed paper was of insufficient relevance for AusAid Timor. CIC, therefore, has shelved work on the paper, though will revisit on the basis of ongoing policy discussions with UN headquarters on mission transition, as well as on UNMIT's own transition process this coming year.

In the area of support **rule of law and transnational threats**, CIC has been working with the UN to support implementation of the UN Task Force on Organized Crime and Trafficking established in 2011 in response to SC PRSTs of 2009 and 2011, and working with like-minded countries to push the rule of law reform agenda, particularly in terms of roles and responsibilities – drawing on CIC’s report, [“Shaky Foundations: An Assessment of the UN’s Rule of Law Support Agenda.”](#)

CIC, with funding from DfID, is undertaking applied research on the impact of organized crime on governance, political settlements in developing countries (Ghana, Mozambique, Pakistan); and with funding from NIMD on responses to political-criminal collusion in developing countries (Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, South Africa). Additionally, with funding from the Open Society Foundation, CIC is undertaking research on the impact of organized crime and drug trafficking on governance, security and development in West Africa. The research will serve as the basis of a broader regional initiative spear-headed by the Kofi Annan Foundation to push for more regional ownership of the response to organized crime and drug trafficking in the region. The first expert meeting will take place in April 2012.

CIC has not yet completed output #2 – a workshop focusing on strengthening multilateral responses to organized crime, corruption, and state capture. It is expected that these activities will be completed during the remainder of the calendar year.

On output #3, briefings to the Permanent Mission/Embassy in Washington DC on peacebuilding/statebuilding activities, Director Bruce Jones and Associate Director Tom Gregg will visit with Philippa King, Deputy Head of Mission to the UN, and Alison Chartres, Counsellor (Development) in the next week, in New York. Further briefings may be developed, in coordination with the Mission and Embassy.

(ii) Engaging with the emerging powers

CIC has two avenues of engagement with the emerging powers: the first through the Managing Global Order program, run jointly with the Brookings Institution; the second on security and development policy in fragile states.

Among the Managing Global Order program’s flagship activities is a high-level annual conference for 20-30 participants convened in Abu Dhabi with New York University’s Abu Dhabi Institute. This conference series allows frank exchanges of views on foreign policy and international cooperation between influential officials and policy experts from the U.S., Brazil, China, India, and other influential members of the G20. While there have long been regular conferences involving U.S. and European participants on global policy issues (and events with participants from Japan and other U.S. allies), the MGO events are unique in prioritizing dialogue between representatives of established and emerging powers. The discussions are confidential and characterized by robust dialogues, giving participants insight into the evolving policies of the main rising powers. MGO hosted the third annual conference in February 2012 on “The Use of Force, Crisis

Diplomacy and the Responsibilities of States,” which examined the new debates between the established and emerging powers over the use of force stimulated by events in Libya, Syria and the Côte d’Ivoire.

In June 2011, CIC hosted an initial meeting with Brazil, Canada, India, Norway, and Sweden to develop a platform for informal dialogue among traditional donors and emerging economies on key development and security policy issues in fragile states – both as a platform to identify opportunities for collaboration, and as a platform to deepen policy dialogue around multilateral issues. The meeting outcome and input papers were published as [“Engagement on Development and Security: New Actors, New Debates.”](#) With funding from Sweden, CIC will continue the dialogue process over the coming year, widening participation to additional countries—including potentially Australia, the UK, and/or Netherlands, as well as Turkey, Qatar and/or UAE and/or Indonesia.

CIC has not yet completed output #5 – role of emerging/regional powers in Asia-Pacific fragile states – pending a decision on the next phase of the project and its substantive priorities.

(iii) Improving engagement on development

CIC has been actively at work shaping the policy agenda on the way the international community engages with fragile states. At the December 2011 IV High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, South Korea, **the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States** was adopted at a Ministerial level. The agreement includes Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals, drawing heavily on CIC’s work with the g7+/International Dialogue in developing the Monrovia Roadmap, and previous CIC work such as the 2008 discussion paper *From Fragility to Resilience*. CIC has worked in an advisory capacity to the International Dialogue, and is currently working with the g7+ and ID to strengthen the g7+ presence in New York and the implementation of the New Deal. This work is just beginning, and is expected to continue throughout the remainder of the calendar year and beyond.

For Output 4, as a follow up to CIC’s close participation in the ***World Development Report 2011*** on Conflict, Security, and Development, CIC is engaging in several activities to ensure monitoring and implementation of the WDR recommendations and research agenda. At the request of AusAID, Director Bruce Jones participated in the Advisory Panel to the Asia Foundation’s project on Aid to Sub-National Conflict Areas on January 10-11, 2012, in Bangkok, Thailand. The primary objectives of the meeting were to: a) review progress to date on the first two country cases, to discuss strategies for addressing the key challenges or gaps in the data collection process; b) review the research methods used by the project team and identify potential challenges; c) discuss preliminary findings from component two donor interviews, and identify additional areas for investigation; and d) discuss key strategic questions for the study, including where the project sits with regard to the World Bank’s World Development Report, the New Deal and options for a fourth case study. Dr. Jones made several suggestions to the group, drawing on CIC’s previous work in writing the paper [Development in the Shadow of](#)

[Violence: A Knowledge Agenda for Policy](#). Among the suggestions were using the WDR as a starting point, to be refined, critiqued, revised; a reiteration of the importance of extended timelines; and improving our understanding of the roles of fear/ uncertainty on the one hand, and confidence/trust on the other, in helping fragile states escape cycles of violence.

CIC aims to build upon this stream of work over the coming calendar year.

(iv) Afghanistan

For the past three years, CIC and Norway have co-convened a track 1.5 regional dialogue on Afghanistan. In 2011 this dialogue was elevated to a track 1 dialogue as part of the consultations in advance of the Istanbul Conference. In 2012, CIC (with Norway) will continue to support the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) in fulfilling the responsibilities established in the Istanbul Process by providing a balance of technical assistance, facilitated dialogue, and political consultations.

Fulfilling agreed output #6 – a policy briefing on **regional political reconciliation** – CIC’s ARP Program Director, Tom Gregg (TG), traveled to Canberra from 11 December to 15 December and met with officials from AusAID, DFAT, Defence, Office of National Assessments (ONA) and academics from the Australian National University (ANU).

On December 12, he met with the Af/Pak AusAid team in Canberra and briefed them on ARP’s regional cooperation and reconciliation work. AusAID had arranged for a round table with representatives from the International Crisis Group, the Asia Foundation and CIC opening with a presentation on “Afghanistan and Pakistan: prospects for transition and beyond.” In attendance were representatives from across government. The meeting resulted in a productive discussion that lasted for over 4 hours. Much of the discussion was angled toward the political context rather than the development/humanitarian challenge.

At DFAT, TG met with David Stuart, First Assistant Secretary, International Security Division and team. He had received a note from the Australian Ambassador to DC that DFAT should “find a way to support the work of ARP.” TG is in touch with the Australian Embassy in DC to discuss further. From ONA and Defence, TG was asked to deliver a 20-minute briefing on the topic of reconciliation and regional relations to the South Asia teams, resulting in a very productive closed-door discussion. At ANU, TG also met with a number of professors working on Afghanistan and the region.

CIC is currently developing several new projects under ARP, including research on the impact of a potential political settlement with the Taliban on education, support to UNAMA to determine its strategic approach as ISAF draws down. Further information on these work streams will be provided in the next narrative report.

Update on CIC Program Management

In mid-March, CIC's Deputy Director for Conflict Programs will leave CIC to take up a position at the US Agency for International Development on Afghanistan/Pakistan. Consequently, Jake Sherman will no longer be the main point of contact at CIC for the research partnership with AusAid. Tom Gregg will assume this responsibility, and Molly Elgin-Cossart, CIC's Chief of Staff, will work with him to ensure that the terms of the agreement are fulfilled. CIC will ensure continuity of program management from among in-house staffing.

28 February 2012