



Expert Pool for Civilian Peacebuilding



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Cover Page:

Election observation mission Sudan 2010: Election observer
Monica Giambonini meeting members of the semi-nomadic
Beja ethnic group in the River Nile state north of Khartoum.

On mission for the Expert Pool for Civilian Peacebuilding

Helping to build the rule of law in Kosovo, observing elections in Russia, providing technical expertise to the police in Liberia – these are just three selected examples of how members of the Expert Pool for Civilian Peacebuilding contribute to the international community's peacebuilding and human rights promotion efforts.

Every year, some 200 civilian experts representing various areas of expertise are deployed on short or long-term missions in over 30 countries – half of them as election observers. On an average, some 90 persons are on mission at any given time, 40% of whom are women.

The deployments focus on Switzerland's various geographical and thematic priorities in the area of human security. These include mediation and facilitation with respect to peace accords, state building and the rule of law, police, human rights, international humanitarian law, elections, and dealing with the past.

Are you interested in taking part in a mission for the Expert Pool for Civilian Peacebuilding?

Apply for a specific post. The job vacancies are published on the SEP's homepage www.eda.admin.ch/expertenpool or sent directly to your email address. You can subscribe to an SEP job vacancy mailing list at pd-ams-expertenpool@eda.admin.ch. Unsolicited applications will not be considered.

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Basic and advanced training of experts

How should I act at a checkpoint? What tools does the UN have in its peacebuilding toolkit? How can I minimise the risk of mines while working in the field? In collaboration with external partners, the Human Security Division offers basic and advanced training courses. Newly recruited experts are introduced to peacebuilding and human rights work in a two-week basic course. Advanced courses cover topics such as mediation, dealing with the past, and mission management.

Every year the Expert Pool finances a number of placements at the UN for graduates or people who have gained little international work experience. In addition, Switzerland supports the training of local experts from crisis areas, for example in Africa at the Ecole de Maintien de la Paix (EMP) in Mali and at Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in Ghana.

For further information:

www.eda.admin.ch/expertenpool

www.civpol.ch

History of the Expert Pool

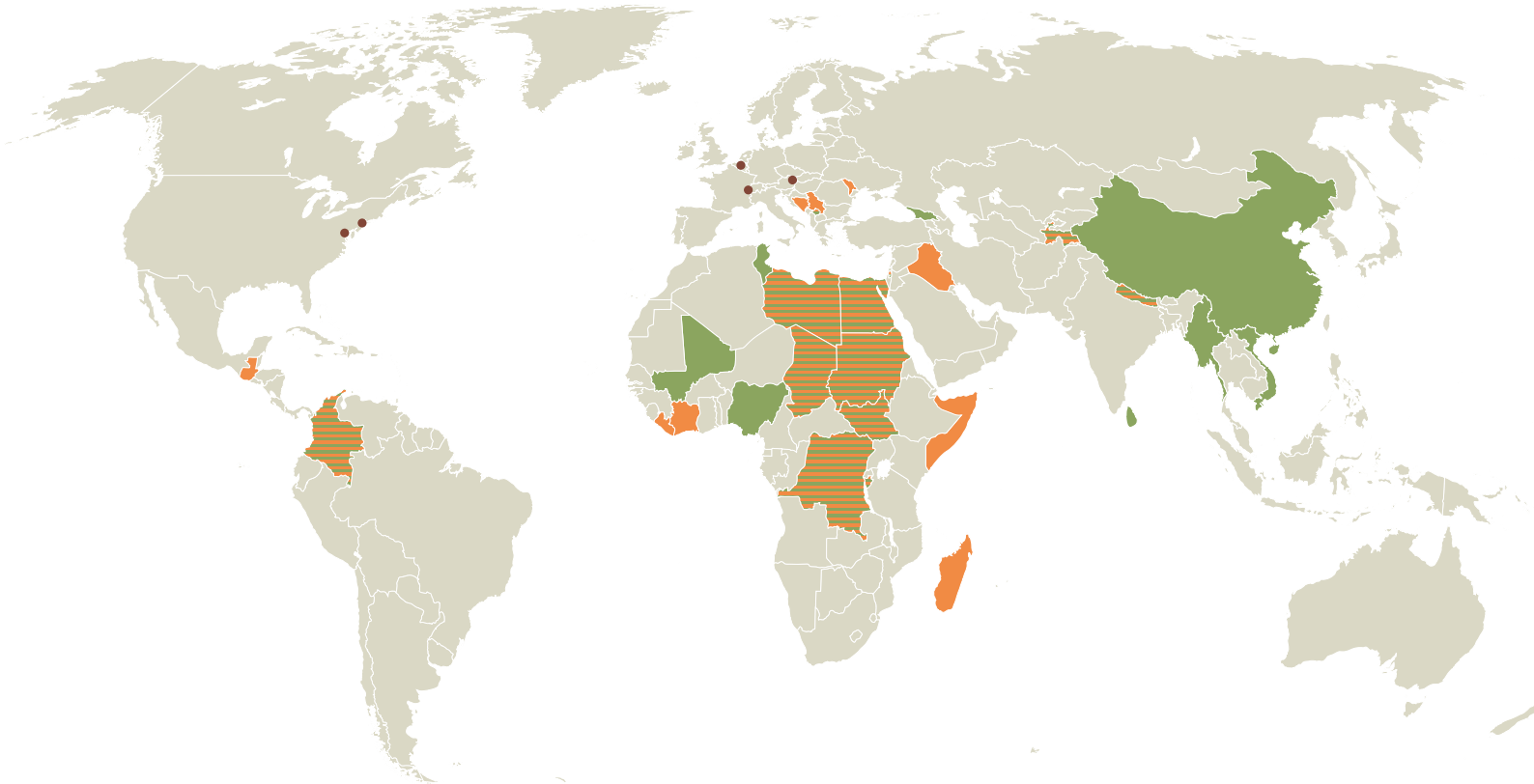
The secondment of civilian experts as part of Switzerland's peace, human rights and humanitarian policy is part of an old tradition. In response to specific needs, these civilian experts are made available for temporary civilian peace projects as election monitors, police advisers, or specialists in domains such as constitutional law, mediation, rule of law, elections, human rights, and international humanitarian law.

After the end of the Cold War and over the course of the Balkan wars, it became clear that what was most needed to ensure sustainable peace and reconstruct war-ravaged countries was civilian expertise. Switzerland created the Expert Pool in 2000 in response to growing international demand for experts in the field of civilian peace and human-rights promotion. Since then, there has been a steady rise in the demand for such experts. They serve as advisers to local authorities and institutions, assist in building up state structures, participate in international peace missions, support elections, and are part and parcel of the international community's efforts to promote

peace and human rights. The secondment of experts has proven to be an effective peacebuilding and human rights promotion instrument for Switzerland. Thanks to its long-standing secondment of experts, Switzerland has acquired a wealth of experience on peacebuilding and human rights issues, enabling it to exert a positive influence on the international dialogue on these issues and to sustainably enhance human security on the ground.

The United Nations (UN), the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the European Union (EU) are the most important partner organisations. The experts are deployed either at their headquarters or in the field.

Areas of secondment of experts



SECONDMENTS TO HEADQUARTERS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Brussels (EU, NATO)

Geneva (AdH, CEDAW, JRR, OHCHR, UNMAS)

New York, Washington (OHCHR, UNDFS, UNDP, UNDPA, UNDPKO, UNOCHA, UNODA, UNOPGA, UNOSAPG)

Vienna (OSCE, UNODC)

DEPLOYMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS' MISSIONS

Burundi (BNUB)

Chad (OHCHR)

Colombia (OHCHR)

Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)

Egypt (UNIDO)

Guatemala (CICIG)

Iraq (UNDP)

Ivory Coast (UNOCI)

Kosovo (EULEX, OSCE, UNDP)

Liberia (UNMIL)

Libya (UNSMIL)

Madagascar (OIF)

Moldova (OSCE)

Nepal (UNHCR, UNRCPD, IOM)

Occupied Palestinian Territory (TIPH)

Serbia (OSCE)

Somalia (UNICEF)

Sudan (UNDP)

South Sudan (UNMISS)

Tajikistan (OSCE)

DEPLOYMENTS FOR BILATERAL PROGRAMMES

Burundi

Chad

China

Colombia

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Egypt

Georgia

Kosovo

Libya

Mali

Myanmar

Nepal

Nigeria

Occupied Palestinian Territory

South Sudan

Sri Lanka

Tajikistan

Tunisia

Vietnam

As of: February 2014

ABBREVIATIONS

AdH: Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

BNUB: UN Office in Burundi

CEDAW: Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

CICIG: International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala

EU: European Union

EULEX: European Union Rule of Law Mission

IOM: International Organization for Migration

JRR: Justice Rapid Response

MONUSCO: UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the DR Congo

NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization

OHCHR: Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights

OIF: Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie

OSCE: Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

TIPH: Temporary International Presence in Hebron

UNDFS: UN Department of Field Support

UNDP: UN Development Programme

UNDPA: UN Department of Political Affairs

UNDPKO: UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations

UNHCR: UN High Commissioner for Refugees

UNICEF: UN Children's Fund

UNIDO: UN Industrial Development Organization

UNMAS: UN Mine Action Service

UNMIL: UN Mission in Liberia

UNSMIL: UN Support Mission in Libya

UNMISS: UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan

UNOCHA: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

UNOCI: UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

UNODA: UN Office for Disarmament Affairs

UNODC: UN Office on Drugs and Crime

UNOPGA: UN Office of the President of the General Assembly

UNOSAPG: UN Office of the Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide

UNRCPD: UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific

Experts talk about their experience



PATRICIA PFISTER, 38
sociologist, adviser from Oron-la-Ville

I have been working on a one-year assignment with the Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH) on the West Bank, where I am responsible for the Research, Analysis, and Information (RAI) department. Among other things, the RAI drafts reports and recommendations that are regularly presented to the Israeli government, the Palestinian Authority, and the six member states of the TIPH. The reports are key for analysing the situation of the Palestinian people in Hebron and enabling dialogue between the parties involved.

However, it's really important to remain impartial and objective when writing these reports. I believe that my experience and Switzerland's good reputation have been helpful here.

My days are filled with meetings. They deal with day-to-day matters, documents, management and organisation of the mission, as well as meetings with local and international partners.

The experiences that I gain in Hebron are very enriching. I learn something new every day: about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, personnel management, diplomatic skills, and also about living in a sort of 'closed universe' with people from different cultures, with different working methods and different motivations.



DAVID ROSSET, 38
police officer, police adviser from Lausanne

I work for the UNMISS mission (United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan) helping the leadership of the South Sudan Police Service (SSPS) reform and reorganise the police force here. I'm in close contact with all the relevant actors (UNMISS, UN country team, donors) and assist them during the various project phases.

The SSPS is still in a process of transition and internal reform. It's extremely important that the South Sudanese government be assisted to ensure better law enforcement, stem crime and violence, and protect the civilian population. So when the opportunity arose to travel to South Sudan as a Swiss civilian police adviser, I jumped at it. Before I came out here I went on various Expert Pool training courses: UN Police Commander, police development projects, decentralised government, and conflict prevention.

South Sudan is facing many problems, and working in this new country is a big challenge, especially because of the lack of basic amenities and the risk that conflict might flare up again at any time. The police force is sometimes unable to deliver high-quality service. The lack of infrastructure, poor training, a high illiteracy rate and non-functioning police stations are a major problem. In addition, the system here presents countless bureaucratic hurdles which prevent the efficient implementation of operational priorities. Despite all that, I'm finding it extremely rewarding to work in close cooperation with my international and local colleagues to help strengthen the capacities of this institution.



ROMAN HUNGER, 41
lawyer, military adviser Künsnacht

The UN General Assembly in New York is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations. As an adviser for disarmament and peace building in the office of the President of the General Assembly, my work is very exciting and demanding. Its (global) political substance makes it very fast moving, and it enables wide-ranging political and procedural activities in and around the workings of the General Assembly.

Having a representative in the office of the president is very useful as it enables us to quickly identify the activities of the UN General Assembly that are also important for Switzerland, as well as influence and utilise the presidential priorities. The exchange of information with Swiss colleagues within the system is consequently very intensive, creating a continuous flow of information and knowledge.

This is my second assignment as a member of the Swiss Expert Pool. My first posting took me to Nepal for three years where I worked as Special Coordinator and Deputy Director for the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific. Prior to that I worked at the Swiss Permanent Mission to the UN with responsibility for disarmament and peace building.



MONICA GIAMBONINI **election observer from Comano**

Sitting in a car, and squeezed between our luggage, my colleague and I write a report on the election we have just observed. The rain is pouring outside. As soon as we reach the main town of the region we've been assigned – after a five-hour drive of more than 120km on bumpy roads – we are plunged into the non-stop work of observing an election.

This is how the election observer mission in East Timor started. And this is what most election observer missions are like. There is precious little time to collect, process and analyse information. The groundwork before the first election day can take three to four weeks, and the election observers have to fulfil a packed programme under what are sometimes dangerous conditions. Their work includes meetings with stakeholders who are directly and indirectly involved in the election process: governmental and electoral authorities, security forces, political candidates, political parties, media representatives, NGOs, voters and many other stakeholders.

Election observers not only have to cope with a packed agenda, but often also with difficult accommodation conditions. I remember a winter with frozen heating pipes in Armenia, nights in a tent in Mauritania, a black mamba in my bedroom and places without electricity and running water. But these hardships were very much offset by invaluable intercultural and interpersonal relationships.

Although I have observed over 50 electoral processes in more than 20 countries, I never cease to be fascinated by strange new experiences. Election observers operate in a microcosm of human contacts, paving the way for future change.

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