THE BARCELONA FORUM

ON DECENTRALIZED GOVERNANCE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION
6–8 JULY 2009

FORUM PROCEEDINGS

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INTERNATIONAL
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FOR PEACE

These proceedings correspond to the Barcelona Forum on
Decentralized Governance and Conflict Prevention, organized
by the International Catalan Institute for Peace, the Office for
the Promotion of Peace and Human Rights of the Generalitat
of Catalonia and the United Nations System Staff College,
within the framework of the agreement of collaboration
between the Generalitat of Catalonia and the United Nations
System Staff College.

The Rapporteurs
Pablo Aguiar, program coordinator and conference
coordinator for OPPHR at the time of the Forum, is now a
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ICIP. Catherine Charrett is conference coordinator and
research assistant at the ICIP. Helena Oliván is conference
and program coordinator at the OPPHR. UNSSC contributed
to editing these forum proceedings.

ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

INTERNATIONAL CATALAN INSTITUTE FOR PEACE

The International Catalan Institute for Peace (ICIP) is a public yet independent institution within the Generalitat de Catalunya with the capacity to act in a manner, which is accountable to the Parliament, the Catalan Government, civil society and the general public. The legal act that created the ICIP states that it must provide services to the demands of citizens, the peace movement, universities, the academic world in general and public administration. This task will be developed, through collaborations and the organization of activities such as research, teaching, transfer of knowledge, dissemination of ideas, and awareness and intervention in the field. The main purpose of the ICIP is to promote a culture of peace in Catalonia as well as throughout the world, to endorse peaceful solutions and conflict resolution strategies, and to endow Catalonia with an active role as an agent of peace.

OFFICE FOR THE PROMOTION OF PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Office for the Promotion of Peace and Human Rights (OPPHR) is a body that was created by the Generalitat to boost public policy, which aims to promote peace and human rights. It was created in response to social needs among civil society members demanding public policy to complement the tradition of the Catalan pacifist movement.

The OPPHR was created under the Department of the Interior, Institutional Relations and Participation, with a view to promoting a culture of peace. The Office supports activities for the promotion of peace and human rights and connects the Generalitat with civil society, in order to achieve these goals. It promotes the education of public authorities and of Catalan society in the areas of human rights and peace, with the cooperation of other civil service departments and bodies, such as the ICIP and Catalan universities and research centers

UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM STAFF COLLEGE

The United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC), based in Turin (Italy) began its operations as a distinct institution within the United Nations system on 1 January 2002. The idea of establishing a Staff College to serve the United Nations system was a direct response to long-standing perceptions on the need to strengthen the coherence and effectiveness of the international civil service. According to its Statute "The Staff College shall serve as a distinct, system-wide, knowledge management and learning institution, providing strategic leadership and management development, strengthening inter-agency collaboration, increasing operational effectiveness; enhancing cooperation with stakeholders inside and outside the UN system, and developing a more cohesive, system-wide, management culture". The UNSSC's vision is to be a high-quality centre of excellence of learning and training services dedicated to support the UN system in achieving its objectives and building its capacities, while focusing on a number of strategic areas. The vision encompasses a commitment to being financially-viable, client-focused and results-oriented.

SUMMARY

1.FORUM PRESENTATION

1. INTRODUCTION

The Barcelona Forum on Decentralized Governance and Conflict Prevention took place on the 6-8 July, 2009 at the Casa de la Convalescència, Universitat Autónoma de Barcelona, Sant Antoni M. Claret, 171 in Barcelona Spain. Its organization was a collaborative effort of three entities, the ICIP based in Barcelona, the UNSSC, located in Turin and the OPPHR, also situated in Barcelona. This was the first conference in a proposed series to take place over the following years.

The Barcelona Forum aimed to generate both a theoretical and practical discussion on decentralized governance and its capacity to promote peace, prevent conflict, advance human security and ensure greater governmental accountability. The Forum intended to review the theoretical strength of decentralization as a political tool and discuss how it can be properly implemented. Eight case studies were selected to be covered during the two days in order to draw conclusions and offer proposals for the future implementation of decentralization. The case of Catalonia and the decentralized experience of Spain was given special attention, as an example of successful decentralization. The other cases presented achievements and challenges and prompted discussions on both the validity and universality of decentralization as a way to promote and preserve peace. Topics such as ethnic and territorial divisions, democratic accountability, financial decentralization and distribution, resource sharing, and external implementation of decentralization through peace processes were discussed.

The Forum heard from 23 participants, from academic, political and professional sectors and from a wide-ranging spectrum of regions. Each case offered a unique experience and view on the functionality of decentralization. A closing panel was also selected to present summarizing comments and professional proposals for future action based on what had been presented and discussed during the Forum.

2. OBJECTIVES

The Barcelona Forum on Decentralized Governance and Conflict Prevention aimed at building on country-based lessons learnt in order to provide a venue for effective and practical knowledge-sharing among critical stakeholders with the goal of enabling them to replicate good practices and learn from challenges.

The Forum took place in Barcelona considering the fact that extensive knowledge was used and shared from the Spanish experience on decentralized governance, particularly in the Autonomous Community of Catalonia. It was the intention that the audience would benefit from the presence of crucial stakeholders from the "Generalitat de Catalunya" - both at the academic and policy-making level, and also from the civil society and local authorities (Diputació de Barcelona, cities).

3. FORUM OUTLINE

PART I

LOCAL GOVERNANCE & CONFLICT PREVENTION: NATURE OF THE LINKAGE

ANALYTICAL PART	OUTPUT
· The Spanish/ Catalan perspective · The task of decentralized governance and non central authorities in conflict prevention: The state of the art in theory and practice (Presentation conducted by the Institut Catalá Internacional per la Pau– ICIP) · UN experience in decentralized governance (presented by UNDP New York)	· Provision of broadly accepted definitions for local and decentralized governance and conflict prevention, good practices and analytical frameworks for the future.

PART II

CASE STUDY PRESENTATIONS: DECENTRALISED GOVERNANCE AS POWER SHARING PREVENTIVE TOOL AND DETERRENT AGAINST VIOLENCE

ANALYTICAL PART	OUTPUTS
· Catalonia · Indonesia (Aceh) · FYR of Macedonia · India (Kerala) · Guatemala · Philippines (Mindanao) · Bosnia · Nepal	· Identification of constructive operational principles · Identification of lessons learnt

PART III

MAKING THINGS WORK BY PUTTING LESSONS INTO PRACTICE

The aim of this concluding part was to extract results and lessons learnt as conclusions of the Forum.
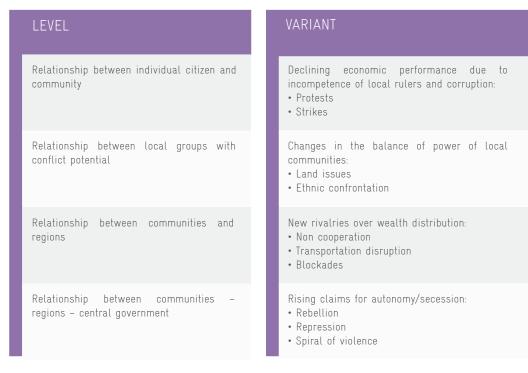
4. BACKGROUND

Virtually, all intra-state violent conflicts have a territorial dimension. Although conflicts are fought over a set of different issues (e.g. exclusive control of natural resources, discrimination based on diversity – ethnic, linguistic, religious, geographic – unfair distribution of economic and political power), they are all embedded into a specific territorial context. In order to address these grievances, very often concerned stakeholders advance demands for federalism, autonomy, self-determination or even secession. Decentralized and local governance has increasingly been regarded as an instrument for transforming conflicts and building peace. In this forum, decentralized governance was intended in its most comprehensive sense, which includes not only the relocation of competences within central institutions (*deconcentration*) but also the transfer of some specific tasks to the private sector (*deregulation; private-public partnership*) and to non.-central governmental institutions (*devolution*).

In spite of this high potential, little attention has, however, been devoted to the role that decentralized governance and non central authorities (local and regional, in the EU language) may play in either preventing or exacerbating conflicts. Case studies analyses present mixed results. In a number of contexts characterized by political volatility, actions aimed at increasing local governance capacity have had a positive impact on the process of national reconciliation by curtailing possible threats to security (India, Macedonia, Aceh). In theoretically similar circumstances, devolution efforts have failed to prevent conflict and, in some extreme cases, they have even perhaps, intensified the level of confrontation (Bolivia, Southern Philippines).

Within the relevant scholarship there is a wide consensus on the double-edged nature of decentralized governance. Yet, no agreement has been reached on the factors that are susceptible of producing nearly opposite outcomes.

The chart below suggests some issues that could trigger conflict at different territorial levels:

LEVEL	VARIANT
Relationship between individual citizen and community	Declining economic performance due to incompetence of local rulers and corruption: • Protests • Strikes
Relationship between local groups with conflict potential	Changes in the balance of power of local communities: • Land issues • Ethnic confrontation
Relationship between communities and regions	New rivalries over wealth distribution: • Non cooperation • Transportation disruption • Blockades
Relationship between communities – regions – central government	Rising claims for autonomy/secession: • Rebellion • Repression • Spiral of violence

Source: adapted from Tobias Debiel and Axel Klein (eds.) *Fragile Peace*: State Failure, *Violence and Development in Crisis Regions*. London: Zed Books, 2002: p. 76

The devolution of power and assets from the central government to the local entities has a clear impact on development and on human security. UN efforts towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have mostly focused on incorporating the goals into national frameworks such as Poverty Reduction Strategies. While national level efforts are crucial, in the last years a growing attention has been paid to the MDGs, human security and the role of the local level in their achievement. The ongoing debate and practical initiatives towards the *localization* of MDGs is therefore a positive development. Yet, it is still not clear to what extent it can be utilized as an entry point for decentralized governance. Local authorities can play a major role by ensuring more effective and accountable local infrastructure and social service delivery. The presence of a participatory and accountable local governance system can lay down the foundation for local development and, thus, for the achievement of MDGs, human security and for the promotion of the responsibility to protect

2.FORUM PROCEEDINGS

The following report is compilation of the notes which were taken by the individual rapporteurs during each session, the Powerpoint presentations and/or papers of the panellists, and the filmed recordings of the proceedings.

1. MONDAY, 6 JULY 2009

A. OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY:

1. MS. Mª LUISA HUIDOBRO

Deputy Director of Peacekeeping Operations in the Spanish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Madrid

Ms. Huidobro stated that post-cold war conflicts have shown an emergence of a new typology. This new kind of conflict is characterised by intra-state rivalry allowing for a greater role for civil society. Certainly civil society becomes the main victim of new conflicts but it is also relevant for peacekeeping missions as it is helpful in identifying real needs.

Civil society also brings better continuity on the actions of ending conflict - post-conflict and development activities.

She also considered relevant to stress that the content of peace missions, has changed over time. She mentioned that a relevant development in this area is the civil crisis management that the EU is trying to implement.

Spain has also been working on this development. In 2002 Action Plan for the prevention of violent conflict was approved.

2. DR. CARLOS LOPES

UN Assistant Secretary General; Director of the United Nations System Staff College, Turin

Dr. Lopes expressed that the Forum's topic "decentralised governance and conflict prevention" was a natural choice considering the Forum took place in Catalonia. Catalonia is an excellent example of successful decentralization and he stressed that it will be helpful in making useful/ helpful conclusions.

Dr. Lopes stated that conflicts have very different causes and cover diverse fields of dispute. But nowadays in most of them we find territorial demands, and that implies an important challenge.

One way to transform these conflicts peacefully is to handle decentralisation in a very open way. We have to be careful as decentralization can either prevent or exacerbate conflicts, and this issue is reflected in the ongoing academic debate. Cases have shown different outcomes, so decentralization can not be automatically taken as a universal solution.

It is true, though, that local development is very suitable for accountability.

Dr. Lopes expressed the hope that the Barcelona Forum on Decentralized Governance and Conflict Prevention will build on country based lessons learnt in order to provide a venue for effective and practical knowledge-sharing among critical stakeholders with the goal of enabling them to replicate good practices and learn from past mistakes.

He also mentioned that he hoped that this forum fulfils different objectives; one of them might be the development of materials that may be used for future training activities.

3. HON. JOAN SAURA I LAPORTA

Minister of Interior, Institutional Relations and Participation
for the Generalitat of Catalonia (Catalonian Government), Barcelona

Hon. Saura stated that Catalonia is a peaceful country.

Historically Catalonia has been a country socially committed to values of peace. During the last few years the government of Catalonia has made a strong effort in developing and institutionalizing commitment.

The Peace Promotion Law, approved on 2004, the creation of the International Catalan Institute for Peace and the creation of the Office for Peace and Human Rights promotion are evidence of this commitment.

Also, from the locals governments of Catalonia there have been recent efforts in order to develop a public policy dedicated to peace.

Catalonia is a model of successful decentralization

Since the arrival of democracy in Spain, Catalonia has been one of the leading countries (autonomous region) within the state pushing for the recognition of its differential character. This has led to a quasi federal state, which was very much needed, especially taking into account Franco's 40 years of denial of the particularities of the countries within Spain.

Self-government has been an aspiration of Catalan society. This has been reflected in its political system and the important development of its institutions. It has also been well managed allowing for important economic growth.

Conflict prevention and decentralization:

Hon. Saura mentioned that during the forum one will probably notice that there is no clear evidence that decentralization is a universal tool for solving territorial conflicts. Success in conflict prevention and decentralization should not be automatically linked. It is important though to note that decentralization allows for greater accountability and brings decisions closer to the citizens, permitting more identification and less probability of disaffection.

As conclusion Hon. Saura noted that as the forum intends to do in the following two days, Catalonia can help, advise and also be a place to exchange, think and share opinions on decentralization.

2. TUESDAY, 7 JULY 2009

B. MORNING SESSION: Decentralized governance and conflict prevention: Nature of the linkages.

1. MR. CARLES VIVER PI I SUNYER

Director, Institut d'Estudis Autonòmics, Barcelona

The first speaker was professor Carles Viver Pi i Sunyer and the topic he presented was the Spanish/Catalan perspective. He researched the extent to which political decentralization in Spain after the 1978 Constitution (Spain was a centralist dictatorship between 1939 and 1975) has contributed to the prevention of conflicts between the different political or national communities within Spain. In order to answer this question, Mr. Viver identified two different stages. In the first one, the conclusion is positive, even if there are territorial conflicts; in the second one, the conclusion is more ambivalent.

The analysis builds from the idea that a state will have problems of conflict prevention when a significant sector of the population does not accept the constitutional law of the country and:

A   Either do not follow the procedure written in the Constitution in order to change the model. That means that there is a radical conflict, which may or may not be violent.

B   Either it follows the legal channels or instruments available (and written in the Constitution) in order to modify the territorial model, that is, the distribution of power.

The system has not been able to integrate all the political sectors. Therefore, there is a conflict which at least is a latent conflict.

Regarding the two different stages,

1. In the first one, 1978-1998, there are conflicts, but the model is not challenged. And if it is challenged, this challenge takes always place in the Constitutional framework.

2. In the second one (beginning 1990s until now), problems are more intense and the model is increasingly challenged, especially in Catalonia and in the Basque Country.

Why is the model not challenged in the first phase? Several reasons are possible:

A   Because Spain did not have a model of political decentralization. In fact, 1978 Constitution is an open text, which leaves its concretion to the Statutes of Autonomy of the regions or Comunidades Autónomas (hereafter CCAA). Such Statutes of Autonomy are sort of the constitutional laws of a member state in a federation. Thus, the constitution does not regulate in detail many things and this would be the reason why it is not challenged.

However, the speaker noted that several decisions were actually taken from the beginning.

1. Decentralization would take place in the whole territory, not only in the CCAA that had explicitly requested it (Catalonia, Basque Country and Galicia).

2. A division of the state in 17 different units or CCAA. Maybe that was not a good solution, but now it is considered as an irreversible measure.

B   The second possible reason which could explain why the Spanish Constitution was not challenged in the first phase is the fact that this Constitution was indeed an important step forward, a historical improvement taking into consideration the Spanish tradition of a centralist and inefficient state. Mr. Viver strongly stressed this idea, as opposed to a common view nowadays which does not appreciate any positive aspect in the Spanish Constitution. For example, 52% of the total number of civil servants in Spain work for the CCAA (the rest for the Spanish State of for the municipalities). Spanish CCAA have many powers and capacities, including those key features of the welfare state, such as health and education. They are responsible for 30% of the entire public spending in Spain.

C   Other reasons include the following:

1. Spain is developing from a dictatorship. Therefore there is the willingness to tolerate pacts and prevent conflicts. Memories of civil war are still very present.

2. There are three different instruments which help to channel the conflicts:

   A The Constitutional Court. Even if it has not been very 'activist' it had to deal with many more cases than other Constitutional Courts.

   B Political negotiation, even if this point is not totally satisfactory. For example, many authors agree that the design of the Spanish senate is not useful because it does not represent each CCAA.

C Reform of the Statutes of Autonomy. These reforms modified in part the model, because such statutes are based on the constitution, which is the key of the model.

It is true that also in this phase there are violent episodes with the aim of modifying the system. However, the model is not generally questioned as a whole.

The second phase is marked by a change in the perception. For example, in the Catalan Parliament, 4 out of 5 political parties did not feel satisfied with the developments relating to the application of the Spanish Constitution. The same is true for the Basque Country.
What people and politicians in these regions observe is the following:
- Lack of political power, because the exclusiveness of the exclusive competences was actually not so, due to some "tricky" procedures from the state.
- Problem of finances, of financial resources, especially in Catalonia (this does not happen in the Basque Country, because in this CCAA there is a special agreement with the Spanish state; for example, Basques can collect most of their taxes.
- Lack of participation of the CCAA in the institutions of the state (and also in the EU).

And this is a problem because the main reason that lies behind the 'Estado de les Autonomias' was the attempt to end with these problems, based on claims for more self-government in the two regions for more than a century.

In the Basque Country, the solution proposed by the regional government was first a new statute, which was beyond the constitution; then, also a referendum, which was not accepted by the Spanish legal system, because regional governments do not have the legal power to do such a thing (ask the citizens to vote in a referendum). If this is true (the referendum was not legal), the conflict was aggravated by the fact that the sentence of the Constitutional Tribunal went beyond the Statute and also tackled the possibility of a future right of the Basque people to self-determination

In Catalonia, the reform of the Statute of the autonomy was approved in the Catalan parliament, but Catalonia is still waiting for its application and the final sentence of the Constitutional Tribunal, which was asked to decide whether the new Statute of Autonomy in Catalonia is compatible with the Spanish Constitution.

To conclude, nowadays we have 2 different "Swords of Damocles" hanging above Catalans:

A   The outcome of the sentence of the Constitutional Tribunal? Will it be positive or negative? We don't know, we are waiting for it.

B   Problems of interpretation and of application of the Catalan Statute, because the Spanish state is trying to slow it down, for example regulating many details in Spanish laws which were meant to be very general and left thus little space for the regional regulations. By doing so, the regional legislation is *de facto* not empowered to regulate in their exclusive competences.

To sum up, this is a very delicate moment, because not only do the Spanish state and Basque/Catalan regional governments not share the solutions, they do not even

agree on the problems: For the State, there has been two much political decentralization. The CC.AA. believe that there has not been enough.

DISCUSSION:

During the debate, some participants argued that decentralization was not enough to prevent conflicts, but good governance was also needed. A number of examples were presented by different speakers to illustrate this idea. The rest of the comments were as follows:

- In Spain political decentralization has taken place without creating the inequalities existing in other countries, such as Italy. Political decentralization in Spain has brought the administration closer to the citizens, without a substantial increase of corruption. He level of satisfaction is high, more than 70% of the Spanish citizens prefer to live in such an "Estado de las Autonomias", compared with the possibility of going backwards to a centralist state.
- From the beginning there were significant groups, including parliamentarians in Catalonia and the Basque Country who did not vote 'yes' to the Constitution. Moreover, in the Basque Country, in the referendum the Basque citizens said 'no' to the Constitutions, although afterwards they said 'yes' to the *constitutional law* of the CC.AA., that is, to the Basque Statute of Autonomy, which is based on the Constitution. And that could be interpreted as a *de facto* acceptance of the Spanish Constitution, even in the Basque Country.
- Another sign of the conflict in the second phase is the fact than since 1991 until now, the regional government of the Basque Country has never used the Constitutional Tribunal, because it does not accept its authority and when it does, it does not believe it will be impartial.

2. MR. RAFAEL GRASA

President, International Catalan Institute for Peace, Barcelona

MR. ARNAU GUTIÉRREZ

Researcher on local governments and international relations, Barcelona

In the second presentation, professor Rafael Grasa and Arnau Gutiérrez talked about 'Conflict prevention and decentralized governance' and gave us some remarks about the state of the art both in theory and in practice.

The speakers started by making explicit some initial assumptions and objectives, which would guide the whole presentation and even the future work, as it was presented as a work in progress. Among them, the fact that there are several approaches (peace research, development studies, human security) which believe that decentralization is a tool for conflict transformation, especially if understood as a genuine devolution. Moreover, an emphasis in the different causal links between decentralization and conflict prevention is needed, because the working hypothesis is ambivalent: both negative and positive impacts have been observed at the short, medium and long term.

Three theoretical schools are taken as complementary in the speakers' work: peace research institutional choice and development strategies.

An important part of Mr. Grasa and Mr. Gutiérrez's approach dealt with the importance of the context and to understand how the perspective of international conflicts has changed towards a human security one. Regarding such context, some changes have shaped the world since the end of the Cold War and globalization. In this framework, various factors of global relations affect peace building and conflict prevention processes in an interconnected way. They will transform the root causes of violent conflict: peacebuilding (UN terminology) or structural stability (EU terminology) internalization for mechanisms for peaceful change and b) conflict prevention in order to reduce or eliminate the occurrence of violence. Moreover, the relationship between increase in domestic violent conflicts and a new way of centralization is not accidental, but needs to be further analyzed and more deeply understood.

An added relevance of the authors' work is the fact that it could constitute the basis for a future observatory on decentralization practices and conflict prevention which would be carried out in the International Catalan Institute for Peace (ICIP). The proposed analytical framework of such observatory builds from peace research and the concept of 'violence preventors'. The first task is identified as to understand and distinguish several types of causes. From this perspective, we have (a) structural or necessary (although not sufficient) causes, such as relative deprivation or social exclusion: (b) intermediate, permissive causes or accelerators, they can be both internal or external and allow for the exacerbation of the hostilities; and (c) immediate causes or triggers, which help to explain the specific moment in which the outbreak of violence takes place, generally after a phase of escalation.

Building from this framework, Mr. Grasa and Mr. Gutierrez argue that the task of achieving peaceful change will always possible, in any society. However, the combination of different types of "violence preventors" applied can be different in different cases. As Charles Tilly showed, in the very long historical cycles, social change has always occurred through a combination of peaceful and violent change. In particular, three are the main dimensions for "preventors" and peaceful change: democratization and institutional design; human development; good governance, inclusion incentives and power-sharing (which includes decentralization). It is important to understand that in order to achieve success, the three dimensions are necessary to avoid inequalities.

Mr. Grasa and Mr. Gutiérrez go beyond the ideal type of Miall's model and they end up with four paths to social change in which mixed models of conflict and cooperation (accommodation) will be frequently observed in society.

The paper tackles some of the academic debates in the literature, such as light versus deep prevention or operation versus structural prevention. However, it deliberately focuses on preventing the outbreak of violent. In other words, immediate causal factors are awarded priority.

Concerning the conceptual framework and operational definitions of decentralization, this is a complex topic because it involves political power and different government levels. For this reason, they offer several definitions and a range of sophistication in this field, including different types of decentralization (political,

administrative and fiscal), as well as different levels of power-sharing depth (deconcentration, delegation and devolution). In the end, one of the most important concepts is 'decentralized governance' sometimes understood as 'local governance', for which Mr. Grasa and Mr. Gutierrez also provide a useful operation definition.

Finally, the state of the art tackles the analysis of the literature on the link between conflict prevention and decentralization or decentralized governance. The goal is therefore to observe the possible positive and negative impacts in terms of causes and "preventors". From a theoretical and a practical perspective, two are the main perspectives: macro (institutional choice and democratization; peace as governance and power-haring arrangements; human development and the economy) and meso (pros and cons of decentralized governance in conflict prevention).

From this meso perspective, the positive (and negative) impact of decentralized governance is a function of its capacity to directly alter the causes of conflict (war "preventor" by generating incentives): structural (peacebuilding and development), accelerators and triggers. To make the issue more visual, the speakers present a table identifying examples of different kinds of impacts depending on the different kind of causes. So far, the state of the art ends with the analytical framework for decentralization and conflict prevention by Sasaoka, which needs to be operationalized.

In the conclusions, the speakers state that decentralized governance is not a panacea; its implementation could foster undesired effects or even produce results completely opposed to the ones it is trying to obtain. In this sense, in the debate, participants appreciated the importance, but also the difficulty, of the task that Mr. Grasa and Mr. Gutierrez are carrying out.

The final thesis is that decentralized governance might have positive effects in terms of conflict prevention, given its ability to create war/violence "preventors" and by reducing the three types of causes that generate violent conducts. Secondly, and despite that decentralized governance focuses on intermediate and immediate causes, coordination and coherence of long-term policies (both internally and internationally) should not be forgotten. Finally, the use of decentralized governance as a war prevention mechanism is not exempt of risks and cannot guarantee its success because of the existence of unpredictable contextual factors.

3. MR. LENNI MONTIEL

UNDP Senior Advisor on Local Governance & Development, Democratic Governance Group, Bureau for Development Policy in UNDP, New York

The third and final presentation for the day was given by Mr. Lenni Montiel from the UNDP. He presented the UNDP's support to decentralized governance in developing and transitional countries.

Mr. Montiel began by recognizing the presence of five UN Resident Coordinators in the same room. He also explained that his presentation and more information about UNDP activities could be found in an official and comprehensive CD, which had been distributed to the participants.

UNDP is the UN's global development program. It works in 166 countries, it is nowadays devoted to the Millennium Development Goals, among other things, including poverty reduction, democratic governance, crisis prevention and recovery, environment and energy, based on the observation of the Paris Declaration.

With a budget of 4.1 US billion dollars, 50%: is devoted to development in transitional countries; 36%: to governance (from this percentage, 18% decentralized governance) in countries such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mexico, Ukraine, Congo to name a few.

One of the main ideas of the presentation, which will be dealt with in the debate, is the fact that a diversity of solutions and responses is the key characteristic of support to local governance and decentralization efforts. There is, therefore, no room for 'technical fixes', 'one-only approaches' or 'one-size-fix-all solutions'

It is also important to highlight the *Do not harm* approach. Often the situation is one in which there are many donors and a crowded area, irrelevant competition and ineffective aid process overall.

After presenting the relationships between UNDP and governance, and decentralization and local governance, the speaker goes on by focusing on the UNDP international experience and the successful factors identified. There are, therefore, some lessons that have been learnt (such as key partnerships). However, decentralization is not believed to be a panacea. Among the success factors for decentralization, the speaker mentioned the following:

- Long term and high risk, demanding strategic management
- Understand the problem before designing and implementing solutions
- Requires top executive commitment and coordination
- Expectations must be carefully managed
- Participations requires flexible approaches adapted to the local situation
- A learning process; it requires risk-taking and innovation.
- Decentralized governance requires substantial multi-dimensional capacities
- Depends on an enabling environment
- Decentralization implementation should be paced and linked to other reforms
- Sustainable decentralized governance depends on local fiscal capacity

In the conclusions, he relates local government, conflict prevention and post-conflict environments and present current trends in the field. In particular,

1. Decentralization is not necessary to strengthen local policies. UNDP supports many countries were there is not decentralization policy

2. Whenever possible, decentralization could be promoted and should be promoted, but it is not a dogma. The content of decentralization need to be discussed, negotiated and balanced. If promoted badly, it can be very harmful.

3. Strong democratic instruments are the best elements that contribute to avoid conflict. Working towards preventing conflict means working to

promote democracy. UNDP does it. If processes or institutions are not democratic, the challenge is to create an infrastructure for peace at the national level.

UNDP is part of the UN. UNDP can not work in isolation, but it needs to coordinate with the rest of UN agencies.

As a final conclusion, the speaker said that UNDP is working in conflict countries, more and more, because people affected by violent conflict is increasing. It is therefore very difficult to find time to discuss these issues and this is one of the reasons why the participation in this forum is very important.

DISCUSSION:

In the debate following this third presentation, some aspects of the other presentations were also discussed, including the controversies regarding the fact that decentralization can also have negative effects, an idea originally presented by Professor Grasa and Gutiérrez. As a contribution to this debate, the first spaker, Mr. Viver, argued that in countries where there are communities that see themselves as different from the rest of inhabitants of the country and claim self-government, some kind of decentralization will always be necessary. Other participants stressed the relationship between decentralization, local accountability and good governance in order to have positive results.

Interestingly enough, some participants stressed the need to use the concepts properly and so, to differentiate between peacebuilding and conflict prevention, and also between conflict prevention and conflict transformation. The contribution from the third speaker to this debate considered the global nature of UNDP, which, because it works in 166 countries, includes different approaches, even if the UNDP always engages with national governments. In this sense, conflict prevention and recovery programs would be a useful framework for the UNDP although as said, each case is different. However, UNDP is neutral and impartial, it does not take sides in a political conflict, being therefore in a complicate position, because it can not exclude women or children in need, even if they live in countries ruled by dictators. A final idea is that sustainable decentralization is another challenge, because sometime the process of devolution goes back and forth and this is assessed by some participants as something to be improved in the future.

C. AFTERNOON SESSION: Case Studies presentations: Decentralized governance as power sharing mechanism, preventive tool and deterrent against violence?

During the afternoon session four case studies (FYR Macedonia, Guatemala, Spain: Catalonia and Basque country, and Indonesia) were presented and discussed, initiating the country-based analysis section of the Forum.

FYR MACEDONIA

1. MS. GUINKA KAPITANOVA

UNDP Programme Manager (former mayor), Skopje

Ms. Kapitanova discussed the experience of decentralized governance in the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia, which she describes as bringing the government units closer to the citizens in order to satisfy the needs and wants of the different ethnic communities. Ms. Kapitanova started off by introducing the Ohrid Agreement which was signed between the conflicting parties in order to set up a peaceful form of decentralized rule. She explained how the Ohrid Agreement was based on the principles of preserving the multi-ethnic character of Macedonian society, promoting localized government in order to encourage the participation of citizens in democratic life and encourage respect for the unique identity of the communities. The Ohrid Agreement also included the demobilization and disarmament of the insurgents and new laws regarding local government, such as: new municipalities, laws on police, languages, education, and access to financing for business. She concludes this first section of her presentation with some remarks on the role that the international community and the European Union had in advancing and implementing decentralized governance in FYR Macedonia.

Ms. Kapitanova then enters into a more analytical discussion, where she puts forward certain questions and issues regarding decentralization in FYR Macedonia, such as raising the question: where is FYR Macedonia today? Can its decentralization be called a success? To what extent can we say that decentralization prevented conflict in this case? To what extent do we notice a dramatic and broad improvement in the quality of life of the citizens of Macedonia? Ms. Kapitanova presents three graphs to display if firstly, citizens feel that through decentralization they have more influence over decisions made by the local municipal government and secondly, whether communities feel that there are now less tensions between the ethnic groups, such that we can say that relations have improved between the former conflicting groups due to power sharing and decentralized governance.

Lastly, Ms. Kapitanova discussed four areas which can be improved upon in order to strengthen and better the effects of decentralization in FYR Macedonia. Firstly, she says that there is a need for a great effort from the central government. Secondly, civil society needs to take on a more active and involved role in politics, governing and societal affairs. Thirdly, inter-regional disparity needs to be addressed, and administrative capacity needs to be increased in certain areas in order to help these municipalities achieve the 2nd phase of decentralization. Lastly, the role of the media needs to be improved in order to promote openness and democracy.

GUATEMALA (LOCALIZATION OF MDGS)

2. MR. RENÉ MAURICIO VALDÉS

UN Resident Coordinator and Representative of UNDP, Guatem

Mr. Valdés starts his presentation by giving an overview of the levels of crime and corruption in Guatemala, sating that "12 years after the signing of the UN-Mediated Peace Accords, Guatemala is facing widespread criminal violence and heightened political conflict and instability." Guatemala has one of the highest homicide rates in Latin America, explaining that this number has increased since its internal conflict. Political killings also reached unprecedented levels during the 2007 presidential elections. Mr. Valdés concludes his opening statement by saying that Guatemala is one of the most violent "countries at peace" in the world.

Mr. Valdés then goes on to explain that the Peace Accords in Guatemala were only very partially implemented; that although the guerrillas were demobilized and state terrorism came to an end, peace initiatives remained superficial. He describes the political system and the public sector as weak both at the central and the local level, concluding that there are doubts as to whether a decentralized system actually exists in Guatemala. He exemplifies, saying that the capacity of the state the provide justice and security has deteriorated.

He further presents the weakness of social areas in Guatemala, saying that it suffers from extreme poverty, inequality and discrimination. Guatemala can be defined as a pre-modern state, Mr. Valdés disappointedly relays. One of the key, debilitating issues in Guatemala is that of political corruption and a severe lack of confidence in the police force. He explains that it has an inflated police force, whose model copies that of Spain. The organized crime which infiltrates local governmental structures is crippling the confidence citizens have in the justice and political system.

Mr. Valdés presented the 2002 law which was passed to construct a decentralized system intended to promote citizen participation. However, he describes the project as having no common strategic vision or a clear definition of roles and responsibilities intended to strengthen the municipal level. He says that the system remains centralized and fragmented, and that municipalities have limited capacity to generate and manage their own revenues. Citizen participation mechanisms remain confusing.

Mr. Valdés comments that there are opportunities at the local level and a growing interest in promoting change and greater participation. He announces that pilot projects demonstrating potential do exist but notes that there has so far been limited success. He explains that local initiatives to fight corruption and crime are thwarted because they are embedded in an environment of conflict. He accentuates that good governance is essential and that effective decentralization is contingent upon a positive evolution or change at the central level. He affirms that greater consensus is needed regarding making justice ands security function under citizen control through democratic participation.

He then touches upon an agreement between the UN and the central government, which was reached in order to fight impunity through a new, innovative and bold mechanism, the CICIG. He declares the CICIG as the last chance to transform the

country and fight corruption and crime by externally investigating high profile cases, dismantling clandestine criminal structures and offering support and monitoring for local police and promoting legal reform. He concludes is showing results and there is an emerging social commitment to justice and security, but this needs to be matched by the political sector. He then points out two separate issues, 1) CICIG may destabilize the political system and 2) What happens after CICIG?

Regarding decentralization, Mr. Valdés feels that it has the potential to encourage development, prevent conflict and reduce crime, although it is limited by the "perverse and inept center." There is also a drastic need for anti-poverty policies, promoting justice and inequity. He concludes by stating that if decentralization is going to fulfil its promise and potential than key reforms are necessary in the areas of justice and police, as well as in fiscal and social policy, all requiring grand political change.

SPAIN: CATALONIA AND BASQUE COUNTRY

In this section two different regions are discussed to present a full image of decentralization in Spain.

3. PROF. LUIS MORENO FERNÁNDEZ

Research Professor and Expert in Territorial Politics, Institute of Public Good and Policies,
Spanish National Research Council, Madrid

Professor Luis Moreno started his presentation by stating that Spain is an example of successful decentralization. He stated that in the case of Catalonia decentralization was able to prevent future conflict. He asserted that although this conflict may not have been violent, not all conflicts are necessarily violent, and decentralization in this case did act as a disincentive for violent conflict.

He explained that Spain is a nation of nations: Catalonia, the Basque Country and Galicia for example are nations which exist within Spanish borders. Professor Moreno pointed-out that although the Basque maintain their armed struggle, it has been abandoned in both Catalonia and Galicia.

Using the Spanish case as an example he argued that decentralization must be the decision of the whole group. It must come from an honest desire for autonomy from within the region, and not imposed from above. In Spain and in Catalonia, he explained, democracy and decentralization were two sides of the same coin in the post-Franco era.

Professor Moreno also addressed the influence of Europeanization on the process of decentralization in Spain. He listed to particular principles which helped shape the devolution of power: firstly, territorial subsidiarity, which is rule of the lowest form of government possible, and democratic accountability and legitimacy, not just at the centre of the state but at all levels. These two elements are present in Spain.

Decentralization was also a success in economic term post-Franco, which ran alongside decentralization. Decentralization allowed Spain to best utilize the diversity

amongst it regions. Economic development and growth in Spain was also promoted by competition between the regions.

Professor Moreno acknowledged that Spain is not a federal country on paper, but is a de-facto federal state. The people of the regions of Spain have a dual identity.

Professor Moreno explained that fiscal devolution is very developed in Spain, and there is much control of public spending at the regional levels. The central state controls less that half of public spending. He stated that this was not a sign of central weakness but of Spanish competence.

He briefly raised the current debate which is taking place regarding the constitutionality of further decentralization in Spain. He noted that Catalonia is seeking more autonomy. He concluded that power sharing remains a challenge in Spain, but it can generally be regarded as a very successful model for decentralization, which prevented conflict and sparked economic growth.

4. MR. GORKA ESPIAU

Senior Associate, Center for International Conflict Resolution, Columbia University, New York

Mr. Espiau initiated his discussion of the Basque case with a comment on the importance and difference of decentralization when violence is involved. He then importantly notes that the Basque region enjoys the high level of political decentralization and financial decentralization in Europe; it maintains financial control over tax collection, which is very unique to this region. He explains that the Basque Region is a very prosperous region and it generally experiences low levels of violence. He concludes this opening section with the comment: "So what else do the Basque want?"

The Basque people are demanding for more autonomy, greater self-rule and independence. Mr. Espiau explains that decentralization has been, and is very good, for development and delivery of services, both administrative, political and financial. It has also been good for economic growth. However, he stressed that decentralization also retains a very important symbolic role. Basque independence is embedded in a dramatic ethno-political dynamic; essentially the Basque is a very different historical nation.

Mr. Espiau discussed some essential points in his evaluation of decentralization and its capacity to assuage conflict. Firstly, he makes the remark that we must move past the nation-state as the main reference with thinking about decentralization. Secondly, when during processes of decentralization the importance of symbolism must be taken into account.

Mr. Espiau, thirdly, he made an important note on asymmetric decentralization, (such as that which exists in Spain). He argued that this plan of decentralization promotes competition between regions for greater economic development, as fiscal difference become apparent. However, he also explained that asymmetric decentralization also initiates competition between regions for more decentralization. He points to the example of Catalonia also wanting control over its taxation as the

Basque have. Mr. Espiau labels such competition between regions in a decentralized system as "catching-up."

Finally, Mr. Espiau raised the important point of "dual identity." Addressing both the Catalan and the Basque cases he said often the people feel they have a dual identity, both Catalan and Spanish or Basque and Spanish.

INDONESIA (ACEH)

Three participants presented in this section, each offering a different perspective on the decentralization process and successes in Indonesia, Aceh.

5. HON. IR. MAX HASUDUNGAN POHAN

Deputy Minister of National Development Planning,
Head of BAPPENAS on Regional Development and Local Autonomy Affairs, Jakarta

Hon. Pohan offered an overview of the contemporary political history of Indonesia and the current state of affairs in the country. He described Indonesia as a pluralist state, with regards to the heterogeneity level of ethnicity, religion and political-ideology, which has triggered both protest and conflict with varying backgrounds, motivations and interests. He then goes on to explain conflict management in Indonesia, both at conception (policy system) and operational levels, tend to be done reactively and partially.

Hon. Pohan described, however, a governmental response to development needs of these regions, which is done to reduce the potential for conflict. This is a priority that is highlighted in the GOI Mid-Term National Development Plan 2004-2009, which conveys the vision of "a society, nation and state that is safe, united, harmonious and peaceful." The plan defines three policy targets: (i) reduction of social tensions and risk of conflict in areas prone to conflict; (ii) maintenance of security and peace; and (iii) increased community participation in public policy-making and the settlement of social problems

Hon. Pohan explained that Indonesia suffers from both horizontal and vertical internal conflict. The government has subsequently devised a conflict management method through what is called Decentralized Conflict Sensitive Planning (DCSP). He asserted that the main point of DCSP model implementation is to integrate conflict sensitive planning into government's regular planning mechanism. The DCSP has several entry points, including the national government, local government and civil society, which is to promote dialogue in a neutral and fair environment.

Hon. Pohan outlined the four basic ideas behind involving all stakeholders in formulating development policies. Firstly, he relayed its aim to give communities open access to development resources. Secondly, it intended to provide a channel for community's aspirations in development policies. Thirdly, the purpose was to put community's interests together, as well as heterogeneity in one development dialogue forum that is transparent and accountable. Fourthly, the involvement of all stakeholders wanted to support integration and social harmony through development dialogue forum.

The Conflict Sensitive Planning Approach in Indonesia, Hon Pohan expanded upon has two further approaches, beyond that of building capacity to facilitate dialogue between all stakeholders. The first is a <u>Peacebuilding Process Approach</u>: Through this program, the Government of Indonesia also strengthens local culture potentials as an early warning system on conflict occurrence. This approach is highly strategic considering the strong and dominant role of culture in Indonesian society. <u>Legal Framework Approach</u>: The legal framework approach is implemented by the Government of Indonesia in order to provide clear and transparent legal framework on conflict management in national and district level.

Hon. Pohan concluded his presentation by offering three suggestions for healthy and functional decentralized, conflict sensitive planning. Firstly, he explains that in the development process of post-conflict areas-which emphasizes in the strengthening of peace building-concepts and bottom-up planning mechanism design, should be equipped with materials and principles of conflict-sensitive planning in order to anticipate and reduce the possibility of disorder in the community. Secondly, the formulation of development planning also needs to embrace the local wisdoms in the society. Lastly, for the government apparatus—in national, provincial and district levels—there should be a contingency plan that is suitable for handling extreme conflict phenomena/ situation.

6. MR. EL-MOSTAFA BENLAMLIH

UN Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator and Representative of UNDP, Indonesia

Mr. Benlamlih began by offering a brief history of Aceh decentralization process, which he explained lasted 40-50 years. During the years 1951-2005 there were several attempts at decentralization regarding Aceh, which did not work. He said that twice Aceh was give autonomy and then twice it was taken back. He points out the important fact that Aceh is a historical nation; Achaeans feel that they are different.

Decentralization, Mr. Benlamlih describes, did not work as a result of three primary impeding factors. Firstly, there was lack of trust by the central government with regards to Aceh and its autonomous power and self-rule. Secondly, he addressed the fact that power had been given to the municipalities/ districts, but not the provinces which impeded the development of a functioning decentralized political system. Thirdly, he expressed that the military continued to impose control, thus true self-rule was not a reality.

Mr. Benlamlih eludes that decentralization in the 1970s was done in a very superficial way. He stated that the principle challenge was a major lack of trust between levels of government. Moreover, he explained how democracy did not bring decentralized rule to Aceh, due to the rise of dissenting voices both at the central and the provincial level with regards to the devolution of power.

Next, he touched upon the autonomy of East Timor, describing the role of it played in fostering the decentralization process in Aceh. He said that asymmetric decentralization in Indonesia helped push towards more decentralization in Aceh.

The Tsunami, Mr. Benlamlih commented, also provided an external context which allowed for decentralization and he further responded to why this was. Firstly, he explained how after the Tsunami there was a greater commitment towards decentralization on behalf of political leaders. Secondly, he raised the issue of international presence in Indonesia and Aceh after the Tsunami, which promoted greater monitoring of human rights. Thirdly, he pointed out the increased flow of resources into the region post-Tsunami, which fostered development of the region, increasing its prosperity and stability. Lastly, he importantly draws the link between the two prior points, explaining how international presence allowed the distribution of resources to be monitored, thus significantly limiting corruption and the misuse of funds. Essentially, more money was being given directly to the districts, which naturally aided the regions develop and gain control.

Mr. Benlamlih concluded his presentation by raising some primary issues when observing and implanting decentralized governance. Firstly, he importantly notes the need to manage expectations to resources available. He stresses that decentralization is expensive and the expectations of all those involved need to understand that options are constrained by the availability of resources. Secondly, he re-addresses the issue of trust between levels of government. He stated that there needs to a mutual acceptance of decentralization, it cannot be forced upon or simply taken. Moreover, there needs to be the realization that military control over the region will not work. Lastly, he explained that it is essential that there be a presence of functioning political parties and groups within a region in order for decentralization to occur.

7. MR. JAVIER GIL PÉREZ

Researcher, Instituto Universitario Gutiérrez Mellado, Madrid

Mr. Javier Gil presented third in this series of case study analyses. He began by introducing the title of his presentation: "Decentralized Governance and Peace Consolidation." He explained how the 2009 elections consolidated the peace process in Aceh, Indonesia, with the participation of local political parties. He remarked that the elections demonstrated a change in Acehnese political participation, and the election showed support for the peace process.

Mr. Gil then offered a brief, historical account of the conflict in Aceh. He discussed how it was a region conquered and controlled by imperial powers, which continuously struggled with its independence. This battle for autonomy continued under the control of the Indonesian state. Mr. Gil then highlighted the drawbacks in Aceh's movement towards independence during the Suharto era. He discussed the setbacks in terms of three wars against the movement, the first, being a war against communism, the second against terrorism, and the third as one against, separatism.

Mr. Gil then discussed the rising of Free Aceh Movement, GAM in 1976 aimed at achieving independence in Aceh. This uprising was matched by an increase in military effort to control the movement.

Mr. Gil explained how the situation changed in Aceh with the fall of the Suharto regime and the transition towards democracy. He outlineed the first attempt which was made to achieve peace in the region between the central government and GAM. He outlined the failure of the peace accords as a result of three elements. Firstly, GAM wanted independence, which was deemed unacceptable by the central state. Secondly, the central government did not offer GAM a participatory role in the political process. Thirdly, the military maintained too strong a position in the peace process.

Mr. Gil explicates that the movement towards peace was achieved when there was a realization that military control was not sufficient in achieving peace with Aceh. The 2005 Peace Accords in Helsinki were a success due the GAM's political participation in the peace process. There was also great support from the Acehnese people for GAM's abandonment of violence and peaceful route at achieving autonomy. Finally, there was a general agreement for both sides to retain levels of political power.

Mr. Javier Gil concluded his presentation with a note on necessary elements in achieving peace in Aceh. Firstly, all parties need to have the opportunity to participate in the political process. Secondly, there needs to be a commitment by all the parties involved. Lastly, it is essential to have mutual power sharing in not only political areas, but economic, religious, and cultural as well.

DISCUSSION

Following the three presentations there was an extensive question/ answer period and discussion. The subsequent points are a summary of that discussion.

- Power in Indonesia in the 1970s was given in a very superficial way, which involved more deconcentration, rather that genuine devolution or empowerment.
- There was a major issue of trust during the 1999 agreements. There was very little satisfaction with the outcomes, because there was a significant lack of trust.
- Previously, decentralization managed centrally- divulging power without discussing the goals with the provinces.

3. WEDNESDAY 8 JULY 2009

D. MORNING SESSION: Case studies presentations: Decentralized governance as power sharing preventive tool and deterrent against violence

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

1. MS. CHRISTINE MCNAB

UN Resident Coordinator and Representative of UNDP

Ms McNab considered this is a very complex case, where war was followed by a complex situation of peace, which still needs to be managed: 14 years afterwards there is a High Representative and 13 governments.

What has emerged is an asymmetric system where one of the levels can block the work of another level. In fact, there are examples where this happens; the reform of the defense of property is one of them.

The speaker noted there is also a federation of Bosnians and Croatians, which makes promises that cannot be achieved.

International financing has decreased and despite some successful stories (in decentralization, justice and transitional justice), recuperation will not take place until the emergence of a responsible State.

In this sense, one of the problems is the fact that the process of consolidation of the state revolves around Federation and Republic and the powers feel complete freedom to act, because they work representing their own ethnic communities.

This is the country with the lowest level of social trust in the world. As usual, the weakest are the women, the children and many sectors excluded from social, economic and political development.

However, there are also have elements of hope. For example, an inspiring survey was recently carried out. This survey showed that the interests of the people are related to the fight against corruption, the development of the country and the candidacy to become a member state in the EU. Also the development of the capabilities has worked positively in some sectors, including the environment.

However, one of the things still missing is a vision of the country. This is not mature enough yet and due to this fact Bosnia and Herzegovina will not be another South Africa, because the topic of reconciliation is not in the agenda.

2. MR. SANEL HUSKIC

President, Alumni Association of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies of the University of Sarajevo, Sarajevo

Mr Huskic believed that the feeling of belonging generated by the Serbian nationalism gave a particular relevance to the participation at the level of communes. The new system stopped the conflict, but also everything else. Indeed, since 2002 they have not been able to go beyond.

This decentralized system brings total corruption and inefficiency, because it not only represents the different ethnic communities, but also and the political interests and this results in a total disaffection.

As a result of the way the Constitution was drafted, there is no communication among the different levels of government. In fact, the only time they talk is when they ask each other if the High Representative needs to leave, but the problem is broader: how to achieve a functional State, regardless the presence or absence of the High Representative.

DISCUSSION

In this country, even the education is an obstacle for the empowerment and what is needed is state-building. There is a total "political dislocation" between the political system and the people, a schizophrenia between chaos or the European order.

NEPAL

3. MR. DEEPAK THAPA

Director, Social Science Baha, Kathmandu

The case of Tarai in the Nepal:
In opinion of Mr. Thapa the belonging to the caste and the ethnic community is the main characteristic in a territory where there are, at least, three different cleavages (ethnic vs. caste, Dalits vs. top castes, origin Tarai vs. origin from the mountains).
The first problems regarding citizenship emerged in 1963, when the first attempts of creation of nation-building took place. The political representatives of the Tarai are 84 out of 600 members of the Parliament.
Now that the situation seems moving towards decentralization and federalization, the problem is the different concept of State by the different actors.
What separated them is the feeling of exclusion of the Tarai: a) they do not feel Nepalese; b) they need to have presence in the power structures; c) and they need access to the resources.
The Maoists, when demanding a change of the system, made it possible to talk publicly about exclusion to the Parliament.
Concerning the status of former combatants, in Mr. Thapa's view a solution was to facilitate their incorporation into the secret police

INDIA (KERALA)

4. MR. GEORGE MATHEW

Head, Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi

Mr. Mathew explained the way the local government in Kerala, one of the big Indian states (1.2 million of inhabitants), works. The important thing is the model of development, the highest human development in the India, with an important participation of the women. From the third million chosen in the Panchayat, one million are women.

Thanks to the constitutional modification in 1993, the local government institutions work on cconsolidation, reform, improvement of the quality of life, while reflecting the preferences of the people.

The principles of the devolution are: autonomy, subsidies, clarity of roles, complementarities, uniformity in the application of the laws, participation of the people, accountability and transparency to prevent corruption

In 1996 a plan *from the bottom* was developed, ranging from community groups to the implementation of policies.

The methodology used is the "Big Bang": All the money is given in a single payment and the State is meant to serve the local governments.

Political parties, religions and castes are the three transversal sectors of the program in Kerala.

Nothing happened in just one day, it was a long process. An important element is that a governmental coalition cannot rule more than a term. The roles of the different actors are necessary. Mr. Mathew also stated that the most important pillar is education. Lastly he noted that the difference between India and China is institutional: in the second case, its paralysis blocks its development.

PHILLIPPINES

5. MS. ALMA EVANGELISTA

UNDP Team Leader Crises Prevention & Recovery, Manila

Efforts of pacification are not always supported by some of the parts.

Decentralization is part of the future aims of the government, but the fiscal system is weak.

There is an implication of moderate countries (Syria, Libya, and Turkey) in the negotiations through the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Currently there are some episodes of violence, related to the need of devolution and lack of fiscal autonomy. In conclusions, regional peace remains to be achieved.

Constitutional changes are needed; moreover, there is no understanding of the conflict and the need of differentiating peace and pacification.

In this context, the roles of the US and of the radical Islamists are crucial, but also the management of the resources and those who administrate them.

E. AFTERNOON SESSION. Putting Lessons into Practice

This final session heard from four speakers. These participants reflected on what had been discussed in the preceding sessions, both the theoretical analyses and the eight case studies. They offered an evaluation and provided notions of best practices and proposals for the future implementation of decentralized governance.

1. MR. NICOLAS HAYSOM

Director, Political, Peacekeeping & Humanitarian Affairs,
Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General, New York

Mr. Haysom has had extensive international experience in the areas of conflict resolution and peacekeeping. Grounded in this knowledge Mr. Haysom provided a thorough evaluation of decentralized governance's impact on peace and conflict.

Mr. Nicolas Haysom began his analysis with a reflective comment on the teed to understand the particular situations in the countries where decentralization is trying to be implemented as a policy for either resolutions of conflict, development or democratic accountability. He offered the example of areas where there is no private sector, where all belongs to the polity. In such cases the need to create fairer distribution of political and economic rewards exists, as an Incentive for development.

Mr. Haysom explained that in many cases decentralization is a condition for peace and conflict prevention. Whereas in other cases decentralization cannot be used, and one must be aware of the differing factors between the types of situations.

Mr. Haysom introduced the main part of his presentation by posing the grand question- Does decentralization work? He then continued to identify nine separate factors which impact the shape and the success of decentralized governance.

1. He eluded that in each separate case one needs to derive the best system possible for achieving accountability in that particular situation. He offered the example of federalism in South Africa, which has three tiers of government. This system increased accountability through a restructuring of the political system.

2. Mr. Haysom then reflected on how a particular system can be provided which meets the demands of sub-national identities. He expressed the need to understand the importance of local aspirations and organize the system to accommodate this. He expanded on this point by stating that regional parties are going to have to address regional needs in order to be a considered a contender as a regional political party. He labeled this understanding and tailoring to localized needs through political action as constitutionalizing identities. He then made the remark that a state can also federalize in a non-territorial way, suggesting that sub-national interests and needs are not necessarily divided up territorially.

3. Mr. Haysom made several remarks related to the necessary form of the decentralization process in order to ensure greater success. He said the process of decentralization needs to be bottom-up. It needs to have integrity. It needs to have a high level of participation in the arrangement being made, and have the consent of all of the affected parties. Lastly it needs to be an arrangement of high levels of trust between all parties.

4. Financial capacity must accompany political decentralization. He explained that financial resources need to be fairly and equitably distributed, so that no one party should feel left out. The financial capacity to make reforms work needs to be taken into account. He elaborated that decentralization is an expensive process and this cannot be forgotten when attempting to set up and implement decentralized institutions.

5. Mr, Haysom then commented briefly on process. Explaining that in each different case a different process may be necessary, or most effective. Regarding South Africa he explained that the Big Bang approach was used, and it which functioned well. Although he also importantly mentioned that there needs to be the capacity and the staff to implement this approach.

6. Here Mr. Haysom commented on the impact that the presence resources has on the decentralization process. He said the presence of natural resources in a state can be very a significant issue in the dynamic of a conflict, as well as in the division who receives which resources. He explains that the argument is typically over who should own the resources; who should get what. Although he observes, that perhaps more the more important question is who has the capacity to properly manage the natural resources?

7. Decentralization reorganizes the political structure of governance. Mr. Haysom explains that this includes a change in the quality of citizenship. He then raises a debated issue as to whether each unit within a decentralized system should be treated the same, given the same rights to autonomy, freedom of action, political, financial, administrative control? This brings him to the following point.

8. Asymmetric decentralization. He put forward two crucial questions: should the entire country be divided the same? Should all the units have the same level of autonomy and control? He stated that Spain shows that such a system of asymmetric decentralization can work. Although he importantly notes that generally asymmetric decentralization does not work. He asserted that there needs to be the potential for each group to arrive at the same level autonomy and control.

9. Here he raised the issue of the creation of new minorities with the implementation of decentralized governance. He stated that there needs

to be an allowance for multiple identities and for decentralization to exist beyond a single national identity. It is required to move away from an idea of a single identity (based on religion for example). There needs to be a reform to the idea of citizenship and what it entails. Lastly, there also needs to be a reform of local governance, which takes these elements into account.

Mr. Haysom concluded his presentation with some general proposals and suggestions for best practices regarding decentralization. He said it needs to be clear if one is talking about 2nd tier government or local government. He explained that often 2nd tier governments (regional or provincial) only want a certain amount of decentralization, which often ends with them. He made the point that the devolution of power often does not reach municipal levels.

There is often an obsession with autonomy (separation) to the detriment of the people within the decentralized areas. Mr. Haysom argued that there needs to be a focus on inter-governmental relations and co-management between different levels of government. Contracts detailing the distribution of power amongst levels of government need to be enforced, Mr. Haysom explained.

At this point Mr. Haysom made a novel comment on the justice system. He asks the question: "How can centralized institutions foster the participation of local and provincial governments? "

There are other very important elements in decentralization process, which are symbolic issues. Mr. Haysom clarified that politically they are often ignored, but they hold much sentimental importance. He said that decentralization includes an important level of symbolic representation. Although, identity difference does not require decentralization, it cannot be ignored in one's understanding of the decentralization process. Difference in identity needs a meaning and this meaning can change. At the Ex- Balkans love turned to hatred. Although, the meaning of difference is often awarded socially, this difference alone does not necessarily matter. The issue gains importance when there's a value given to difference.

2. PROFESSOR JAMES ALM

Professor of Economics, Georgia State University and International Studies Program, Atlanta

Professor Alm focused on the fiscal and economic elements of a decentralized governmental system. He also provided a list of theoretical and practical good practices based on international experiences.

Professor Alm outlined his presentation by dividing into four main sections each beginning with an introduction question.

1) Why decentralize?

He explained that one of the reasons why a state would want to decentralize could be for economic gains and/ or efficiency gains. These advantages can be achieved through the better matching of services with citizen demands, through greater mo-

bilization, and through local and competitive innovation. Second, he explained that states can choose to decentralize for political reasons, as well. Professor Alm explained that decentralization can foster greater grassroots participation and increase the capacity to accommodate difference with localized rule. Third, he mentioned the Subsidiarity Principle as an incentive for decentralization. This is defined as: "Government services should be provided by the lowest level of government that can do so efficiently."

Professor Alm also importantly noted however, that decentralization can also cause problems, such as macroeconomic instability. He defined this as the loss of administrative capacity of the central government for direct social investment, as well as an impediment to achieving national objectives. Another disadvantage is the loss of the ability to equalize income distribution through national measures. He stipulated that it is essential to balance the pros and cons of fiscal decentralization in order to promote stability. This includes the balance of economies scale, national objectives, macro economic stability with the efficiency of tailoring services to local circumstances.

2) Who Decentralizes?

Professor Alm explained that there now exists empirical data on decentralization, such as information on patterns, correlations and exceptions. Based on the available material he generated the following hypotheses. If there is more diversity, more democracy, greater land area and greater development then it is more likely that there will be greater levels of decentralization. Whereas, if there is more conflict or civil unrest present than decentralization is less likely. Other factors such as population, urbanization and geography also impact levels and types of decentralization.

3) Can local governments capture the benefits of decentralization: where does decentralization work best?

To respond to this question Professor Alm listed various factors/ elements which need to be present in order to ensure that the benefits of decentralization are being maximized and local participation is ensured. There needs to be:
• 	Local elected council
• 	Local appointment of chief local officers
• 	Local approval of budget
• 	Absence of mandates from central government
• 	Working groups incorporating different groups
• 	Clear expenditure assignment
• 	Local government control of revenues and capacity to borrow

4) How should decentralization occur?

In this section Professor Alm reflected on 'lessons learnt from international practices. He asserted that the decentralization process should involve two types of rules, implementation rules and sequencing rules. He did not detail all the points mentioned, although he explained that they are available in his PowerPoint presentation.

Implementation Rules:

1. Decentralization should be viewed as a system, and all of the pieces should fit together. He listed these as expenditure assignment and autonomy, revenue raising powers (including borrowing), fiscal relations between and among governments (transfers).

2. Finance follows function: First fix the assignment of expenditures, and then assign revenues in an amount that will correspond to the expenditure needs.

3. There must be a strong central government ability to monitor and to evaluate decentralization.

4. One system does not fit all local governments.

5. Accountability of local government officials requires significant local revenue autonomy and powers (in addition to significant local expenditure autonomy and powers).

6. The central government must keep the rules that it makes.

7. Keep it simple.

8. The design of the intergovernmental transfer system should match the objectives of the decentralization.

9. Decentralization should consider all levels of government.

10. Impose a "hard" budget constraint.

11. Recognize that intergovernmental systems are always in transition and plan for this.

12. There must be a "champion".

13. There must be local government accountability via local elections. Can local governments capture the benefits? See the "scorecard" previously mentioned.

Sequencing Rules: How should policy makers assess the assignment of responsibilities across different levels of government? Professor Alm explained that there is a certain sequence of specific, practical steps from "international best practices" which needs to be kept to ensure the best results from decentralization process. He explained that due to time he will not go into to the details of the sequencing rules.

Professor Alm concluded his presentation by offering general conclusions from lessons learnt from international experiences. Firstly, he stated that there is no single right way to decentralize but "implementation and sequencing rules" can give insights on best practices. He described decentralization as a process and not as a one shot deal. Decentralization takes time and is in constant evolution.

Regarding the relationship between conflict and decentralization Professor Alm explained that countries which are at war or close to war are less likely to decentralize. Basically, more conflict/ civil unrest lead to less decentralization. He expands upon this point with the observation that If there is conflict it is easier for government to demand the necessity for central rule.

Concerning the capacity of decentralization be used to reduce conflict, he said no general theory is as of yet available. He asserted that it depends on the origin and

the type of conflict. If conflict arises because of "grievance/greed", then decentralization often defuses the situation. He offered the example of Spain in this case. However, if conflict has the shape of a civil war than perhaps decentralization is applicable.

Lastly, regarding crime, Professor Alm explained that it is like a local public good, and the usual "principles" for decentralization should apply. These include application of the Subsidiarity Principle, with the "scorecard" conditions being fulfilled. In this case decentralization should improve the delivery of services, and crime should be reduced. If such principles are not practiced then decentralization will not reduce crime.

3. MR. ADRIAN IONESCU

Local Governance Initiatives Team, Open Society Institute, Budapest

Mr. Ionescu applied is professional expertise of local governance to examine the various cases which were presented throughout the forum and he offered a specialized insight into the potential political and financial functioning of decentralized systems relating to conflict.

Mr. Ionescu expressed that diverse cases with dynamic issues have been covered during the Forum. He commenced his presentation with questioning whether decentralization should always be implemented. He introduced a number of issues which were raised over the past two days.

He begans by mentioning that there needs to be an understanding of what decentralization entails. He listed local preferences, accountability and reinforced equity as examples of what is encompassed in movements towards decentralized rule. He explained that decentralization means making governments accountable to its citizens, and accountability can prevent conflict. Although, he importantly cautions that decentralization must also avoid a capture of the state or other levels of governing. He explained that accountability, as a concept does not exist in many places. It needs to be made understood.

Secondly, he addressed financial issues in his evaluation. He commented that with decentralization whom gets which expenditures must be determined. This must be followed by a decision on how the distribution of expenditures will be carried out, and implemented. There needs to be a clear outline of revenue distribution and of the budget. He then raised the need to address the issue of borrowing. He posed the question should local governments be allowed to borrow external funds. He concluded this part of his presentation with mentioning the necessity to have institutionalized mechanisms for inter-governmental relations, especially over fiscal responsibility and the management of resources.

Thirdly, Mr. Ionescu discussed the links between decentralization and conflict which were discussed throughout the Forum. He made the remark that there has been a commendable attempt to develop a link between conflict and decentralization. He stated that one must observe how a change in conditions and/ or context impacts the conflict, the decentralization process, the distribution of revenues etc.

He offered the example of the impact of the current economic crisis. He then noted the importance of always exploring economic issues and/or motivations for conflict, even if ethnic or cultural factors are also present.

Mr. Ionescu concluded his presentation with a few comments on some of case studies. Regarding the Spanish case study, he said that it showed an example of good representation. Macedonia, demonstrated the successful adaptation of the decentralization process to address fiscal issues and issues of poverty. He noted that it is also an Interesting case which shifts up and down in the levels of decentralization and local government representation. With respect to Bosnia Herzegovina, he argued that too much decentralization has occurred. There exists the need to strengthen the central government first, in order to avoid complete separatism. Mr. Ionescu said inequalities are also largely present, and there is an elite versus regular citizens dynamic present. Indonesia needs to focus on budgeting and trust issues. In the Nepal case decentralization seemed to have revolved around ethnic issues. There is a complexity which arises with specific decentralized processes. Mr. Ionescu finally stated that fiscal issues remain essential in all of the cases.

4. MS. CAMILLE A. MONTEUX

Researcher, London School of Economics, London

Ms. Monteux offered an insight into the general link between conflict and decentralization by applying her knowledge of the processes and outcomes and decentralization in the Balkans, which was the focus of her doctoral thesis.

Ms. Monteux begins her presentation with a personal observation of a "Love/ Hate relationship" with decentralization regarding its role in conflict prevention or resolution. She affirmed that yes, decentralization can bring about institution building to potentially prevent conflicts. Decentralization can empower people and increase participation using resources which are granted. However, she noted the need to have a proper checks and balances procedure to engender positive results.

Ms. Monteux then presented a criticism of decentralization being used as a single tool, which she argues results in entrenching differences. She explained that with decentralization political organization are established which institutionally insinuates that only one group can provide for them.

She agreeed with the fact that local needs should be solved locally. However, she stated that decentralization based on ethnicity leads to further divide, which can be increasingly problematic if the groups are not homogenously separated. She also explained that decentralization ethnic lines generate an issue with the creation of new minorities. She remarked that decentralization is also being used as a single tool to prevent secession.

She commented that trust needs to be forged between the two groups. She explained that groups are trying to show their differences; differences which were not so prevalent before. Ms. Monteux makes clear that decentralization can be used as a tool to solve conflicts but it needs to be reworked to avoid perverse outcomes. She mentioned that in her paper she discusses typology: models of different types of

decentralized systems, which does not covered here.

Ms. Monteux then opened a discussion on territorial decentralization. She noted that yes, there needs to be a territorial distribution and division within decentralization, but it is often very hard to accomplish, especially if groups are not homogenously divided. She stated that it is crucial to review the literature on attempting to develop non-territorial conclusions to decentralization and conflict. She claimed that there are advantages and disadvantages in all typologies of decentralization, as well as advantages and disadvantages of asymmetric decentralization.

In the second portion of her presentation Ms. Monteux went into details regarding the case studies of the Balkans. She began with a review of decentralization's impact on conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this case she asserted that decentralization depended largely on the development of a peace agreement. She said that it was carried out in an urgent manner and that Dayton needs to be re-evaluated. She made the comparison with decentralization processes in India and in Spain, for example, which she explained had time to develop their decentralized systems, to think about the format they wanted it to take. They were developed from the bottom up. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, she stipulated that this was not case. She agreed with the notion that Dayton had certain positive aspects, such as through the constitution it managed to block the ethnic element of decentralization.

Ms. Monteux then reviews the Macedonia Case Study. She pointed out that Albanians were continuously involved in the political process. However, elites were favoured. She made the remark that Ohrid agreement did manage to repair and stop violence. It was ratified in the parliament and there was a recent referendum to discuss certain issues. In this case decentralization took place through constitutional amendments. However, there are also high levels of elite separation and favouritism, and decentralization may have a negative impact in the end.

Lastly, Ms. Monteux evaluated the Kosovo case study. She said the decentralization has been underway for 10 years following the same plan. She identified two main issues. Firstly, decentralization was imposed externally. Secondly, decentralization was capable of managing the violence, but ethnic hatred is still prevalent. She made three comments about the future of decentralization in Kosovo. Ms. Monteux asked the question whether decentralization will bring peace, equality, and justice to Albanians? Elite take over of institutions needs to be avoided, and lastly, a review of available options needs to be carried out.

DISCUSSION

The following summarizes the discussion which took place following the presentations of the four panellists in this final section.

The first remark made was regarding the "love/ hate relationship" between decentralization and conflict resolution, which was followed by a comment on the perhaps messiness of decentralized rule and the efficiency of centralized governance in a messy conflict situation. The speaker however related this observation to the messiness of democracy compared to autocratic rule, expressing that the belief in democracy, not just as a better system but as a system which works is still maintained. Decentralization should not be abandoned just because it is less clear cut.

A second comment by the same speaker was made on regional integration and the future of decentralized systems. Using the example of decentralization in Europe, the speaker remarked on the need to focus on social development, income distribution and creating a protective umbrella for the socially disadvantaged.

A second speaker commented on the need for political will in order for decentralized systems to function. The remark was made regarding the situation in India, where the power is placed in the hand of the people and not the governing assembly. Lastly, the speaker noted on the process of decentralization and whether and "Big Bang" approach can work, and the concern there was in Kerala, India, related to the possibility of decentralizing corruption. The speaker discussed the need to maintain a system of checks and balances during the decentralization process.

A third participant then commented on the general feeling of the forum, which is one of moving towards more decentralization. Although, the speakers notes that centralization is still present, and there needs to be a balance between individualism and solidarity. Decentralization is not the final goal the speaker remarks, but a means of achieving other social objectives.

A comment on globalization was also introduced and the flow of capital to areas which are more secure. Decentralization often brings economic competitiveness between areas and can create an environment more conducive to capital growth.

A participant then made a comment on decentralization in areas of ethnic conflict, and the need to avoid a situation of "winner takes all" with proper institutions, which ensure distribution and representation across different ethnic groups and regions. The speaker said that effective decentralization requires democracy and local accountability, but does democracy also require decentralization.

Three comments followed by the same speaker. The first was regarding the legitimacy of the state as a result of low voter turnout. It is therefore difficult to know to what extend the actually represents the people. Secondly, the speaker mentioned the role of the media in a democratic system, and the often corrupt media representation in newly democratic states. The speaker cited the case of Bosnia and Herzegovina, stating that the lack of proper media representation is due to three items, the fear of media workers, the control of information by the state, and the general lack of professionalism of those working in the field. Lastly, the speaker commented on the role of symbols in controlling or manipulating ethnic relations and identity. The position of symbols should not be underestimated.

A remark was then made concerning the impact of decentralization on achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The speaker noted the capacity of decentralization to bring about competition between regions and the hope to achieve greater human development and social progress with decentralization. The hope that cooperation between the central and lower levels of government can prevent conflict was also put forward.

The example of Mindanao was raised here regarding the economic growth which was achieved through decentralization, and autonomy it gave to the Muslims in the region. The comment was made that in this case decentralization is genuine and can bring about progress.

Lastly, the point was raised regarding the implementation of decentralization in an area where democracy is not part of the culture. This causes a chicken and egg scenario of what should come first, democracy or decentralization. The speaker noted that there are levels of decentralization and often an emergency response is required in conflict situations.

F. FINAL SESSION: Presentation of results, lessons learned and conclusions of the Forum

1. MR. JAFAR JAVAN

Deputy Director and Head of Programmes, UNSSC, Turin

Mr. Javan began his summary by acknowledging that a publication will be produced as result of the Forum, so there is not the need to over extend his remarks of the lessons learnt, many of which were covered in the previous panel discussion. He does however make a list of four/ five concluding statements.

Firstly, Mr. Javan stressed that a decentralized governance structure is not the pan-optic solution to the development of growth and prosperity. Rather each case is context specific. He noted that the level of development economic, social and political is essential to a functioning decentralized governance structure. Secondly, he pointed out that decentralized governance will only work if there is a stable central government. Thirdly, Mr. Javan expressed that decentralized governance and local governance should not be mixed up. A decentralized governance structure and people empowerment should be treated as two separate concepts.

Lastly, Mr. Javan commented on the importance of timing in the link between decentralized governance and conflict prevention and asked the question: "When is it the right time to implement decentralized structures? How long does the process take?" He remarked that a decentralized governance structure is already complicated enough to implement in stable states; in post-authoritarian states such as Spain, Latin America or Indonesia or in post-conflict areas such as Nepal and Bosnia Herzegovina, the process is increasingly difficult. In such cases great commitment and leadership are required in order to achieve the objectives of decentralization. This is because of the great instability and damage which exists in post-conflict areas, as well as due to conflicting interests and grand expectations of the parties involved, which may not be in line with the objectives of decentralized governance.

Conference Coordinator and Research Assistant, International Catalan Institute for Peace, Barcelona

Ms. Charrett began her summary by thanking all the participants for coming and contributing to the forum on behalf of all of the organizers. Ms. Charrett then presents an overall summary of the Forum, outlining the three speakers which introduced the event on the Monday afternoon, and the theoretical and professional discussion which took place on the Tuesday morning. She briefly discussed the theoretical endeavor of Rafael Grasa and Arnau Gutiérrez and the ICIP's plan to further develop the theory and practical responses with the creation of a specialized observatory on decentralization and conflict prevention. She also noted here the presence of many UN delegates from around the world and the opportunity they had to unite and discuss their experiences related to the topic.

Ms. Charrett then briefly mentioned the eight cases which were discussed, repeating Spain and Catalonia's general positive experience with decentralization and concluding that each case showed diversity and both positive and negative elements of decentralization.

She then offered generalizing comments from what had been said throughout the case studies and closing panel session. Ms. Charrett divided her summary what had been covered on decentralization and conflict prevention into three sections, the first is a macro evaluation of the conference, whereby she mentions that themes of context, environment and international intervention and participation in peace processes remained consistent throughout the Forum. Secondly, she summarized the meso- or intermediate elements which where covered. She discussed the repeated topic of asymmetric decentralization, both in the case of causing competition for more decentralization between regions, as well as competitive development. She stated that Catalonia and the Basque Region, and East Timor and Aceh are examples of this. She also noted the common conclusion that there is a need for a functioning central government to be present in order for decentralization to be properly carried out.
Lastly, she observed the micro, individual or communal factors which were raised throughout the two days. She mentiond the query of whether decentralization actually brings about greater populace participation. Also, she pointed out the concern of Camille Monteux on "how has decentralization affected ethno-relations?" which touched upon issues covered in several other presentations. Lastly, she briefly mentioned the point of dual identities.

In the concluding part of her summary she discussed several items which might occupy future thoughts and studies on decentralized governance and conflict prevention. She pointed out the link between decentralization and corruption, violence and elite capture which was discussed in both the Guatemalan and Bosnia Herzegovina cases which may be of interest. Ms. Charrett also pointed out the importance of process and whether a Big Bang approach such as in Kerala, India can be copied elsewhere. She mentioned the repeated importance of co-management between different levels of government, and the need for trust and communication in order for decentralized governance to work in the future. She concluded with comment on the idea of moving away from the state as the prime entity from which we start thinking about decentralization and power not just being distributed from above but being produced and taken by the people.

G. FORMAL CLOSURE

1. MR. JAFAR JAVAN

Deputy Director and Head of Programmes, UNSSC, Turin

Mr. Javan thanked all participants for their contributions and having taken out time from their busy agenda's to come to this forum in Barcelona. It is the first of such events which the UNSSC has organised in collaboration with our Catalan counterparts. The vast knowledge and experience showed that the theme of "decentralized governance and conflict prevention" warrants time for debate.
Mr. Javan continued to thank all speakers and the organising team from UNSSC and the Generalitat de Catalunya for having made this forum possible.

2. MR. XAVIER BADIA I CARDÚS

Director, Oficina de Promoció de la Pau i dels Drets Humans, Generalitat de Catalonia, Barcelona

DECENTRALIZATION AS A MECHANISM FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION

In 2008, the Generalitat de Catalunya signed a collaboration agreement with the UN System Staff College that has been updated this year. With this collaboration framework we have worked together in subjects of common interest.

The first edition of the forum has been a good opportunity to encourage reflection and both parts have learnt a lot from it.

The Catalan situation has been introduced in the discussion, and we have wanted to highlight how Catalonia fits within Spain. Even if it is an example that cannot be applied in other countries, it can be useful as an experience and it may be taken into account when speaking of a national reality fitted in a multinational country.

Decentralization as a mechanism for conflict prevention is a very complex subject. We first planned to present successful and unsuccessful processes. This method was reformulated with different contributions from all of you, ending up in a very positive approach: even though we cannot speak of success or failure, we have to learn a lesson from all the processes to be able to study and analyze peace processes.

Thanks to the contributions of all the speakers, we have learnt that it is problem with different and variable situations. There are not global solutions because the situations in different countries cannot be compared.

As a conclusion, I would like to emphasize two aspects: 1) We need all possible tools to be properly coordinated, from academic reflection to the experiences lived on the spot that allow us to modify our procedures, and 2) There are many aspects to be discussed and this forum was very useful for all parties involved.

To sum up, I would like to stress the interesting collaboration between the Generalitat de Catalunya and the UN System Staff College. It is very useful for our development cooperation policy, human rights and peace support.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you for being here and for your contribution to this forum and, especially, to thank the representatives of the governments of Indonesia and the Philippines, and Carlos Lopes, director of the UN System Staff College.

ANNEX 1: BIOS OF PARTICIPANTS

ALM, JAMES

Alm, James is a Professor in the Department of Economics in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia. He has previously served as Chair of the Department and Dean of the School. He has also taught at Syracuse University and at the University of Colorado at Boulder. He earned his master's degree in economics at the University of Chicago and his doctorate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Professor Alm teaches and conducts research in the area of public economics. Much of his research has examined the responses of individuals and firms to taxation, in such areas as tax compliance, the tax treatment of the family, tax reform, the line item veto, social security, housing, indexation, and tax and expenditure limitations. His work has been published in leading economics journals, and he is the author of nine books. He has also worked extensively on fiscal and decentralization reforms overseas, including projects in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Jamaica, Grenada, Turkey, Egypt, Hungary, China, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Uganda, Nigeria, India, Colombia, Nepal, Ukraine, Pakistan, and South Africa. He is currently Editor of Public Finance Review and an Associate Editor of Review of Economics of the Household and economics-ejournal. More information and links to publications can be found at
http://aysps.gsu.edu/people/AlmJ.htm.

BADIA I CARDÚS, XAVIER

Badia i Cardús, Xavier was born in Barcelona in 1953. He gained his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Social Sciences in 1975 from the University of Barcelona. He worked as a secondary school teacher from 1976 and was the director of the IES Pere Vives Vic d'Igualada. Xavier acted as a city councilman and deputy mayor of Igualada (a municipality in the province of Barcelona with a population of 35,000) between 1991 and 2003. His work was in the fields of education, culture, cooperation and solidarity. He is currently a member of "Peace, Justice and Solidarity Action against Unemployment" as well as of "Amnesty International". In 2005 he was appointed General Program Coordinator for International Catalan Institute for Peace (ICIP), and in January 2007, Director of the Office for the Promotion of Peace and Human Rights, from the governmental Department for Interior and Institutional Relations. He is a member of the Board of Governors of the International Catalan Institute for Peace since September, 2008 and he also serves as secondary vice president of the Català de Foment de la Paz.

BENLAMLIH, EL-MOSTAFA

Benlamlih, El-Mostafa, United Nations Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Indonesia. Moroccan, born the 27th January 1953. Currently, the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Indonesia since March 2008. In this position, he is mainly leading the UN and UNDP team to work more effectively as a team and shift its program focus from the heavy recovery and reconstruction emphasis, which developed in the aftermath of the Tsunami, to supporting national long term sustainable human development, peace and stability. Started his professional career teaching economics and accounting at University Mohamed Ben Abdellah in Morocco in 1979, before joining UNDP as a National Program Officer in 1981. Since then he served in the Arab region, Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and New York, serving in 9 different countries from the poorest (Malawi, Djibouti and Cote d' Ivoire) to the richest (Saudi Arabia and Kuwait), and through middle income countries such as Morocco and Indonesia. Other important assignments included acting as Deputy Director for the Arab Region in New York, on two occasions, in 2000 and 2006. Through his long career, he acquired firsthand experience and expertise in development and social governance issues, including inter-ethnic dialogue and conflict management. In his current assignment, Indonesia, he is leading a large UN Country Team comprising of 15 resident agencies and 10 non-resident agencies. The total portfolio exceeded US$250 million in 2007.

ESPIAU, GORKA

Espiau, Gorka is researcher and consultant on issues related to peace. He graduated in journalism from the University of the Basque Country in1994. From 1996 to 2005 he was affiliated with Elkarri, a social movement dedicated to creating the conditions for a peace process in the Basque Coountry, first as Area Coordinator and Director of Publications, then as spokesperson and coordinator of international relations. He was a member of the United States Institute for Peace and is a Senior Associate at the Centre for International Conflict Resolution (CICR) at Columbia University in New York. Gorka now works as an advisor to the Secretary General for the Plan for Peace and Coexistence of the Basque government. He has written numerous articles on the Basque conflict and has worked and written for many publications (Washington Post, Financial Times, Wall Street Journal) and audiovisual (CNN, CBS, BBC).

EVANGELISTA, ALMA

Evangelista, Alma is the Team Leader of the Crisis Prevention and Recovery Unit of UNDP-Philippines. She first joined the Country Office in 2001 as Peace and Development Advisor. Ms Evangelista has done some pioneering peace work in the Philippines, with sixteen years of cumulative peace practice through engagements with government, civil society, community-based peacebuilders and the international donor community. Prior to joining UNDP, Ms Evangelista served in various capacities in the Philippine government's peace offices, including the Peace Commission (199-92), the National Unification Commission (1993) and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (1994-2000), of which Ms Evangelista was the

Executive Director (1996-2001). She also served as Chair of the Technical Committee supporting the government negotiations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front from 1997-2001. In her current work with UNDP-Philippines, Ms Evangelista is responsible for technical oversight over UNDP-assisted peace and development programmes, including the GoP-UN Multidonor Programme for Mindanao, (now on its fourth phase known as ACT for Peace Programme), as well as early recovery programmes for conflict-affected and natural disaster-prone areas.

GIL PÉREZ, JAVIER

Gil Pérez, Javier is a PhD Research Fellow at the Instituto Universitario Gutiérrez Mellado, in Madrid Spain. Javier Gil is also a member of the Asia-Pacific panel in "Fundación Alternativas" and an election analyst in "Taller de estudios del mediterráneo". Previously, he has also been a research associate in the International Center for the Prevention of Terrorism and Political Violence in Nanyang Technological University of Singapore and a visiting fellow in the Center of International and Strategic Studies in Jakarta, Indonesia.

GRASA, RAFAEL

Grasa, Rafael is professor of International Relations at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, where he teaches and researches in international relations theory, peace research, conflict resolution, peace processes, security and human development. He was Director of the Center for International and Intercultural Studies and Secretary General of the University January 2002 to January 2009. He is currently President of the International Catalan Institute for Peace. He is also presently a Professor at the Institu de Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals. He has worked in consulting on issues of international negotiations, development processes and electoral observation.

GUTIÉRREZ CAMPS, ARNAU

Gutiérrez Camps, Arnau has a B.A. in Political Science and Public Administration from the Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona and a Masters in International Relations from Georgetown University. He has taught at Georgetown University and at the Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals. He is currently completing his Ph.D. in International Relations at UAB. He works at the International Relations' Office of the Province of Barcelona. His current research interests include the international dimension of sub-national governments.

HAYSOM, NICHOLAS

Haysom, Nicholas of South Africa was appointed as Director for Political Affairs in the Office of UN Secretary-General, BAN Ki-moon, in May 2007. Prior to this, Mr. Haysom served in Baghdad, Iraq, as the head of UNAMI's 'Office of Constitutional

Support' from April 2005. Mr. Haysom was closely involved in the constitutional negotiations leading up to the interim and final constitutions in South Africa. He served as chief legal advisor throughout Mr Mandela's presidency and continued to work with Mr. Mandela on his peace initiatives up to 2002. Upon President Mandela's retirement in 1999, Haysom has advised on conflict resolution and constitutional reform in East and Central Africa, and South and South East Asia. Inter alia Mr. Haysom had been involved in the Burundi Peace Talks as the chairman of the committee negotiating constitutional issues (1999–2002) and served as the adviser to the IGAD Sudanese Peace Process (2002 – 2005). Mr. Haysom was a founding partner of the human rights law firm of Cheadle Thompson and Haysom Attorneys, and an Associate Professor of Law at Wits University until he joined Mandela's office in May 1994.

HUIDOBRO MARTIN-LABORDA, MARÍA LUISA

Huidobro Martin-Laborda, María Luisa. Has worked for the Spanish Foreign Affairs Ministry since 1990, firstly appointed to Addis-Abbeba embassy, then to Israel and from 2002 until 2007 at the Spanish Consulate in New York. Actually is the Deputy Director of the Peacekeeping Operations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

HUSKIC SANEL

Huskić Sanel, has worked as a policy analyst in the field of development for over three years, mostly within ACIPS (Association Alumni of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies), Sarajevo. In September 2008, he was appointed a president of this organisation. He specialises in policies in field of poverty reduction and sector development strategies such as rural development and tourism. He holds Bachelor degrees in International Development Studies and Human Geography and a Masters degree in Human Rights and Democracy. Recent publications: Huskić, Sanel et al. "Development Documents of the European States: Comparative Analysis for the Purpose of Drafting the B&H Development Strategy for 2008-2013", Policy Brief, (ACIPS Sarajevo, 2007); Huskić, Sanel et al. "Improvement of Public Spending System of State-Level Governmental Institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina", Policy Brief (ACIPS Sarajevo, 2007); Huskić, Sanel et al. "Improvement of State-Level Civil Service Recruitment Process in Bosnia and Herzegovina", Policy Brief (ACIPS Sarajevo, 2007); Huskić, Sanel et al. "Analysis of the Election Messages of Leading Political Subjects in BiH, General Elections Year 2006", (Sarajevo, 2006); Huskić, Sanel. "Democracy and Poverty: Case Studies of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia", MA Thesis selected for publihing A.Y. 2003/2004, (Instituto per l'Europa Centro-Orijentale e Balcanica Bologna and Center for Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies of the University of Sarajevo: IC 2005).

IONESCU, ADRIAN

Ionescu, Adrian, LGI/OSI Director Adrian Ionescu has been the Director of the Local Government and Public Service Initiative of OSI (LGI/OSI) since 1997. Under his management LGI/OSI has grown from a small grant program to a well established international development cum think-tank group in the fields of local government, public administration and public policy. His area of interest at LGI is sub-national governmental finance and fiscal decentralization. Adrian is also a visiting professor at CEU, teaching a course on intergovernmental fiscal relations in the Masters in Public Policy Program. He was a member in various steering groups and committees, including LOGIN, FDI, LGID Ltd. (UK), PASOS (Cz) and the working group on local democracy for the Stability Pact region. Before joining LGI, he worked as a Project Manager for the Soros foundation and previously as a Research Officer for the Ministry of Public Works and Regional Planning in Romania. He holds a certificate from Harvard University, an MBA from Universite du Quebec a Montreal/ASE Bucuresti and a M.Sc. in Engineering from the Polytechnic University of Bucharest. aionescu@osi.hu

JAVAN, JAFAR

Javan, Jafar is the Deputy Director of the UN System Staff College in charge of Programmes. He heads the Resident Coordinator System, Learning and Training Services, as well as the Peace and Security programme. Dr. Javan also manages the UN Leaders Programme. Prior to joining the College, Dr. Javan was Director of the Office of Policy and Programme Development of UNDP's Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS, based in Bratislava, Slovakia. In this role, he was responsible for managing the UNDP's regional programming, support to the country offices, and knowledge management within the region. He has over 20 years of experience working with the UN system in various regions, most notably in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe and the CIS. In his tenure within the UN system, his professional responsibilities have mainly been focused on areas such as basic and informal education, training and employment, and community development and social participation. Dr. Javan has a Doctorate in Psychology with a specialization in Human Resources Development from the North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina, USA.

KAPITANOVA, GUINKA

Kapitanova, Guinka has been a Program Advisor in Inter-municipal Cooperation of UNDP, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, since March 2008. Prior to that, she was an elected Mayor (1991- 1995) and one of the Founders and the Executive Director of the Foundation for Local Government Reform in Bulgaria, a leading national organization in support of the decentralization and good governance process. She has been an Adviser to the Local Government Committee in the National Parliament and the National Ombudsman, as well as to several international programs and institutions in her country. She holds a Master Degree in International

Economic Relations and has won scholarships for leadership programs at John Hopkins University; USA, Virginia University, USA and Harvard's John Kennedy School of Government, Greece.

KORTH, SVENJA

Korth, Svenja has been working for the United Nations since 1989. She started her career with UNDP and has worked in Namibia, Equatorial Guinea, Suriname and Nicaragua. In 1998 she joined the United Nations System Staff College in Turin. Ms. Korth manages the UNSSC Peace and Security Programme, dedicated to providing support in capacity building and strengthening conflict prevention and peace building knowledge within the United Nations System. She has acted as "Co-relatore" (evaluator) in the Masters thesis of Ms. Nicoletti on "Towards a Common Methodological Framework for Effective Conflict Early Warning" conducted at the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in Pisa (2005) and published several articles including co-author of "Alerta temprana y Medidas Preventivas: La experiencia de un proyecto de las Naciones Unidas" in Papeles de Questiones Internacionales (2003, 0.83), Centro de Investigaciones para la Paz (Spain). Ms. Korth holds a Masters Degree in Applied Anthropology (focus on International Development) from The American University, Washington, DC and a BA in Swahili and Anthropology from The School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, UK.

LOPES, CARLOS

Lopes, Carlos His career at the UN started in 1988. He has been Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) since March 2007 and was appointed Director of the Staff College in October 2007. Dr. Lopes has been serving previously as Assistant Secretary-General and Director for Political Affairs in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. He occupied several managerial positions, including UN Resident Coordinator in Zimbabwe and Brazil and head of Policy for UNDP. Dr. Lopes has several degrees from the Graduate Institute of Development Studies, University of Geneva, a PhD in History from the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and an Honorary PhD in Social Sciences from the University "Candido Mendes", Rio de Janeiro.

MATHEW, GEORGE

Mathew, George born in Kerala (1943), George Mathew obtained his Ph. D in Sociology from the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He was a visiting fellow at the South Asian Studies Centre, University of Chicago (1981-82), and Visiting Professor, University of Padova, Italy (1988). He was awarded the Fulbright Fellowship in the summer of 1991 to work at the University of Chicago. In 2005 he worked in Trent University, Peterborough, Canada on Comparative study of the local government in Canada and India. He participates and presents papers in national and international conferences on political process and democracy, and human rights. His studies

and articles on state and society appear in national dailies, journals and books. His major works include: (i) *Communal Road to a Secular Kerala*; (ii) *Panchayati Raj From Legislation to Movement* and the following edited works: (i) *Shift in Indian Politics*; (ii) *Dignity for All: Essays in Socialism and Democracy*; (iii) *Panchayati Raj in Karnataka Today: Its National Dimensions*; (iv) *Panchayati Raj in Jammu and Kashmir*; (v) *Status of Panchayati Raj in States of India 1994*; (vi) *Status of Panchayati Raj in the States and Union Territories of India 2000*; and (vii) *Inclusion and Exclusion in Local Governance: Field Studies from Rural India*. Dr. Mathew is Founder Director, Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi. Presently he is specialising in the local government system (Panchayati Raj), decentralisation and gender equity. He is a regular contributor to national dailies. Dr. Mathew has been serving in various capacities, like Member of committees/task forces, constituted by the Government of India, State Governments and international organisations like National Endowment for Democracy, the Council of Community of Democracies, etc. Based on a true story, he produced the film: "Swaraaj: The Little Republic" which won the national award for the Best Film on Social Issues (2002) from President of India for its strong depiction of women's empowerment in rural India.

MCNAB, CHRISTINE

McNab, Christine Since 2006, Ms. Christine McNab has been working as the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Prior to arrival in Bosnia and Herzegovina she served for four years as the UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative in Jordan. Ms McNab has a broad international experience, previously living and working in countries ranging from United Kingdom and Sweden to Lesotho, Bahrain, Tanzania and Zambia, working for bilateral and multilateral development cooperation agencies. Swedish by nationality, Ms. McNab obtained a B.Sc. (Sociology and Social Anthropology), from the University of Wales in 1970, followed by a Certificate in Education, from Garnett College, University of London in 1972 and a Ph.D. in International and Comparative Education from the Institute of International Education, University of Stockholm in 1989. Until moving into management positions in development cooperation agencies, Ms McNab specialized in education in developing countries. Monteux, Camille A. recently completed a PhD in Government at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) on international institution building policies as a means to regulate conflict in Kosovo. Previously, she studied International Studies and Diplomacy at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) and the Institut de Hautes Etudes Internationales (IUHEI) in Geneva. She also worked for different international and governmental organizations, which included fieldwork in Western Balkans for the OSCE and the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI). Her publications include 'Decentralisation: The New Delusion of Ethnic Conflict Regulation?' (International Journal on Multiethnic Studies) and 'Federal Solutions and the Question of Kosovo: Reality or Illusion?" (Federalism Institute, Fribourg). She currently lives in Beijing (PRC) and has reoriented her research on the development of Chinese internal and external policies.

MONTIEL, LENNI

Montiel, Lenni Senior Policy Adviser on Local Governance and Decentralization in the Democratic Governance Group at the Bureau for Development Policy in UNDP, New York. Before his current position in Headquarters Mr. Montiel worked with UNDP Vietnam and UNDP Ukraine for several years as Governance Senior Technical Advisor working on parliamentary development at national and sub-national levels in Vietnam and at the Parliament and the Presidential Administration of Ukraine on human rights and integrity initiatives. Montiel was Advisor at the Board of Directors-Inter-American Development Bank, Washington DC, USA. He was Senior Public Management Specialist-Institute for Urban and Housing Studies (IHS) - Erasmus University (Netherlands), where he designed and taught courses on Governance and Urban Management in master programmes and professional courses for specialists from Asia, Latin America, Africa and Eastern Europe. He was involved during the 1990s with the work of the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA) at HQ in the Hague, and with its Latin-American and Asia-Pacific Chapters. In Venezuela till the beginning of the 1990s, he was General Manager at the Venezuelan Social Investment Fund, Director of Social Policies at the Presidential Office of Planning and Coordination, and, Director of Planning at the Ministry of Family Affairs. Lenni has been involved in the development of online communities of practice since 1989. He created "LOGOV" in 1996 at the University of Birmingham (UK)- a global network of specialists in local government and decentralization and created the "Good Governance Best Practices" website. Both initiatives -at the time among the few available of their kind- received in 1998 recognition as a "Good Practice" from the 1st Best Practices International Award of UNCHS - HABITAT. Mr. Montiel has got a PhD in Public Policy - University of Birmingham (UK) on the subject of institutional development of local government in developing countries; an MA in Legislative Studies at the University of Hull (UK); and a MSc (Eco) from the Belorussian Institute of National Economics (URSS). He has been involved in poverty alleviation, governance and urban management initiatives for 24 years in Latin America, Asia-Pacific, Eastern Europe and CIS and in Arab States. Mr. Montiel speaks Spanish, English and Russian languages.

MORENO FERNANDEZ, LUIS

Moreno Fernandez, Luis is a Research Professor with the Spanish National Research Council in Madrid. He conducts his academic activities at the Institute of Public Good and Policies at the Centre of Human and Social Sciences. Professor Luis Moreno did his undergraduate studies at the *Universidad Complutense* in Madrid. He was awarded his Ph.D. in Political Science and Sociology from the University of Edinburgh in 1986. He has been a visiting scholar at the universities of Colorado (CU), Denver (DU), Edinburgh and Rome (*La Sapienza*). During 1998-99 he worked as a Jean Monnet Senior Research Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence. His two main areas of research are: (a) Territorial politics (decentralization, federalism, nationalism and Europeanization); and (b) Social policy and welfare state. Both have been carried out from a comparative perspective.

POHAN, MAX

Pohan, Max born December 8, 1953, has been working for Ministry of National Development Planning, National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS), Republic of Indonesia, for more than 23 years. He started as young planner in January 1982 in the Ministry of Public Works, Republic of Indonesia, after obtained his first degree as city and regional planner from Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB) in 1981. In 1984-1985 he pursued his post graduate education at L' ENTPE (Ecole Nationale des Travaux Publics de l'État) in Lyon, France (ENTPE) and obtain a Certificat des Etudes Superieures (CES) in Economie des Transports, and another post graduate Master of Arts (MA) in Economic Policy and Planning from the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) The Hague, The Netherlands, in 1990. He joined the Ministry of National Development Planning in 1986 and since then gradually climbed the ladder until the present position as Deputy Minister for Regional Development and Local Autonomy Affairs. This year (2009) he finishes his Doctoral degree in Public Administration from Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Along his abdication as civil servant and technocrat, he produced a large number of discussion papers, policy papers. He attended and spoke in many seminars, workshops, simposiums, in many different countries, particularly in Asia, Europe, as well as in the United States of America. He played a pivotal role in drafting several Laws together with the DPR (Indonesian parliament), among others the Law Nr. 17/2007 on The Long Term Development Plan of Indonesia (2005-2025), and Law Nr.25/2004 on the System of National Development Planning, and several bylaws (Government Regulations). His current position as Deputy Minister is crucial in the formulation of national-regional development policies ranging from macro regional policies, spatial planning and land management, urban and rural policies, area development, disaster mitigation and regional preparedness, as well as regional government strengthening policies. He coordinates regional development planning boards in nationwide in order to have national targets and objectives reached. In the year 2009 he is also responsible for coordinating related ministries, agencies, and provincial as well as districts governments in the province of Aceh and North Sumatera, two provinces affected by the great disaster of tsunami and earth quake (2004), to continue the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in both provinces previously managed and coordinated by the already dissolved BRR Aceh and Nias. In a broader scale, he is actively involved in the cooperation with the UNDP in disaster's risk reduction program implemented nationwide. Mr. Pohan has a wife and two children. He can be reached at pohan@bappenas.go.id.

SAURA, JOAN

Saura, Joan is the Minister of Interior, Institutional Relations and Participation for the Generalitat of Catalonia. He was born in Barcelona on April 24, 1950. He served as alderman for the constituency Hospitalet de Llobregat for the PSUC party from 1979 to 1991. From 1988 to 1995 he sat as a Member of the Catalan Parliament for Barcelona, and acted as a spokesman for the parliamentary group, Iniciativa per Catalunya and was president of the group since 1993. In the general election of 1996 he was elected as a member of Congress and was reelected in 2000. He has been a spokesman for the Parliamentary Committees for Environment and Defense. Joan

Saura participated in the founding of Iniciativa per Catalunya, and since November 2000 he has acted as its Chairman. During the previous legislation he acted as Minister of Institutional Relations and Participation for the Generalitat of Catalonia.

THAPA, DEEPAK

Thapa, Deepak is Director of Social Science Baha, a research and resource centre based in Kathmandu. He is the author of *A Kingdom under Siege: Nepal's Maoist Insurgency, 1996-2004* (London, 2005) and editor of *Understanding the Maoist Movement of Nepal* (Kathmandu, 2003), and numerous other articles on the conflict and political transformation in Nepal. In 2006, he was a visiting fellow at the Centre for International Conflict Resolution, Columbia University, New York.

VALDÉS, RENÉ MAURICIO

Valdés, René Mauricio, Salvadorean nationality, holds a Ph.D. Political Science. University of Toronto, Canada. 1988, Magister Scientae. Public Administration. University of Costa Rica. 1983 and a Licenciado, International Relations. University of El Salvador. 1981. Currently serves as UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Guatemala, where he also served as UNDP Deputy Resident Representative between 1994 and 1998 (a period during which the UN played a critical role in the negotiation and initial implementation of the peace accords). Served as UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Ecuador between 2003 and 2008. Has served with UNDP also in Colombia, El Salvador, Panama, and in the organization`s headquarters in New York. Possesses over twenty years of managerial experience, at increasingly senior levels, in knowledge-based institutions promoting democratic and socio-economic development, especially in conflict and post-conflict environments.  Directed El Salvador`s state reform programme between 1980 and 1981. His academic credentials include his work as director of a Central American master´s degree programme in public administration, in San José, Costa Rica. Has published 11 academic and journalistic articles on international affairs and public management.

VIVER PI-SUNYER, CARLES

Viver Pi-Sunyer, Carles is a Catalan lawyer and a jurist. He completed his Doctorate in Law at the University of Barcelona (1977) where he taught as a Professor of Constitutional Law. Between 1992 and 2001 he sat as a judge in the Constitutional Court of Spain, and acted as vice president from 1998 to 2001. In 2004 he was appointed director of the Institute of Autonomous Studies in Barcelona. He specializes in issues of regional law and constitutional law. In 2003 he received the Cross of Saint Jordi for having rendered outstanding service in Catalonia for the protection of Catalan culture, and is also the recipient of the Justice of Catalonia Prize