

BMW Foundation Global Table, Bogotá  
May 4 -10 2017

## Executive Summary



### Objective

The 9th BMW Foundation Global Table aimed to promote innovative thinking between government administrations, local communities, the private sector, and civil society in post-conflict societies and to explore how these actors can regain or maintain the population's trust while restoring peace and justice in their societies.

**How can influential actors regain or maintain the population's trust while restoring peace and justice in their societies?**

### Discussion

Post-conflict societies are often divided over elements of the peace process, such as, for example, the concept of Transitional Justice. There are frequent complaints that the international community promotes "one-size-fits-all" approaches, whereas the situation on the ground is characterized by the conflicting demands of developing stability and coming to terms with the past. But without the population's trust, a peace process does not have the support it needs and is doomed to fail. As a matter of fact, almost half of all societies emerging from a civil war relapse into conflict during the first five years.

There was a profound sense that including different voices in society is key for every peace process as well as for conflict prevention. The voices of the victims must be heard and the space provided for the reconciliation between fragmented groups that mistrust each other and the government must be big enough to tackle the massive consequences of a conflict. But how can inclusiveness be achieved? How can local actors become drivers of peace processes?

The participants agreed that arts and culture are essential when it comes to processing individual tragedies, providing a space for dialogue, building bridges, and finding a new, common ground to express and acknowledge opposing views. Furthermore, in the transition from conflict to peace, the relevance of unlikely allies such as the business community should/needs to be considered more fully. Their potentially beneficial connections to civil society need to be better explored and understood, as these allies can be potential supporters for non-recurrence.

## Ideas for Action

1. Best practices should be followed to **facilitate a more inclusive approach and involve local actors**. The artist Annina Roescheisen, who participated in the 9th Global Table in Bogotá, has launched the art project **#WhatBringsPeace#**. Her objective is to collect **different voices around the globe** about what peace means for them individually and to spread the idea that **peace is something that starts with ourselves** and our immediate surroundings.
2. It is necessary to create a **sustainable business environment that helps bring about peaceful**, inclusive societies and rule of law after conflict. Yet, it is important to acknowledge both the necessary requirements and the limits for the **involvement of business to promote peaceful and just societies** – a charged relationship that Daniel Gerlach from Zenith Magazine, participant of the Global Tables in Tunis and Bogotá, is currently exploring further in a study on Transitional Justice.
3. To strengthen dialogue and the resilience of societies, the BMW Foundation will partner with Alfredo Zamudio, Director of the Nansen Center for Peace and Dialogue and a participant of the 6th and 9th Global Tables, for the **Lillehammer Dialogue City – a week-long conversation with practitioners and decision-makers from all over the world** to enhance resilient societies. During the Lillehammer Dialogue City, the BMW Foundation and the Nansen Center will co-host the 12th BMW Foundation Global Table.



**Participants** included leaders from the Federal Foreign Office in Germany, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, governmental offices of Colombia and Brazil, international civil society as well as the business community as well as representatives of the BMW Foundations' partners such as the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, the Nansen Center for Peace and Dialogue, and Sistema B. They all participated in their personal capacity.

### Keywords / SDGs:

Transitional Justice, Reconciliation, Post-conflict societies, Peacebuilding, SDG #16 Peace and Justice, SDG #17 Partnerships for the Goals

**Read inspiring stories from the Global Table on TwentyThirty  
presented by BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt**



[#Whatbringspeace: Video Interview with Annina Roescheisen](#)

[Power to the People: Video Interview with Kimberley Moety](#)