



Aktennotiz

Date: 3 December 2014
To: WCL
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Management Response to the “External Evaluation of the Strategic Partnership between HSD and swisspeace”

K.234.32-272 / SFD

1. General Assessment

The findings of the evaluation are important, useful and actionable. The results will serve as a good basis for further developing and steering the partnership with swisspeace. The challenges identified pertain in particular to the effectiveness on a strategic level, the lack of an M&E mechanism as well as the role and identity of KOFF as part of the strategic relationship. Relevance and efficiency were rated very positively.

2. Comments to specific recommendations of the evaluators

Recommendation 1: Define a strategic focus for the partnership and clarify roles

A “strategic” dialogue is important and should take place also outside the board of swisspeace. Hence, a **yearly strategic dialogue will be established** between the heads of HSD and swisspeace. It will include an assessment of the yearly objectives set in the Terms of Reference annexed to the core contribution contract as well as an exchange on the main mandates and projects (e.g. KOFF, MSP and DwP). The aim is to unify as far as possible project specific steering meetings.

Proactive communication is important and will be improved based on the proposal by innovabridge. It is foreseen that the focal point informs the division proactively about the content of the Terms of Reference of the strategic partnership.

Recommendation 2 & 4: Simplify contractual basis / Role and identity of KOFF

Based on recommendation 1, a two year cycle with **one core contribution contract** outlining all services (including those currently included in the Terms of Reference for KOFF) is envisaged. The Terms of reference of this new core contribution contract will also include explicit reference to KOFF as an essential tool for outreach and exchange with civil society.

This would also allow for the KOFF members to increase their ownership over KOFF and to help shaping the future of this platform.

Recommendation 3: Introduce a Monitoring and Evaluation mechanism

The Monitoring & Evaluation will be based on annual objectives set in the Terms of Reference and on the Theory of Change, which is being developed by swisspeace and HSD.

Recommendations to HSD

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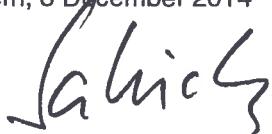
The recommendations to HSD are mostly part of what is being discussed in the framework of the new credit facility for the years 2017-2020.

3. Proposed way forward with regard to the partnership until 2017

As immediate next steps, the following should be envisaged:

- a) A first strategic dialogue is scheduled at the end of 2014 / beginning of 2015. This first dialogue will aim at:
 - a. Agree on the Theory of Change outlining the desired outcomes of the partnership
 - b. Agree on the new contractual basis as of 2016 (test phase for one year)
 - c. Agree on the new Terms of Reference for the core contribution in 2015, including an M&E mechanism
 - d. Agree on the format for future strategic dialogues, which should include in particular KOFF, MSP and DWP-Mandate, and if needed other important projects. This will simplify the steering and reduce costs.
- b) Set up a new one-year contract with swisspeace for the core contribution 2015 with the explicit aim of **unifying KOFF- and core-contribution** as of 2016 within one contract and **reducing the total amount transferred** to swisspeace.

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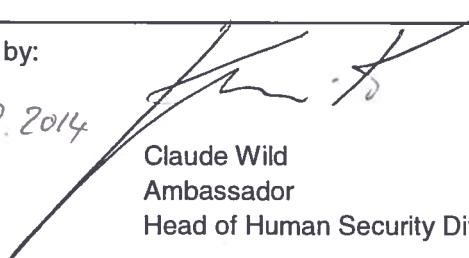


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Viewed and agreed by:


Bern, le 9.12.2014

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