

## **The Second PaRD Annual Meeting: Faith in the Sustainable Development Goals 12 – 15 November 2017, Wilton Park/Wiston House**

### **Brief Report: Outcome, Decisions and Recommendations**

1. From 12 – 15 November 2017, PaRD's second annual meeting of members and partners was held at Wilton Park/Wiston House, UK. 70 participants from members and partners followed the invitation of the co-hosts UKAid/DFID and Wilton Park to review the last year and discuss next steps for the multi-stakeholder-partnership. The meeting began with a welcome by the hosts and a panel discussion featuring Sharon Rosen (Global Director, Religious Engagement, Search for Common Ground), Dr Azza Karam (Senior Adviser, UNFPA) and Mohammed Abu-Nimer (Senior Adviser, KAICIID) on "Ethics of the 2030 Agenda – a vision for a new global partnership for religion and development". Subsequently, working sessions focused on (1) reviewing the past year; (2) a future governance structure for PaRD; (3) knowledge exchange; (4) the three PaRD work-streams; and (5) areas of joint engagement. Following the meeting, participants were invited to join UKAid/DFID for a conference on "Current challenges in Freedom of Religion or Belief" at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London on 15 November 2017.
2. PaRD is a growing partnership with 60 partners and 19 members as of November 15, 2017. During the meeting, members and partners welcomed the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the latest governmental member to PaRD. At the same time, the secretariat was able to announce that AU-CIDO has sent its letter of intent to join as an intergovernmental entity. Since several organisations have joined PaRD since the Midterm Meeting in New York in March 2017, the annual meeting was preceded by an optional session titled **"What is PaRD? How does PaRD work? Programmes and Tools"** giving an overview of recent activities, services provided by the secretariat and channels for communication as well as knowledge sharing. To summarise the session, the onboarding paper and the website guide are available to members and partners in their respective online fora (Thread "PaRD communication tools") and an introductory PowerPoint presentation is available [online](#).
3. Members and partners confirm the decision of the Mid-term Meeting 2017 that the PaRD growth strategy should primarily focus on new members from the Global South and extend beyond traditional DAC-donors. Partners offered their support in approaching potential new members. To support members and partners in their efforts, a [brochure](#) and [the introductory PowerPoint presentation](#) are available online and may be used as briefing documents to inform third parties about PaRD.
4. During the Mid-term Meeting 2017, the PaRD secretariat was commissioned to conduct a mapping of existing multi-FBO-networks. Within this task by PaRD members, the secretariat also identified current gaps in PaRD. The respective overview as well as the mapping are available online in the respective fora for members and for partners separately.
5. Following the request by members and partners at the Mid-term Meeting in March 2017, web-based tools for growing exchange and closer cooperation (online fora) are established and the world map has been improved to incorporate members' and partners' additions more efficiently. The onboarding paper and the website guide have been shared with all members and partners prior to the annual meeting and are available online in the respective fora for members and for partners separately.

6. All participants agreed on their joint vision to harness the positive impact of religion and values in the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development by focusing on three areas of intervention: knowledge exchange, capacity building and advocacy. Nevertheless, expectations of PaRD differ among all actors involved; exchange and discussions on these expectations need to be an ongoing process.
7. One main task identified for PaRD members, partners and the secretariat at the Mid-term Meeting in March 2017 was to identify ways forward and preparing the discussion on PaRD's governance structure at this annual meeting. In Wilton Park/Wiston House, all participants acknowledged the great achievements of PaRD and reaffirmed the need to discuss necessary next steps regarding the governance of PaRD. Commissioned by the two funding members, USAID and BMZ, the PaRD secretariat drafted two options for a potential governance structure in the months leading up to the annual meeting as an input for discussion as well as a spreadsheet allowing for further alternative governance options. Following a brief presentation by the two funding members USAID and BMZ on a potential future governance structure for PaRD, members and partners discussed scenarios for a governance structure and modes of cooperation in parallel business meetings before sharing their ideas with each other.

#### **Outcomes Governance Discussion**

- a. Members and partners jointly agreed to endeavor on establishing a governance structure and a leadership structure that will suit the needs of both partners and members, reflecting the spirit of a multi-stakeholder-partnership in line with the 2030 Agenda, and SDG 17.16 in particular. To that end, members and partners agreed that a participatory process is necessary to develop and establish a feasible governance-structure.
- b. As a first step in this process, all members and partners are asked to discuss the draft governance-structures within their own entities and provide their feedback until 15 January 2018 to the secretariat. The two options provided are indicative only, and ideas are welcome on how to enhance either option. Furthermore, all members and partners are encouraged to share their vision for the necessary functions of PaRD (see spreadsheet on page 3 of the enclosed draft).
- c. As a second step, the joint members & partners' Task Group has been mandated by members and partners to review, consolidate and incorporate this feedback. The joint members & partners' 3+3+1 Task Group, which very successfully met for the first time in January 2017, is expanded to 5+5+1 to more fully represent growing leadership in the partners, members, and work-streams and to fulfil this task. In addition, the Task Group will discuss the question of resources, modalities of working together, and other issues, which have been raised at Wilton Park. Members and partners agreed that this Task Group will consist of representatives from USAID, BMZ, UNIATF, KAICIID, the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (5 members), Islamic Relief Worldwide, World Vision, Arigatou International, Act Alliance, World Council of Churches (5 partners) and the secretariat (+1). A first face-to-face meeting of this Task Group will be scheduled for the second half of February 2018.
- d. As the third step, it is envisaged that this Task Group suggests a suitable governance structure for the next PaRD mid-term meeting (tentatively scheduled for June 2018), at which time it will report on its work.

8. During their business meeting, partners developed several recommendations for PaRD. Global south representation within PaRD should be increased; this implies new members from the global south; as well as the recruitment of local and regional networks as partners. Partners emphasised that mutual support by governmental and intergovernmental entities, as well as FBOs in their respective internal efforts to promote religious and institutional literacy, is necessary for building trust and relationships among each other. In addition, they urged to reduce competition and increase collaboration with existing networks, i.e. the Moral Imperative. Since PaRD brings together a wide range of actors, facilitation of access between FBOs and governmental and intergovernmental entities at the global, regional and local level would increase effectiveness. Curated knowledge exchange, safe for cross-sector, cross-constituency dialogue, could constitute a central added value of PaRD. Finally, monitoring and evaluation of PaRD's progress is necessary. Thus, indicators of progress on each of the above mentioned action areas should be developed to track progress and allow reporting at key PaRD meetings.
  
9. Members reported that 'Freedom of Religion or Belief' increasingly becomes an important topic. They emphasised the need for exchange on the issue, between both members and partners, but also within the different subgroups of governmental and intergovernmental members as well as partners. In addition, members reported that the issue of scarce resources has been discussed. Contributing to the work-streams and PaRD in general ties up resources and means of supporting each other, i. e. through secondments, need to be explored. Similarly, the two funding members emphasised that resourcing of PaRD and the PaRD secretariat is necessary to ensure the future work of PaRD. Participants agreed that it would be important to share the financial burden and pool resources to increase effectiveness. Thus, the reinstated 5+5+1 Task Group should take the issue of resources into consideration.
  
10. Two sessions were reserved for knowledge exchange on projects of members and partners. 22 Participants used the opportunity to present their initiatives and projects. Presentations will be uploaded in the online fora on the PaRD website.
  
11. PaRD continues to work in three areas of intervention: knowledge exchange, capacity building as well as advocacy; and members and partners continue to focus on three thematic work-streams for 2018. Since the Mid-term Meeting 2017, PaRD members and partners jointly organize these work-streams. In addition, the co-leads are supported by a broad range of work-stream participants and a common template, which may be applied to structure each work-streams' activities, has been developed. Prior to the annual meeting, the three work-streams gathered feedback from all members and partners through questionnaires on the future foci of the work-streams. The PaRD secretariat was asked to follow-up with all co-leads to finalise the work-streams' working programme 2018.
  - a. **SDG 16 "Sustaining Peace"** – Co-leads: USAID, UNOGP, CRS, Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers  
 In reviewing the input of members and partners, three targets were most commonly identified as priorities within SDG 16: 16.1, 16.8 and 16.A. Nevertheless, as some organisations have different areas of focus beyond the three prioritized, the work-stream decided to remain flexible with regard to further targets.

- b. **SDG 5 “Gender Equality and Empowerment”** – Co-leads: GAC, IRW, Side by Side (At this point, UN Women does not have the resources to continue the intensive engagement required in being the co-lead of this work stream. Nevertheless, UN Women offered its support to the work-stream.)  
 Participants of the work-streams have decided that Sexual and Gender Based Violence will be the main focus of the work-stream. Where possible, the work-stream will align with relevant SDG 5 (Gender Equality) indicators and targets, notably: 5.1, 5.2, 5.3. Within the focus area, the work-stream will work on joint advocacy and capacity building.
- c. **SDG 3 “Health”** – Co-leads: WorldVision, IRW, WCC (At this point, UNFPA (supported by UNAIDS) does not have the resources to continue the intensive engagement required in being the co-lead of this work stream. Nevertheless, UNFPA (supported by UNAIDS) offered its support to the work-stream.)  
 The co-leads suggested to align the work-stream’s output with the SDG 3 targets. Specifically 3.1, 3.2, and 3.7 (expanded to include 3.3 HIV and AIDS). During the annual meeting, the work-stream discussed to aim at producing a distinct deliverable, within the year, in the form of a PaRD-branded Policy Advisory Note, particularly focusing on targets 3.7 and 3.8. This Policy Advisory Note would reference a collation of available resources from the different sectors (governmental, intergovernmental and FBO) around this work-stream’s target area; an identification and brief analysis of the gaps in policy; and key policy recommendations. As a potential second step, developing a directory/ guide on faith-based universal health care has been discussed.

12. Four areas of joint engagement were presented and respective next steps discussed.

- a. **Consultants’ and Facilitators’ Network on Values, Religion and Development:** The network has been mandated by BMZ and is initiated by the GIZ Sector Programme ‘Values, Religion and Development’. It aims to function as a platform for exchanging knowledge and experiences, pooling qualified and experienced experts, while representing religious diversity and ensuring inclusivity.
- b. **Religious Engagement in the G20 process/ Cooperation between FBOs and religious leaders:** The fourth consecutive G20 Interfaith Summit was held in Potsdam, Germany (15-17 June, 2017) to discuss how religion relates to sustainable development and the refugee crisis. Prior to the Interfaith Summit, representatives from the Think20 (T20), an official G20 engagement group that brings together research institutes and think tanks from the G20 countries to develop policy recommendations, reached out to some actors involved in the field of religion and sustainable development. PaRD partners World Faiths Development Dialogue (WFDD) and the Jacob Soetendrop Institute for Human Values organised a panel on ‘Religious engagement in implementing the 2030 Agenda – The challenges and insights in fighting famine and managing refugee resettlement’ and religious leaders and representatives of FBOs were invited to discuss religious engagement in relation to the G20 agenda. They also contributed two policy briefs on famine and refugee resettlement that were both included in the final document that was sent to the G20 Sherpas. With the next G20 Summit being held in Argentina, participants spoke of a ‘Kairos Moment’ for religious engagement in the G20 process.
- c. **Religious literacy/ Strategic learning exchange:** Azza Karam (UNFPA/ UN-IATF) presented the concept of the Strategic Learning Exchange (SLE) to all participants. The

SLE brings together governmental and intergovernmental entities as well as faith-based organisations for mutual learning through exchange and case studies. This year, already two SLEs have successfully been held and a regional SLE is scheduled for 3 January, 2018. All participants are encouraged to share the upcoming dates of SLEs within their entities and are invited to join.

**d. Religious actors mapping Nigeria:** Katherine Marshall (WFDD) briefed all participants on the ongoing religious actors mapping in Nigeria. The multi-faced approach combines the different literature, assesses relevant research, conducts interviews and organises consultation events.

**e. Moral Imperative:** Adam Taylor (World Bank) gave a brief update on the latest developments within the Moral Imperative. Since October 2017, a new steering committee has been elected and a work plan developed. Participants agreed that exchange and cooperation between the Moral Imperative, in which many PaRD partners already participate, and PaRD needs to be sustained.

13. Several additional questions were raised throughout the meeting that need to be discussed in more detail. First, PaRD's role in crisis situations need to be clarified; i.e., whether PaRD should issue joint statements, as some participants elaborated that a strong, unified voice is necessary. Participants also expressed their interest in a future high-level joint advocacy moment beyond 2018/ 2019 to leverage the collective work of all members and partners and suggested to form a respective working group.
14. Alongside reports from all meetings held at this annual meeting, several options for the PaRD Mid-term Meeting and Annual Meeting 2018 were discussed. Participants emphasised that in order to strengthen the institutionalization of PaRD, meetings should be organised around a major intergovernmental or civil society event. As a timeframe, participants agreed on May/ June for the next mid-term meeting. The PaRD secretariat has been asked to follow-up with the suggested hosts and venues to check availability.