



## “A Comprehensive Approach to Modern Conflict: Afghanistan & Beyond”

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Munich, Germany

Modern conflicts increasingly see the international community working to bring stability and reconstruction to countries and communities where security is profoundly challenged. We have to do so in the face of a range of potentially violent spoilers, from insurgents bent on degrading the very fabric of the state to warlords, terrorists, criminals and gangs.

Our traditional response has been to lead with military forces to deliver security and then to follow up with the bulk of our civilian agencies to support development. But to achieve the aims we seek in the era of globalization, we must begin to harness all of our capacities to deliver a genuinely comprehensive approach from the outset. In particular, we must recognize that the delivery of enduring security and stability will be inextricably linked to the delivery of improved governance, humanitarian assistance, economic infrastructure, and judicial processes that are acceptable to the local population.

Achieving this complex matrix of tasks is primarily a civilian activity but security actors will inevitably be required to enable that activity. We must therefore challenge the artificial construct of military and civilians operating in isolation from one another in the same space. Security actors need to look afresh at their understanding of conflict and shift from focusing on defeating traditional enemies, to supporting and protecting populations at risk in concert with other partners on the ground. Civilian agencies need to examine how they take the lead in a security vacuum. Ultimately, the endstate we all aspire to can only be achieved through a comprehensive package developed in cooperation with all key actors—civil and military, local and international.

The current conference will focus on how to realize the ambition of a truly comprehensive approach to modern conflicts. We will consider how to apply the full range of our capabilities to undermine the violent spoilers who would interrupt national and international efforts to bring peace, stability, and reconstruction to challenged states. The conference will use Afghanistan as a case study upon which to base a discussion of how institutions at the national and international level seek better to deliver a comprehensive approach, now and into the future.

Through keynote speakers, panel discussions and working groups we will address key questions: How do we deliver development assistance across the full spectrum of civilian capacities, whilst the security environment remains contested? How and to what extent should national and international actors harmonize their activities, and to what end? Where do the roles of military and civilian actors overlap and where are they complimentary?

The aim of the conference is to share current thinking in a broad, multi-disciplinary group of key decision makers at national and international level in order to spread best practice and to cooperate on developing ideas for the future. We look forward to your participation.