



CDD round table brings together personalities to discuss creation of an independent dialogue group

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Richard Rands, CDD specialist, and Joana Martins, Anonymous Volunteers of Mozambique (VAMOZ)

As part of the Conflict Resolution Dialogue Platform in Cabo Delgado, the CDD organized on Wednesday, 17 November, a round table that brought together representatives of key institutions in the conflict resolution, including the Government of Mozambique, European Union, World Bank, diplomatic missions of Portugal, South Africa, Sweden, Netherlands, United Kingdom, International Confederation of Red Cross, international private sector and civil society organizations. The event was also honoured by the participation of the Ambassador of Portugal, António Costa Moura, and the High Commissioner of South Africa, Sipiwe Nyanda.

Facilitated by the CDD expert, Richard Rands, the round table aimed to raise awareness on the continued need for expanded dialogue with stakeholders; convey conclusions from the last workshop on conflict resolution in Cabo Delgado; share participants' perspectives and ideas on sensitivity and conflict management and future dialogue, as well as propose and discuss next steps to address the immediate challenges.

The meeting reiterated the need to create a group focused on reputation, competence and

a high level of access to regional or international actors “who listen, engage, develop solutions, harmonize resources, and communicate with multiple actors to solve conflicts in Cabo Delgado”.

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The independent group will be responsible for establishing a coherent path to conflict resolution in Cabo Delgado, minimizing violence in communities and promoting sustainable peace. To this end, the group will harmonize specific



Ambassador of Portugal, António Costa Moura



High Commissioner of South Africa, Sipiwe Nyanda



stakeholder initiatives and activities, promote conflict sensitivity, develop and share strategic methods and concepts, and advise on foreign investment with international standards. The goal is to have a protected and prosperous well-governed province, enable the resumption of strategic economic development, enhance trust, stability and good governance, and prevent the spread of violent extremism.

"It is vital that the activities of the independent dialogue group (consultations, meetings, conferences and seminars) are centered in Cabo Delgado in order to gain acceptance and credibility, as well as to develop 'local solutions to local problems' and involve the content local discourse. The concept of conducting events combining virtual and face-to-face service has proven successful. This does not diminish the importance of high-level consultations between the group and senior Government officials."

Richard Rands noted that there are sensitive issues that have a serious impact on the conflict and require involvement at the highest level. Such issues include convincing policymakers

that relying exclusively on military solutions will not solve the problem. "This approach continues to fail around the world, as can be seen in Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Sahel. In the absence of a coherent multi-dimensional strategy to address drivers of violent extremism, conflict will, in the long run, escalate new dimensions."

Defining successes and conditions for the departure of multinational forces, as well as actions to improve the performance of the Defence and Security Forces, with a focus on human rights, is part of the sensitive issues affecting the conflict. "It is necessary to define the conditions for the recovery of social confidence to allow the resumption of LNG, as a condition for the realization of social benefits and vital strategic economic interests."

Violent extremist organizations, as seen in Cabo Delgado, quickly learn to adapt to their new "enemies" and conditions, develop different and improved operational techniques, and receive greater external support for their purposes. Moreover, this is because the root causes of



conflicts are not solved through the exclusive use of military force.

Identifying the “pinnacle” of military operations—that is, the point at which government forces achieve a military advantage over violent extremist groups—is important for investing in dialogue. This is, in fact, the moment when negotiations can be most effective. “Resolution of the multidimensional and sustained conflict (which addresses entrenched grievances, socioeconomic deprivation, and extreme ideology) needs to involve complementary initiatives in the humanitarian and development space, specialized approaches to prevent and counter violent extremism, and, critically, early-stage dialogue and negotiations to exploit military gains and other

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