Build Peace 2017
Making Paper Count:
New forms of citizen participation in peace agreements

Conference Report
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ABOUT THE BUILD PEACE REPORT

This report was prepared by BUILD UP and POLICÉNTRICO. BUILD UP is a social enterprise that amplifies citizen participation in peace through technology, arts, and research. Build Up works with civic activists and peacebuilders to find and apply innovative practices that help them achieve their missions, keeping pace with the increasing complexities of global interconnectivity, technological advancements, and ideological polarization.

More information about BUILD UP can be found at www.howtobuildup.org/

POLICÉNTRICO is a Colombian enterprise incubated by Build Up, that fosters local and sustainable development in Colombia, using participatory strategies to articulate communities, the private sector and governments. POLICÉNTRICO develops projects focused on the strengthening of local capacities and the development of civic technologies for social change, and advices on the design, implementation and evaluation of public policies.

More information about POLICÉNTRICO can be found at www.policentrico.com/

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BUILD UP & POLICÉNTRICO 2018
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Build Peace is a conference that brings together professionals, activists, artists and technologists from around the world, to share experiences and ideas on the use of technology, the arts and research for peacebuilding and conflict transformation.

In 2014, Build Up identified the need of creating a space to share lessons learned, successful experiences, good practices and main challenges of the initiatives that work around technologies and citizen participation for peacebuilding. Hence, Build Up created Build Peace with the purpose of fostering dialogue and generating a community around the role of technology and innovation in peacebuilding.

To date, Build Up has organized four editions of the Build Peace conference: in Boston (2014, supported by the MIT Media Lab), Nicosia (2015, sponsored by UNDP), and Zürich (2016, supported by the ICT4Peace Foundation at ETH Zürich). In 2017, Build Peace took place in Bogotá, Colombia, at Andes University.

Build Peace is not just any conference. In fact, it is more a space of connection and shared experiences around innovation in peacebuilding. It is, above all, an experience of participation and social construction from diversity, with the participation of men and women from more than 30 countries.
Build Peace began in 2014 with a gathering that took place at the MIT in Boston, to understand in broad overview what technology and innovation could do in peacebuilding, focusing on four areas—information, communications, gaming and networking.

In 2014, we learned to beware of tech utopias and dystopias, because technologies are neutral and what matters is how we chose to use them for peace. The radical inclusion that innovations permit means that, like it or not, voices that were previously at the margins or periphery can and do record their stories, and disseminate them to a wider public, through a range of media. That works just as well for violence—think recruitment into armed groups over social media—as it can for peacebuilding.

In 2015, Build Peace was in Nicosia, Cyprus—Europe’s last divided capital city. We asked ‘by whom and for whom is innovation used to build peace’. We talked about empowerment (who is empowered, by whom and how?) and behavior change (and empowered to do what?).

In 2015, we unpacked ways in which innovation changes who participates in peacebuilding. As a technical infrastructure, innovation for peace is a series of tools that allow peacebuilders to communicate with more people in more ways, collect better information and sustain relationships on digital platforms.
As an organizational infrastructure, it is a means by which communities and authorities build new participatory processes, foster deeper collaborations and assume collective responsibility for building peace. As a social infrastructure, it circulates ideas and contributes to consensus-building about the definition of what peace we aspire to build.

In 2016, in Zürich, we tackled the question of change, of transformation, by asking why and how we use innovation to build peace. We asked: how can the behaviors and cultural manifestations of individuals and groups be transformed to support a new network of relationships on which peace can be built? Or to say it more simply: what are we trying to change?

We learned that, as peacebuilders, we’re trying to affect change both in structures of power and in the socio-cultural domain. We saw that technology and arts can have an effect on political spaces. And this poses new challenges for how we position ourselves as peacebuilders and peace activists to create non-violent change.

We also reflected that to create a critical mass for peace requires shifts across culture and society, but no social change can work if it doesn’t also promote a change in individuals: to change the world we have to start by changing ourselves.

And that brings us to 2017. Having explored the what, who, how and why of innovation for peacebuilding, this year is the first time we explored a specific topic (participation in peace agreements) building on what we have learned.

There’s one thing that’s important to keep in mind for this conversation: when we say peace agreement here, we don’t just mean peace accords, we’re not just talking about an elite group of (mostly) men sitting around a table, signing on a line. We mean a true agreement, something an entire society, all of us, can believe in. Hence, making paper count.

The conference dialogues, short talks and workshops explored—in many different ways—innovative approaches to amplifying participation in all phases of a peace agreement, and bridging the gap between top down and bottom up peacebuilding initiatives.

Every year at Build Peace, we bring up a concern about the articulation of innovation for peace as a new ‘white man’s burden’—in which it is the Global North that is the sole repository of knowledge, innovation and technologies for conflict transformation. That’s obviously not true, partly because capacities for peace exist in all contexts, but also because the problem of peace is one that is also relevant to the Global North.

If we understand a peace agreement not as a peace accord but as the collective imagining of ways to live more and more peacefully together, then peace agreements are not just something for Syria, Colombia or Myanmar. Peace agreements are needed in the Global North too because currently, our collective agreement on peace is also at risk in the UK, the USA or Catalunya / Spain.
WHY COLOMBIA?

It was particularly exciting to have Build Peace 2017 in Colombia, given the context and how much there is to share in this country regarding the use of technology, arts and participatory research for peacebuilding.

Written peace agreements, such as the one that Colombia signed in 2016, are important to establish guidelines that allow different parties in a conflict to reach common objectives. However, if they don’t come along with strategies that articulate all sectors of society, it is going to be very difficult to implement these agreements, with the risk of deceiving the expectations that they create. A year after the Peace Agreement between the Colombian Government and the FARC guerrilla was signed, it is important to generate discussions in Colombia on how to make paper count.

Hence, the theme of this year’s conference is relevant to the Colombian reality. Colombia is in a critical juncture, to think and act together transversally how, when, where and with whom should technology, arts and participatory research be used, not only to make peace agreements a reality, but also to allow all sectors of society to implement the agreements in an inclusive manner.

There are three challenges that Colombia is facing where innovation for peacebuilding is especially appropriate: exclusion, lack of economic and social opportunities, and polarization. Without overcoming these challenges, it will be extremely difficult to build peace and make this year’s slogan a reality in this country.
The first of these challenges is related to the exclusion of diverse populations, not only in the discussion of the peace agreements, but also in the processes of public planning. There are diverse types of exclusion, some triggered by socio-economic aspects, and others by the lack of recognition of other sectors relevant to build collective agreements.

Technologies and art can be powerful tools to include these populations. Various experiences that were addressed in the talks and workshops of the conference, such as community mapping projects and the use of various technologies and games to foster empathy and include several social sectors in collective peace projects, are some examples of ways that technology and the arts can help overcome this challenge.

Exclusion is also closely related to another challenge for which strategies that use artistic and technological innovations could be a decisive factor for change: the lack of economic opportunities and social mobilization, particularly in the municipalities most affected by the conflict.

This lack of opportunities, along with other challenges such as weak institutions, often encourages illegal economies tied to the conflict. The conference also had several spaces for dialogue around national and international initiatives that use technology and the arts to foster better living conditions for the populations most affected by the conflict.

Finally, a challenge that is becoming increasingly difficult in Colombia is polarization. Decades of conflict in Colombia, during which the population has become accustomed to talking about “them” and “us”, make it difficult to build a collective future.

Technology, arts and participatory research can be of great help in mitigating polarization and generating constructive and inclusive dialogues, both politically and economically. The conference also presented several examples of this, such as projects that use bots to encourage encounters between polarized groups.

Exclusion, lack of opportunities, and polarization are some of the difficulties that stand between paper and implementation, between conflict and peace in Colombia. We hope that the Colombian reality served as an example of innovation to discuss national and international solutions useful for all Build Peace attendants.

We believe that the mix of participants at the Conference, thanks to the support of all our partners, was one of the fundamental ingredients for the event to be a space for community building and open and inclusive dialogues.

We would like to especially thank the presence of all participants from Colombia who attended from municipalities outside of Bogotá, who day after day work tirelessly to build peace in their communities. Diversity and the sharing of ideas was also enriched in a special way thanks to the presence of international participants and attendants from Bogota. It is all of you, Colombians and foreigners, who make it possible for Build Peace to be a catalyst for ideas, lessons and projects that allows paper to exist and count.
SLOGAN

Every year we give the conference a slogan to help us keep this community spirit in mind. It’s basically our only conference rule.

In 2014 it was: “Be tough on ideas, but gentle on people”.
In 2015 it was: “Be careful with each other so you can be dangerous together”.
In 2016 it was: “Revolution starts at home, preferably in the bathroom mirror”.

And in 2017, our slogan was:

“I DON’T MEAN ONE SIDE MEETS THE OTHER SIDE; I MEAN NO MORE SIDES”.
Peace agreements are often criticized for not being representative of the population beyond the elites, and calls have been made to widen citizen participation before, during and after an agreement. With the title Making paper count: New forms of citizen participation in peace agreements, Build Peace 2017 explored innovative approaches to amplify participation in all phases of a peace agreement, and bridging the gap between top down and bottom up peacebuilding initiatives.

In particular, the conference aimed to inspire through reflection on challenges and impacts across three sub-themes: (i) inclusion and exclusion in peace negotiations, (ii) implementing peace agreements, and (iii) healing, coexistence and reconciliation.

Build Peace 2017 hosted over 350 peacebuilders, of which a third were participants from Colombian municipalities highly affected by the conflict, another third were participants from capital cities of Colombia, and the final third were international participants.

The conference had six formats of activities through which the central theme and the three sub-themes were addressed, based on the experience and knowledge of a great diversity of national and international participants:
• **Three dialogues**
  45-minute plenary talks between two speakers (one local and one international), facilitated by a conference organizer, who provided opportunities for reflection on important issues around the main theme of the conference.

• **More than twenty short talks**
  10-minute presentations on a specific innovative project that allowed the exhibitors to share and receive comments from other participants. The selection of these talks was made through an open call. This year the Build Peace team received more than 90 proposals, of which twenty speakers were selected.

• **Around thirty workshops**
  2-hour practical sessions where participants could build and participate with skills and methodologies, ranging from data management to video game design.

• **The #peacehack**
  A hackathon developed in collaboration with International Alert, which allowed participants to present an idea for a technological tool to support a peacebuilding program. The hackers worked collaboratively to design prototypes of solutions over a period of 72 hours.

• **Exhibitions and artistic activities** organized with local partners, such as a keynote dialogue with 2017 Nobel Peace Prize winners ICAN at the Centro de Memoria, Paz y Reconciliación, thanks to the support of Bogota’s Town Hall and the Heinrich Böll Foundation. These events connected the conference attendees with the specific contexts of the host community and various realities of peacebuilding.

• **Two panels**
  One session to discuss technologies for peacebuilding in Colombia, and another one to dialogue around the connection between theory and practice in the field of peacetech.

• **An unconference**
  A semi-structured space that provided an opportunity for participants to self-organize around topics of interest, which complemented and deepened the themes covered in the conference program.
Peace processes are often criticized for not being representative of the population beyond a small group. Therefore, calls are made to expand citizen participation before, during and after an agreement. Under the title Making paper count: New forms of citizen participation in peace agreements, the Build Peace 2017 conference aimed to inspire, but also reflect, on the challenges and impacts of technology, arts and participatory research in peacebuilding through three sub-themes:

(i) INCLUSION AND EXCLUSION IN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS,

(ii) IMPLEMENTATION OF PEACE AGREEMENTS, AND

(iii) MEMORY, COEXISTENCE AND RECONCILIATION.

The themes chosen for the 2017 Build Peace Conference are particularly relevant to the local context, and Colombian examples and experiences were explored. Furthermore, the conference also featured the participation of speakers and participants familiar with the innovative work carried out in places such as Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Sudan, the Central African Republic, Northern Ireland, Argentina, the Philippines and where agreements have not yet been reached. How to build peace? At Build Peace 2017 we charted the future!
INCLUSION AND EXCLUSION IN PEACE AGREEMENTS

What innovative approaches or methods allow us to more effectively manage inclusion (and exclusion) policies during peace negotiations? Within this thematic area the participants explored innovative tools to support direct participation in peace negotiations. This stream also addressed how innovation can increase transparency in peace negotiations, and the role of new tools in the formation, polarization and depolarization of public opinion around a peace negotiation. In short, can we think of new and constructive ways to hear more voices during a peace negotiation? This space included a dialogue and six short talks.

DIALOGUE ON SOCIAL MEDIA, VIRAL NEWS, AND THE FUTURE OF CONFIDENTIALITY IN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

**SPEAKERS**
Juanita León, Director of La Silla Vacía
Sanjana Hattotuwa, Special Advisor, ICT4Peace Foundation

**MODERATOR**
Helena Puig Larrauri, Executive Director of BuildUp

Through the last few years, it feels like governments and peacebuilders have been left behind as polarizing speech spreads on social media, threatening social cohesion and even peace processes. Build Peace 2017 included a dialogue on Social media, viral news and the future of confidentiality in peace negotiations, with the aim of discussing the nuances and prospects of this topic from a national and international perspective. The conversation, moderated by Helena Puig Larrauri, Executive Director of Build Up, featured Juanita León, Director of La Silla Vacia, and Sanjana Hattotuwa, Special Advisor of the ICT4Peace Foundation.

The idea of social media brings the promise of better communication between voters and their government, increased transparency, and more connections between voters from multiple perspectives; yet, a litany of problems seem to signal that social media tools are actually making things worse.

Only a few years ago, social media was heralded as a positive force for good; now many peacebuilders are approaching these tools with caution and suspicion. Whether because of leaks from negotiations that expose difficult compromises negotiators are making, the ability to anonymously publish unverified and unsupported information to large audiences, or closed and siloed digital spaces where opinions are made, it’s important to understand these tools and their potential impacts within the ecosystem of a peace process.

In Colombia, the effects of social media
Maybe we can go more transparent and show the process more. Maybe people will learn more about what’s at stake.”

It’s not so easy as radical transparency and radical inclusion, said Sanjana Hattotuwa, Special Advisor for the ICT4Peace Foundation. He was the lead architect of a platform that allowed secure asynchronous negotiations to work out a ceasefire agreement in Sri Lanka. He affirmed that the conversations on social media move fast, maybe too fast. For a parliamentary discussion, this may be okay, but peace agreements are much more sensitive. “The greatest risk about compromise doesn’t come from the other, but often from your own party,” he explained.

“We need to be careful about confirmation bias. If we champion 100% transparency, we assume people understand what the compromises and political situations are. In a deeply divided society, radical transparency could actually deepen the divides.” Of
course, he asserted, “we need to know the best contextual application of the technology.” “It’s probable”, he added, “that the needs of the Colombian peace process are different than those of Sri Lanka”.

How the facts are presented is also important. Peacebuilders struggle with messages of peace. If different, isolated groups, are pushing different narratives about the truth, fact-based arguments can become fraught and potentially alienating. When approaching these conversations, Juanita stressed, “You need to open the doors to information, but emotion is part of the conversation. Get into the places where people are talking and talk in the language they are talking.”

“Technology is an add on,” explained Sanjana. “Peace is something people create between themselves and amongst themselves. We need to architect the ways that tech can help keep it”.

**Key Takeaways**

Governments, institutions and peacebuilders are often left behind when polarizing speech is spread on social media. Interpretations on private channels are done in seconds.

Radical transparency and radical inclusion are not straightforward with peace negotiations, because of the sensitivity of compromises, and how they can be upset by members of one’s own coalition.

Peacebuilders often shy away from emotional appeals and stick to facts and reason, but emotion is part of the conversation. Get into the places where people are talking and talk in the language they are talking.

“The elephant in the room is corporate ownership. We don’t talk enough about the fact that it’s silicon valley that are the custodians of the processes happening in Colombia and Sri Lanka. We are not the sole owners of this. That is the concern of mine - archiving, politics of tech, politics of code, how it plays into the organic, local contexts.” - Sanjana Hattotuwa
SHORT TALKS ON INCLUSION AND EXCLUSION IN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

ORGANIZATIONAL NETWORK ANALYSIS FOR MEASURING RAPID RESPONSE ACTIVITIES
Jesús Eduardo Coronado Escobar, Program Officer, Colombia Transforma

Some of the challenges of the implementation of the peace agreements between the Colombian Government and FARC, are a low social fabric, a deep mistrust, and a lack of articulation between civil society and the local and national levels of government. In this context, Coronado shared the experience of Colombia Transforma using technology to understand, foster and evaluate interpersonal relations in municipalities where social cohesion is low. In particular, he showed how different digital tools have helped to map, visualize, and measure the relations and networks in municipalities that Colombia Transforma was working on, such as Arauca, Norte de Santander and Putumayo. Thanks to those technologies, such as Organizational Network Analysis and Gephi, they have been able to understand better the communities and organizations they work with, and make strategic decisions to implement projects to foster trust between diverse groups.

INNOVATING NEW FORMS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN PEACE PROCESSES IN THE MIDST OF WAR
Stephen Gray, Adapt Research and Consulting (Myanmar)

Using Myanmar as case study, Stephen Gray argued that a systemic action research methodology provides a powerful tool to challenge traditional top-down peace processes. Noting that conflict-affected communities can and should have agency in bringing peace to their communities, he shares results from two years of work in Myanmar. By using the systems analysis and building the capacity of local peacebuilders to collect and analyze local narratives, local actors were able to redefine the meaning of peace, to take ownership over peacebuilding at a local level and, through innovative approaches, influence peace at the top level. In a context defined by a top-down peace process, the transferal of agency from elites to local communities is incredibly powerful.

HOW TO GET YOUR PROJECT GOVERNMENTALIZED
Arik Segal, Founder, Conntix (Israel)

Building on his work on improving Israeli-Turkish relations, Arik Segal provided a list of steps required to gain government support for a project. He argued that finding an unmet need, establishing personal connection with decision-makers, building a strong team, clarifying your comparative advantage, leveraging your geopolitical environment, creating a sustainable, ongoing mechanism and never giving up enables governmentalization.
OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEACEBUILDING IN THE HOT PHASE OF A MILITARY CONFLICT

Daria Kuznetsova, Project Coordinator, Donbass Dialogue Platform (Ukraine)

Providing a case study from Ukraine, Daria Kuznetsova explored the power of a crowdsourcing platform as a way to foster dialogue during conflict. In this case study, building a network of facilitators and ensuring a secure group created a safe space for discussion of topics often avoided when a conflict is ongoing. The challenge was to drive dialogue beyond debate, towards substantive peacebuilding (nothing the opposition to ‘peacebuilding’ as a term in some contexts).

CIVICTECH: TECHNOLOGY FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

Juan Pablo Ruiz, Responsible of Wingu Colombia, Winguweb (Colombia)

Juan Pablo Ruiz discussed the importance of civic tech to promote open governance, increase citizen participation, and empower democracy in Latin America, providing examples from his work in Colombia. For instance, by learning tech tools, community members are able to create a neighborhood map of informal settlements to present to government leaders, empowering them in the discussion.
After sharing a personal story about how the Colombian armed conflict affected his family, Daniel showed how he was able to build bridges with a demobilized member of the FARC guerrilla at One Young World, and help his family heal. This is the origin of Bakongo Paz, a summer camp that brings together young victims and demobilized combatants, to share time and build trust, and convey a message of reconciliation when they return home. The quest of measuring the effects of Bakongo Paz inspired the design of Grateful, an app to measure the impact after a peacebuilding intervention in the everyday lives of the participants.
IMPLEMENTATION OF PEACE AGREEMENTS

What innovative practices could allow greater participation in the implementation of peace agreements? This thematic area explored new tools and methods to communicate and monitor peace agreements. Likewise, the sessions also discussed the role of innovation in increasing participation in regional and local governance processes that support the implementation of peace agreements, and how entrepreneurship and the private sector can help implement peace agreements. In summary, what innovative tools and processes can involve citizens and authorities in the implementation of a peace agreement? This space included a dialogue and six short talks.

DIALOGUE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES TO MONITOR PEACE AGREEMENTS

SPEAKERS
Nikki de la Rosa, Deputy Country Manager (Philippines), International Alert
Juan Fernando Lucio, Director of Paso Colombia

MODERATOR
Jerry McCann, Senior Advisor, Build Up

The dialogue Information and communication technologies to monitor peace agreements discussed the opportunities and challenges of the use of tech tools to monitor peace agreements from a national and international perspective. The conversation, moderated by Jerry McCann, Senior Advisor of Build Up, featured Nikki de la Rosa, Deputy Country Manager of International Alert at the Philippines, and Juan Fernando Lucio, Director of Paso Colombia.

Transparency and participation are key in peace agreements that work for a broad range of people affected by a conflict. Again and again working with communities and people to overcome conflict, we learn that peace means different things to different people in different contexts. In any process, we need to begin to reconcile the different definitions among a citizenry.

One of the challenges of building a common language, is having effective tools that allow citizens to engage with the many mechanisms of reconciliation that are necessary in a peace process. Another is making the mechanisms effective and impactful. It's too easy and too common that the collection, analysis, and reporting of data is an intellectual exercise that benefits only the leading researchers. As the definitions of peace are being created, it's important to embed them in actions
that individuals take as participants of peace processes.

Nikki de la Rosa told us about their efforts to monitor causes of violence, because they lacked good sources of data. In the Philippines, the publicly available violent death figures only accounted for 5% of all violent deaths. Half of the work could be done through institutional sources, such as police, media, and community groups. The other side is a public platform with an accessible database where people can make and read reports.

Juan Fernando Lucio, Director of Paso Colombia, needed to identify what local resources were available for peacebuilding efforts. They needed to answer difficult questions in the aftermath of the government’s peace negotiations—such as where would ex-combatants go? Hence, they created a map using the openstreetmap framework, as a place to put all the information. As they describe it, the map is “a place to communicate.”

For both, there’s a broader objective to the data gathering than collecting a certain number of incidents. There’s a responsibility that comes with data collection. Information should be used to raise discussions; people expect the information to be reflected in public action.

Why should this information be used? Why should actors start using your information? “This is where the human component is important. It makes the data credible,” asserted Juan Fernando. In addition, he mentioned that the data must be visualized. “It needs to be easy to understand. Humility is very useful.”
The ones on the ground know the most."

These participatory data collection platforms allow people to see something coming out that reflects their input and helps build trust. “See the platform as a way to build consensus,” said Nikki. “If people have a common lense using the database, they can see [the data’s] relevance.”

But there are pitfalls too. It’s possible that too much data collection can lead to paralysis in the process. “There is a moment where information is just an excuse not to act,” declared Juan Fernando. “Once everybody tells you the same thing with mostly the same information, why do you need to go get more information?”

Nikki added, “Technology is a tool of reaching the end to allow people to see that their aspirations have been reflected in local development.” At the end of the day, this is about relationships between people, being there and looking into each other’s eyes. The data is one entry into the real work of engaging human feelings.

**Key Takeaways**

Databases don’t solve conflicts, but they provide us with a valuable understanding of what drives them. Information needs to raise discussion. It provides a first set of arguments to spark a discussion.

People need to be able to see the results of the information they provide. Don’t extract, but give back - especially in readable forms like maps and graphs. But most of all, people expect to see change.

Even when focusing on data collection, do not forget about relationship building: being there, looking into people’s eyes—data is only an entry point to real people’s feelings.
Digital Storytelling on Gender Based Violence
Harriet Adong, Executive Director, Foundation Integrated Rural Development (Uganda)

Digital storytelling can serve as a complement to traditional peacebuilding approaches, argued Harriet Adong. By bringing stories to spaces where they haven’t been seen before, the approach can help develop change agents within communities, who can share their experiences with a wider audience. This approach is grounded in the notion that ‘who better to tell the story than the person who lived it?’.

Collective Writing as a Tool to Weave Peace
Joan Serrat Montagut, Reading and Writing Promoter, SOM Editorial Colectiva (México)

Sharing results from a pilot project in Bogota, Joan Serrat Montagut discussed the importance of collective writing for children as a way to build creativity and weave peace. The project published the voices of young people in conflict-affected areas, sharing stories written by young people for young people. The books, available in public libraries and written by consensus among authors, bring back the voice of young populations, asking them to write the future.

Building Memory through New Pedagogies
Paola Morales Escobar, Desarmados (Colombia)

Using video letters, a participatory platform, and educational materials, Desarmados is helping build a collective memory about Colombian history and the armed conflict through the voices of the people that were most affected by it. Paola shared how the project uses tech tools to engage with the youth through a compulsory class about peacebuilding in Colombia, fostering the participation and encounter of a broad range of citizens that leave their stories in the platform.
MAKING PAPER COUNT: NEW FORMS OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN PEACEBUILDING

Darren Ferguson, Beyond Skin (Northern Ireland)

Pointing out that humans are the only species on Earth that can clap together, Darren Ferguson noted that we are designed to work together as species, and that we are wired to understand music. Arts dialogues, supported by a collective of musicians, writers and peace activists, is designed to provoke creativity in pursuit of peacebuilding. By helping artists move outside of their traditional frameworks, they create a dialogue that is not assisted by music, but a dialogue that is the music.

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE, SOIL MECHANICS AND PEACE BUILDING

Jaime Wills Sanín, Civil Engineering Instructor, Universidad de los Andes (Colombia)

Jaime Wills Sanín argued that engineering, and specifically soil mechanisms and road infrastructure, have a key role to play in peacebuilding. He noted the correlation between low density road construction and internal displacement, asserting that greater attention to soil mechanics can enable us to find sustainable solutions to infrastructure problems that have a deep impact on peace. Blending magical realism, engineering and peace, he challenged us to think outside the confines of traditional peacebuilding.

PEACE ON WHEELS

Marcela Fernández and Gabriela Bruna, PAZabordo (Colombia)

Marcela and Gabriela invited the audience to be peacengers of an exciting journey across forty municipalities of Colombia, during 40 days after the plebiscite about the peace agreement between the Colombian Government and FARC was held. Travelling in a chiva, a popular bus in Colombia, the peacengers learned from residents of municipalities deeply affected by the conflict key insights about peacebuilding from the ground up, such as the key role of women, the youth and indigenous groups to lead their communities, the remarkable resilience of victims that, after being displaced for years, returned and rebuilt their municipalities, and the strategic use of the arts, agriculture and education as tools to build peace.
The dialogue on Creativity and public imagination for peaceful futures introduced national and international examples to examine ways in which the arts can support coexistence, reconciliation and memory in conflict and post conflict scenarios. The conversation was moderated by Michaela Ledesma, Programs Director of Build Up, and featured Diana Weymar, Independent Artist, and Catalina Cock Duque, Executive Director of Fundación Mi Sangre.

If there’s anything that peacebuilders have learned over the years, it’s that a signed agreement is not the end of a peace process. In fact, it often marks a new beginning, with the difficult task of understanding and working through the myriad emotions and traumas from the conflict. Those affected by the conflict, including victims, perpetrators, and the larger society, must define together what peace means and how to live it. One of the first steps in that process is to heal the wounds and beginning reconciliation between fragmented and adversarial groups. Time and time again, peacebuilders turn to art methodologies, a rich toolset for unpacking emotions and expressing them in alternative ways, that allow both the art-maker to begin to understand their emotions and perspective, and the viewer to begin to develop empathy.

Fundación Mi Sangre is an organization in Colombia that works with youth to make art and music, so they can become agents of change with a strong voice in defining peace in their communities. Catalina Cock Duque, Mi Sangre’s executive director, explained how they engage land mine victims with music-making and psycho-social accompaniment, which began the reconstruction of the social fabric in Colombia.
participants to embroil their thoughts and feelings on a blank page that gets displayed to other participants and communities around the world, before finally coming back to its home community. “It’s an emotional journey, from sitting alone in a chair with a blank page, to have a page travel the world, to places [you’ve] never been,” she emphasized. “The idea that your work will travel is a potential for transformation. You go back to the self [to understand] that what you express will be seen and witnessed by other people.”

Connecting on different levels is the core of the work of artist Diana Weymar. In her studio practice, she explores textiles as a memory medium - alone, until Build Peace in 2015, where she facilitated the making of a tapestry on both sides of the Buffer Zone in Nicosia, Cyprus. For Diana, “textile is something that connects us all. We all wear textiles and attribute meaning to them. Embroidering your clothes is like a tattoo.”

In her current project, she invites their communities, and began to heal the wounds of their soul.

The work, with schools and communities, aims to create curious youth through art and games, and to find ways of learning by doing. These are powerful tools, she argued. “It’s different from when a teacher says, ‘Empathy is.’ It allows you to connect at a different level.”

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It’s these moments of personal reflection, empathy building, and speaker and audience coming together, that present some of the greatest potential for the healing and transformative power of the arts. But in societies carrying a lot of trauma, there are some very delicate paths to traverse as an art facilitator.
“First thing,” asserted Diana, “let go of the expectations; hold space with others.” The space must start small, and be allowed to grow organically, at the speed the participants are comfortable with. Sometimes difficult things come up at the table. A facilitator needs to know how to handle discomfort. “It’s easy to get people to talk [about the conflict], but it’s hard to let that leave the room without doing damage.”

Mi Sangre has specialized teams to work with trauma, a separate program they work on. In schools, Catalina said, they don’t dig too deep, but are prepared. “We don’t try to open wounds that can’t be left open.” But as facilitators, they aren’t prescriptive in their approach. They practice letting go.

“We’re not necessarily discussing peacebuilding,” Diana noted, “but that’s what it is when people walk into the gallery and see all the work from so many people.” The bottom line, Catalina revealed, is the power of change within each person that art can unlock. “If each of us dare to change one small part of our reality, that is how we are going to succeed in the peace process in Colombia.”

**Key Takeaways**

- Art and games are important tools in peacebuilding to unpack emotions and express them in constructive ways, that allows both the art maker to understand their emotions and the viewer to develop empathy.

- Personal reflection carries great power for healing and empathy building, but it risks reopening trauma. That can do damage if it leaves the room. Partner with trauma specialists if that is part of the work.

- Art creates shared values - when people view art, it’s not necessarily an overt peacebuilding act, but it brings together many people and helps them agree on one thing for a short period of time.
## “CAMPESINO” MAPPERS: SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY CARTOGRAPHERS
Fernando Castro Toro, Fundación OpenStreetMap (Colombia)

In doing so, farmers are empowered to drive the conversation, and to take land use ownership into their own hands, challenging the status quo.

Reversing the top-down agenda of land use discussions, Fernando Castro Toro is working with Open Street Map Colombia to teach farmers to map out their own areas.

## RADIO AS A TOOL TO GENERATE TRUST AND STRENGTHEN GOVERNANCE
Willington Gutiérrez, FTZ Studio SAS (Colombia)

Willington Gutiérrez shared his experience as a young Colombian growing up fighting to build a peaceful local environment. Seeing how radio can serve as a powerful tool in the battlefield, Gutiérrez and his team create live radio in public places. They encourage the engagement of citizens, local government, civil servants and youth, using the radio as a way to build trust and develop a common conversation about municipal development between all actors.

## GAMES FOR PEACE
Reech Malual, Member, Junub Games (South Sudan, via Skype)

When children are born into war, it is important to give them a chance to dream about a more peaceful future. Junub games does that by developing ICT games for children in South Sudan. The games seek to teach children the value and importance of peace, and are carefully designed to reflect the cultural context – an attribute that is crucial to their effectiveness.

## A WINDOW TO DREAM
Laura Bernardelli, Agencia para la Reincorporación y la Normalización (Colombia)

Supporting small business units in Colombia through the use of technology, this project fosters the capacity and confidence of conflict-affected populations, including demobilized individuals. The talk is interspersed with the testimony of beneficiaries, who affirm that entrepreneurial support encourages young people to understand that solutions lie beyond conflict and enables communities to view themselves as part of the solution.
**RITUALS OF PEACE**  
Ed Maklouf, Founder, Gather Citizen Tech (United Kingdom)

Maklouf explored the role of rituals in peacebuilding. If peacebuilding is an attempt to change people’s attitudes and habits to rewire them towards peace, and rituals are a practical system for participation and decision-making, the potential to combine them is significant. Rituals are more varied than traditional participation, and are often left out of common approaches to political decision-making and formal negotiation processes.

**EMERGENT: BUILDING PEACE TERRITORIES FROM SCHOOL NARRATIVES**  
Claudia Aparicio Yáñez, Directora Ejecutiva, Fundación Dividendo (Colombia)

Exploring the importance of education as a continuous, everyday lived experience, Claudia Aparicio argued that creating a sustainable living environment in schools can lead to more sustainable peace, building on examples from her existing work. By asking children to tell their stories, and developing narrative landscapes based on children’s ideas, environments that better respond to young people’s needs for education can be built.

**STORYTELLING, JOURNALISM, AND COUNTER-NARRATIVES FOR PEACE**  
Ala Oueslati, Peace Activist, YaLa Young Leaders (Tunisia)

Noting that the Middle East is often perceived in general terms and in a negative sense, Ala Oueslati challenged the audience to reconsider these perceptions. Through a platform for citizen journalism, young people from different places are now being brought together to put forward their own perspectives, in turn challenging common cultural misperceptions through writing and media.
The workshops at Build Peace 2017 provided a chance for attendees to interact with each other in a long-format setting. With them, participants engaged in practical, hands-on experiences with new methodologies, and took a deep dive into a variety of peacebuilding topics. While many workshops were informed by the conference themes, others strayed far and wide. This was an opportunity to broaden skills and explore the practical possibilities across the peacebuilding field.

This year Build Peace had five streams of workshops:

(i) NEW METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO PEACEBUILDING;
(ii) CREATIVITY IN PEACEBUILDING;
(iii) APPLYING TECH TOOLS TO PEACEBUILDING;
(iv) VIRTUAL SPACES FOR PEACEBUILDING; AND
(v) TRANSFORMING PHYSICAL SPACES FOR PEACEBUILDING.
The process of peacebuilding is as important as the result. Peacebuilding is a series of individual and collective transformations that require carefully designed engagement. Bringing new actors and methods into the process enriches the potential for discovering common values, developing inclusive memory and finding new modes of expression.

Participants engaged in an interactive exercise to build a group accord. Through storytelling & active listening exercises, they learned how to identify shared values and see the need to build accords that make goals, expectations and behavior explicit. The importance of active listening is emphasized, demonstrating the effect that being listened to attentively has on individuals. Through the ‘human mirror’ of an active listener, space for the discovery of common values was created.

For more information contact Julie Hawke at julie@howtobuildup.org

The “Whole of Society” approach was explored deeply in the project “Whole of Society Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding”, or WOSCAP. More information can be found in the webpages: http://www.woscap.eu and http://bit.ly/WOSCAPreport
MAKING PAPER COUNT: NEW FORMS OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN PEACEBUILDING

This workshop introduced the Frame Method, an experiential and participatory design approach with and for those directly impacted by violence, oppression or conflict as they work towards their own transformation. The process centers on the experience of those impacted, leveraging methods that engage trauma healing, build community and ignite the moral imagination for a more peaceful and just community and world. It is the process of transformation, using a cycle of discovery, ideation, design and implementation, that is crucial. It is not enough only to engage participants in peacebuilding, but we must pursue a participatory process to design how participants are engaged.

For more information see: www.activatelabs.org
or contact Monica Curca at monica@activatelabs.org

THE FRAME DESIGN PROCESS: PARTICIPATORY PEACEBUILDING AND TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP
Activate Labs

INNOVATION IN PARTICIPATION: THE CASES OF COLOMBIA AND CANADA
Reconciliation Canada

Exploring the process of reconciliation with the indigenous community in Canada through participatory processes, organizers discussed the creation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. Designed as a way to address the legacy of colonization, they examine the impact it had on the indigenous communities, and introduce the concept of innovation not only as the creation of new things, but also as a revisiting of the past. Despite advances in technology that can support reconciliation, creating a space in which a plurality of perspectives can thrive continues to pose a major challenge.

More information can be found in the webpage http://reconciliationcanada.ca/
COMMUNITY-LEVEL DATA COLLECTION TO SUPPORT THE PEACE PROCESS: THE EVERYDAY PEACE INDICATORS APPROACH

Everyday Peace Indicators

This workshop seeks to develop further participatory research approaches for understanding inclusion of indigenous and minority communities in peace processes. The workshop covered three main topics: 1) Gathering quality data from representative samples across the indigenous communities in the most cost-effective way; 2) how to use ICTs and digital tools to support data collection and community interaction; and 3) best practices for researchers and community members to collect the data and use it for both advocacy and research. The workshop informed the development and actualization of the Indigenous Women Building Peace project, and participants gained lessons and concepts that can be applied in participatory research in other peace process contexts.

For more information visit: https://everydaypeaceindicators.org/

USING WORKSHOPS TO FOSTER COLLECTIVE MEMORY

Centro de Memoria, Paz y Reconciliación

An introduction to a pedagogical methodology to address issues of memory, testimony, truth and justice with stories. Using chronicles to generate reflection, dialogue and collective memory reconstruction, the workshop highlighted the story as a means of expression and as an invaluable tool in the construction of an inclusive historical memory.

More information about the methodology can be found in these links:
http://centromemoria.gov.co/pedagogia-de-la-memoria/
http://escolapau.uab.cat/img/programas/educacion/publicacion002e.pdf

FOSTERING MEMORY AND RECONCILIATION WITH THE USE OF KINTSUGI

Fundación Prolongar

Through the practice of Kintsugi, this workshop provided an open space for participants to explore methods of reconciliation and reconstruction of memory. The ancient practice invites us not to discard objects that have been broken but, on the contrary, to repair them and highlight the damaged areas, filling the cracks with gold and silver: “it is a way of life that celebrates faults and imperfections. Each fracture is part of the history of the object that just becomes more beautiful because it has been broken” (Doyle, 2015). Facilitators also shared their experience creating the first Itinerant Museum of Memory on Antipersonnel Mines in Colombia, in which objects reconstructed by survivors of Vista Hermosa (Meta) formed the center of the exhibition. Participants gained an introduction to JINSO for more information visit: http://fundacionprolongar.org/
Making Paper Count: New Forms of Citizen Participation in Peacebuilding

JINSO: GAME OF INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
Appiario

(Juego de emprendimiento e innovación), a creative and open methodology to catalyze processes of innovation and social entrepreneurship that integrates digital media. Using a gamified structure, JINSO works with contexts and tools to promote entrepreneurship, transforming its players into heroes of the design of innovative solutions for the real world. Inspired by The Hero’s Journey, Jinso takes participants through three moments in which the “hero” is the protagonist of a story that challenges him to leave his comfort zone, reach goals, and overcome obstacles to create innovative solutions with digital tools.

For more information visit: https://www.facebook.com/Appiario/

PEACE LEADERS: RECONCILIATION MULTIPLIERS
Asomuca

Exploring the notion of collective contribution to reconciliation, the workshop featured five moments in which the audience could interact. These moments generates discussions over new ways to participate in and generate scenarios of peaceful coexistence and forgiveness. The workshop provided a powerful platform for Colombians from diverse backgrounds to share personal stories of reconciliation and resilience, and to build reconciliation networks among participants.

For more information see: http://www.asomuca.org/
### Key Takeaways

**Artistic methods create new opportunities for expression, catalyzing change.**

Creative processes are inherently emotional – they give individuals the opportunity for a deeply personal transformation, as well as providing access to a broader community.

### Creative Dialogue: Music & Film as a Tool for Youth Communication and Social Cohesion

**Turning Tables**

Showcasing work from around the world, Turning Tables demonstrated how they use music to create new opportunities for expression, generating new physical and mental spaces, in conflict-affected countries. Recognizing that music is often an existing form of communication that can be built on, their work explores the importance of positive messaging through music as a way to avoid the negative coping mechanisms often associated with conflict. Participants discussed the importance of moving beyond a traditional single-workshop approach, and the challenges of follow-up in conflict-affected environments, with Turning Tables sharing a range of examples from their projects.

For more information visit: [http://turningtables.org/](http://turningtables.org/)

### Participatory Photography for Peacebuilding

**Fotosynthesis & Tahafuz**

Using participatory photography with mobile phones, body and participatory action learning research tools, participants got a taster in participatory and therapeutic photography exercises exploring encounters, memory, reconciliation and post-conflict analysis. They also learnt photography techniques such as composition, framing, light through creative expression, storytelling and dialogue triggered by the images. Photography allows us to explore the world we live in, our surrounding, feelings, emotions and our own relation to it. Photography takes you in an inner and outer emotional and spiritual journey. It can trigger and release the memories which had, until then, been buried or blocked out, and create individual or community healing. It can be therapeutic and enable new ways to amplify citizen’s voices into peacebuilding and conflict resolution, as it allows to find the tools to rebuild and/or transform themselves individually or as part of a community.

For more information see: [http://www.fotosynthesiscommunity.org.uk/index.html](http://www.fotosynthesiscommunity.org.uk/index.html) and [https://www.facebook.com/ProjectTahafuz/](https://www.facebook.com/ProjectTahafuz/)
EDUCATION FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION USING THE BODY AND THE MIND
Universidad de los Andes

The participants worked with the body and the mind to explore a number of principles and techniques used to promote peace and reconciliation. Participants collectively performed a series of practical exercises, followed by discussion to derive useful learning. The workshop drew upon knowledge developed in several non-competitive martial arts, such as Aikido (the ‘art of peace’), Kyudo and Taijiquan, as well as on the teaching of great peace thinkers such as Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, and Thich Nhat Hanh. Facilitators demonstrated how exercises derived from the above mentioned martial arts can have positive effects on the neurophysiological regulation systems that enhance openness to others. The discussion explored ways to enrich peacemaking and peacebuilding by involving both the body and the mind in conflict management, finding new ways of interaction between conflicting parties.

YOGA FOR RESILIENCE
Feet on the Ground

This workshop sought to address the psychological impact of conflict and its long lasting implications on the ability of individuals and communities to re-build peaceful societies. Participants explored scientifically-based complementary approaches to healing, including movement, breath, and mind body practices that help people reconnect to themselves and others in the aftermath of conflict. The attendees learnt how simple embodiment practices like yoga can rewire the brain, helping individuals feel greater agency over their experience, and cultivate communities of resilience.

For more information visit: https://www.feet-on-the-ground.org/

CO-INNOVATING A SOCIAL DESIGN BRAND WITH ARTISANS IN COLOMBIA & BELGIUM
!DROPS & Value4Chain

Based on research from artisans in and around Bogota, participants went through the process of prototyping creative ideas and concepts for a social design brand, exploring the principles of design thinking & human centered design through a creative lab. Participants worked together with rural entrepreneurs, who shared the needs, problems and opportunities in their daily lives.

For more information see: http://idrops.org/ and https://value4chain.com/
Participatory use of technology is crucial, as technology without participation can exclude rather than empower communities most in need.

Design starts with the problem, not the solution. Technology is a tool, not an end.

Solutions developed locally should empower and connect different actors.

GIS FOR PEACE: THE CONVENING POWER OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

GICHD

Exploring how GIS can support peace, the workshop encouraged participants to start with the problem, not the solution. Participants brainstormed key problems that GIS technology could address, and explored possible solution areas for GIS. These include, but are not limited to, awareness and understanding; modeling; convening; operations; accountability & accessing resources and services. Participants also explored challenges when using GIS and outlined the most pressing areas for which GIS could be deployed, including displacement dynamics, land tenure, natural resource exploitation, crime, risk management, illicit crops, infrastructure and urban spaces.

For more information see: http://www.gis4peace.org/
The Build Peace Lab brought together two of Build Up’s Syrian fellows on the Digital Steps program, three Build Peace fellows from Bosnia, Pakistan and Myanmar, and five fellows from Diciendo y Haciendo, a project led by Movilizatorio across Colombia. Projects ranged from animations promoting non-violence in Syria, to a GIS-based water dispute resolution management in Pakistan, the creation of a community of music-makers to support peace in Myanmar, interactive theatre for young people to imagine the future in Bosnia and art workshops on the theme of peace with children in Damascus. Diciendo y Haciendo fellows’ projects ranged from alternative employment options, to protection of social leaders and a campaign to keep children in school and the promotion of young people’s collaboration within a municipality. The Lab saw engaging feedback between fellows, whose shared experience of developing innovative solutions to local problems was inspiring.


This workshop explored the use of publicly available data from the Unified Victims Registry to trace and analyze forced displacement in Colombia. Through free and open source mapping and scripting software (QGIS and Python) participants visualized displacement across the country, analyzing it to extract meaningful patterns that can help guide peacebuilding efforts. Participants came away with the basics of mapping and spatial analysis, as well as a brief introduction to scripting and data analysis.

For more information see: http://c4sr.columbia.edu/

After a brief introduction to the game Minecraft and examples of urban co-creation done in different parts of the world, participants played the game and experienced the possibilities for co-creation. Participants also discussed the SESTEAM project planned by the University College Artevelde in Ghent, the primary school De Toverberg and the city government of Ghent, and their ICT Digipolis. Facilitators shared their experience exploring Minecraft, Design Thinking and Agile Learning to increase the participation and motivation of a disadvantaged community in the city of Ghent, taking lessons learned from these experiences to apply to the participants’ own experiences.
TECHNICAL AND FORENSIC TOOLS TO RESEARCH HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS
EQUITAS

The workshop explored research methods to search for the victims of forced disappearances and murders in Colombia. Using a set of tech tools, Equitas is exploring the ability to predict where the disappeared might be located. In addition, they are using tools to facilitate the communication with the government over the location and preservation of victims’ bodies.

For more information see: http://equitas.org.co/

DEALING WITH THE PAST IN POST-CONFLICT SOCIETIES: ICT SUPPORTING THE INCLUSION OF PLURALISTIC PERSPECTIVES
GIZ-ProPaz & Heinrich Böll Foundation

This workshop explored whether ICT has the potential to help deal with the past in post-conflict societies. Taking inspiration from six different national and international experiences in constructing historical memory and transitional justice, workshop participants exchanged with facilitators to identify lessons learnt, progress made, and challenges encountered at this juncture in fields of practice-oriented peacebuilding.

For more information see: https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/34735.html and https://www.boell.de/en

BUILDING COLLECTIVE MAPS WITH OPEN STREET MAP
Fundación Open Street Map

Providing a hands-on introduction to the Open Street Map (OSM) online tool, the workshop gave participants the opportunity to explore the software, learning how to add features to a map. Facilitators then led a discussion of the role the tool can play in empowering communities to describe land use in their area, and how this can be used for peacebuilding.

For basic instructions on how to use the tool see: https://www.openstreetmap.org/
MAKING PAPER COUNT: NEW FORMS OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN PEACEBUILDING

Exploring the role of video games as a tool to solve conflicts, participants engaged in a participatory design process to develop a video game for reconciliation in Colombia, developing the story of a Colombian farmer becoming a condor. Participants progressed through the following stages in the design process: (i) ideation, (ii) game end goal (iii) main characters, (iv) stage, and (v) milestones in the story that make the protagonist advance or retreat.

More tools can be found here: https://scratch.mit.edu

WORKSHOPS: VIRTUAL SPACES FOR PEACEBUILDING

PEACEAPP
UNAOC, OmniumLab & Ideas por la Paz

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More tools can be found here: https://scratch.mit.edu

WORKSHOPS: VIRTUAL SPACES FOR PEACEBUILDING

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Responsibility for combatting disinformation and polarization cannot be deferred to others – it is a collective engagement.

Emotions are a powerful tool in the virtual space. Peacebuilders must find ways to effectively engage them.

While traditional social media has eroded trust in information, the emergence of new technologies eg. Blockchain provide avenues to rebuild this trust.

AUTOMATIC FOR THE PEACEFUL: SOCIAL MEDIA ANALYSIS AND BOTS FOR PEACE
Creative Associates & Build Up

This workshop explored two tools for peacebuilders working on issues of polarization and hate speech. First, participants looked at how analysis of conversations on social media can help peacebuilders better understand the contours of divisions based on identity or positions in a debate, with examples from South Sudan and Ghana. Second, they explored how semi-automated interventions in social media can (in very particular situations) be used to respond to polarization in that social media channel, with an example from the USA. Participants then discussed how these tools could apply to Colombia and Myanmar. The workshop raised the important question of emotions for peacebuilders, noting that social media polarization plays on emotions, while peacebuilders often promote reason. Can and should peacebuilders learn to engage emotions for positive outcomes in an ethical way?

Amid the ‘era of polarization’, this workshop invited participants to develop key messages to address polarization. The artist Ana Matronic, shared this message for the workshop: “To #BeTheChange is to never stop learning, growing, or changing yourself-a difficult, rewarding and lifelong challenge. The Four A’s can help: Awareness of myself and the world around me; Acceptance of those with differing viewpoints to my own; Amplification of voices that need attention; Advocacy to bring awareness”.

The messages created during the workshop sought to tackle polarization through arts, education, community empowerment, tolerance and information, influencers, ambassadors, and stakeholders. Key messages crafted included:

- “Taking time to understand each other can be a great way to understand ourselves. #BeTheChange #BuildPeace2017”.
- “You will never look good trying to make someone else look bad #BeTheChange”.
- “We need to talk and say what can’t be said. I want to listen. I want to understand.” #BeTheChange #BuildPeace2017 @howtobuildpeace”.

For more information see: http://democracyandpeace.org/

The Igarapé Institute presented findings from their Innovation in Conflict Prevention program, exploring the role of technology in successful peacebuilding approaches, with examples from Guinea Bissau, Brazil and Somalia. Participants discussed the prospect of a digital platform that connects groups working on conflict prevention projects, enabling them to share what works and what doesn’t. Discussion focused on the incentives (and disincentives) for information sharing, concern over replication of platforms and the importance of reaching local peacebuilders.

For more information see: https://igarape.org.br/
BLENDING CAPITALS FOR PEACE
TheBC.lab

Organizers explored the potential of blended capitals and blockchain technology to affect peacebuilding. Recognizing the need to diversify funding for peacebuilding, they argued for a move towards blended capitals and the integration of financial capitals, in support of attracting blended finance. In addition, organizers argued that blockchain technology has the capacity to increase the traceability of aid money directed at peace processes, providing opportunities for greater transparency, openness, trust, identification of opportunities and assessment of quality. Participants went on to discuss the potential of blockchain technology to support the development of a ‘peace coin’.

For more information see: http://thebclab.com/

DISINFORMATION OVERLOAD: TRUST IN THE AGE OF FAKE NEWS
Factr.com

Exploring the age of fake news and the implications it is having on us as individuals, the workshop examined the role of social media targeting, and how the business model behind social media is damaging our information ecosystem. It looked at how disinformation is reducing meaning in the public sphere and eroding trust in news media and the question of responsibility for disinformation. Recognizing the importance of building user skepticism, mechanisms that individuals can take to combat fake news’ prevalence were introduced, such as building trusted networks that can create and share information. Participants discussed the trend towards internet governance and how it impacts freedom of speech.

For more information see: https://factr.com/
KEY TAKEAWAYS

Peacebuilding is physical. Peace is created in spaces, that need to be carefully constructed.

Physical infrastructure cannot ignore the socio-political dynamics important to peacebuilding.

DO ENGINEERS HAVE A ROLE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PEACE AGREEMENT?

PeaceTech Lab, Drexel University & Build Up

Highlighting the important values and principles that engineers can bring to the field of peacebuilding, this workshop showcased a series of peace related engineering initiatives being pursued by professors and students at the School of Engineering of the Universidad de Los Andes. Through the workshop, it emerged that engineers have a powerful role to play in peacebuilding – both in terms of the harm that can be done if engineers ignore the socio-political dynamics that impede development, and in terms of the progress that can be catalyzed by properly engineered solutions to peace and development challenges, particularly in Colombia.

For more information, contact Jerry McCann of Build Up at jerry@howtobuildup.org

TRANSFORMING A SPACE OF TERROR IN A PLACE OF MEMORY, EDUCATION AND REPARATION

Museo Sitio de Memoria ESMA

The workshop highlighted the story of the former Clandestine Center of Torture and Extermination, now transformed into the Museo Sitio de Memoria ESMA. The space provides opportunities for memory, reparation, cultural exchange, and social debate. Organizers shared the process that the museum undergoes to ensure that all visitors, including those with conflicting memories, feel challenged by the experience presented by the museum. Through a design process, the museum staff reflected on their audiences’ perspectives and comforts in order to effectively develop the space.

For more information see: http://www.espaciomemoria.ar/
MAKING PAPER COUNT: NEW FORMS OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN PEACEBUILDING

Participants shared their inputs and knowledge to improve the work of the selected entrepreneurs, who are all operating in one of Colombia’s most conflict-affected areas.

For more information see: https://www.peacestartup.org/

PEACE ENTREPRENEURS FOR THE NARIÑO DEPARTMENT

PeaceStartUp explored the application of technology and innovation in peacebuilding and the scope of the SDGs through a practical workshop, in which participants interacted with entrepreneurs selected by PSU in the Department of Nariño.

For more information see: https://www.peacestartup.org/

THE PRIVATE SECTOR’S ROLE IN CREATING AND SUPPORTING PEACE

This workshop presented insights into the role of the private sector in supporting peacebuilding initiatives - a role that has been largely unrecognized in formal peace agreements. Representatives of the One Earth Future Foundation presented both research and programmatic evidence that the private sector often plays a direct and indirect role in supporting peace worldwide. Participants gained an insight into the Foundation’s work on the private sector and peace in Colombia, Somalia, and Kenya. Discussion focused on exploring ways that the private sector can play a more formal role in supporting peace agreements and encouraging citizen participation.

For more information see: http://oneearthfuture.org/

SOLE (SELF-ORGANISED LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS)

The workshop provided an introduction to the SOLE approach to education. Participants heard how SOLE uses big questions to stimulate interest, promoting the collective educational process over the individual process by using shared computers. By bringing marginalized children into an education environment, their approach serves a peacebuilding goal, equipping the population with the skills needed for building peace later in life. The testimony by a teacher from a rural area of Colombia provided a powerful vindication of the SOLE method, speaking passionately about the empowerment the approach has given both teachers and students.

For more information see: http://www.solecolombia.org/
Unconferences developed when people realized that most conference magic happens during coffee breaks – when you get to know someone grappling with the same puzzle as you do, or when an, at first random, conversation develops into a joint project. Our program included such an extended coffee break, with an agenda set by attendees over the course of the conference days. The following are a selection of the informal, self-organized sessions suggested by participants that broadened the conference conversations and made space for further moments of connection.

**THE BUILD PEACE NETWORK:** On how to connect peacebuilding practitioners better to allow for an exchange of knowledge, and develop ideas to engage the Build Peace network.

**PARTICIPATION FOR DIGNITY:** Exploring the connection between the active participation of citizens and their dignity and empowerment.

**DANCE FOR PEACE!** Using music, dance and other approaches focusing on movement for peacebuilding.

**PARTICIPATORY DESIGN:** Exchange of practices on participatory design for peacebuilding.

**YOUTH AND CHILDREN IN PEACE:** Exchanging ideas and experience on involving children and youth in peacebuilding, both through formal and informal education and beyond.

**LEARNING TO LEARN:** How do individuals learn and absorb knowledge? How can peacebuilding approaches be tailored to that?

**THE COLOMBIAN PEACE ACCORD:** This session combined proposals related to the implementation of the peace agreement, and ways forward to ensure citizen participation in the peace process.

**WOMEN AND CONFLICT:** Discussing gender dynamics in conflict, and how they can be addressed through peacebuilding.

**BOOKS:** Both proponents are starting book projects to document successful peacebuilding approaches worldwide – the authors were asking for creative input to their methodology and possible ideas of focus areas.

**MINDFULNESS AND SILENCE FOR PEACE:** Meditation session.

**YOUR THEME IN HISTORY:** Excursion to a local museum focusing on historical memory.

**MONSERRATE:** Walk to the Monserrate hill.

**RISE UP GAME:** Play Rise Up, a board game about building people power and winning together to create social justice—even when the cards are stacked against us.
Along with the three thematic areas discussed above, the Build Peace 2017 Conference included two panels to discuss two crosscutting themes on peacetech. One was a dialogue on the collaboration between academic and theoretical research and the practical implementation of projects that use technologies for the construction of peace. The second panel introduced a discussion on the future of technologies for peacebuilding in the Colombian context. Below are the description of these conversations.
An area that still needs to be more developed in peacetech is its theoretical grounding and the role of research. Hence, in this panel, moderated by Kate Mytty, Associate of Build Up, discussed the collaborations between theory and practice in the use of technology for peacebuilding, and the opportunities, challenges and main insights of research for peacetech. The session featured Angelika Rettberg, Professor at Andes University, Ana María Ibáñez, Professor at Andes University, and Jean Marie Ndihokubwayo, Senior Researcher at CENAP.

Angelika Rettberg, Professor at Andes University, shared that peacetech brings along many opportunities to carry out applied research and embrace counter intuitive results. Yet, peacetech research is interdisciplinary, which is sometimes challenging to implement from a single Faculty. This is why the Masters of Peace at Andes University is interdisciplinary and not linked to a single Faculty. Likewise, she highlighted two challenges in peace research: (i) the lack of control of the researcher on the use of the research that is produced; and (ii) the difficulties in communicating the research.

Ana María Ibáñez, Professor at Andes University, whose studies the economic legacies of the conflict, shared that she is currently leading research that uses technology to understand how people perceive reconciliation projects and their willingness to reconcile. Specifically, along with her team, she tried to carry out an intervention that used technology in the areas most affected by the conflict, but people did not have access to the technology tools, so they had to change the whole project. Low use of communications
tools like Whatsapp and Facebook meant they started using call centers. A main challenge that she has faced is the need to understand how people use technology on the ground, especially for things like formalizing land property and fostering institutionality.

Jean Marie Ndihokubwayo, Senior Researcher at the Conflict Alert and Prevention Centre (CENAP) in Burundi, shared an applied research perspective, showing how his research uses technology to engage the population in data collection and analysis. CENAP uses an app to help people visualize different variables and combine them easily. Overall, technology has been useful for his organization, to help them connect people from different levels of society. Nevertheless, he also warned that people are sometimes suspicious about the use of technology. Finally, answering to a question on how can different actors from different parts of society be coordinated to participate in peacetech projects, Ndihokubwayo responded, “Put them together in the same room!”

This session provided a deeper dialogue on the role of peacetech in the Colombian context. The panel featured concrete examples and lessons from the ground, and discussed the opportunities, challenges and perspectives of the use of technology for peacebuilding in Colombia. In addition, it included representatives from a broad range of sectors in Colombia, such as engineering, journalism, academia and the state.

In particular, the session featured Alfonso Reyes, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at Andes University, Omar Rincón, Director of the Center for Journalism Studies at Andes University, Javier Guillot, Coordinator of the Public Innovation Team (DNP), and Juan Diego Restrepo, Director of Verdad Abierta. Likewise, the audience, who were from a broad range of municipalities in Colombia, also intervened and shared their experiences and lessons. The discussion was moderated by Diana Dajer, Executive Director of Policéntrico.

In this context, Alfonso Reyes, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at Andes University, shared how his personal journey to tackle inequality in Colombia through engineering lead him to explore the role of technology in peacebuilding.
In this vein, he shared the experience of a program in which students from the University traveled to a different municipality to share their knowledge and learn from the community. The Dean also highlighted the use of technology to foster education and skills for many young people in poverty, to qualify them to achieve new economic opportunities at the local level to change their development conditions.

Juan Diego Restrepo, Director of VerdadAbierta.com, explained that through the use of the platform VerdadAbierta.com, he and his team of journalists have been able to share thorough research from the ground up about the causes and impact of the armed conflict at the local level. This strategic use of technology has helped Verdad Abierta to reach new audiences and foster alternative ways to create a collective memory about the conflict.

Javier Guillot, Coordinator of the Public Innovation Team at the National Planning Agency, discussed that innovation is a process of learning, and the challenges of learning processes at the local level when they are led by the public sector. He also stressed that technology is currently being used as a solution for lots of problems without deeper analysis of whether it is the right fit for the problems, or not.

Additionally, Guillot asserted the need to rescue collective learning processes, substituting technical arrogance present in the public sector when experimenting with technologies for peace, for an experimental humbleness that recognizes that learning processes start with acknowledging the existence of questions without answers.

Finally, Ómar Rincón, Director of the Center for Journalism Studies at Andes University, discussed the need to understand the different audiences being addressed before implementing projects that use technology for peacebuilding. In this perspective, he also stressed that technology should be used in Colombia to engage new audiences in peacebuilding, using shared storytelling that involves many sectors of society, particularly people at the local level that are not usually the protagonists of the stories being portrayed by the national media.
The #peacehack at Build Peace 2017 was organized in partnership with International Alert, to bring peace practitioners, designers, developers and technologists together, to develop new ideas and design strategic solutions to foster peace. Hence, the hack was a hands on opportunity to design innovative tech prototypes to peace problems. The main objective of the hackathon was to provide a space for experience exchange, discussions and collaboration between developers and strategists who work in peacebuilding.
Eight cutting edge ideas were portrayed at the hack involving, among others, the strategic use of blockchain, participatory mapping tools, a tool to foster collaboration in hackathons, and video letters. Four of these ideas were chosen through a competitive process between Build Peace participants, whereas the other four were selected through an open application for Colombians that were working in different parts of the country. This helped ensure a diverse range of ideas.

The ideas featured innovative solutions for a diversity of problems in conflict and post conflict scenarios. The project iHope, presented by Michael Lenihan, aimed to use digital and in-person tools that collect, quantify, and package insights about local citizens’ concerns, to uncover mutual aspirations and tenable policy solutions to form a more accurate basis upon which policymakers could build peace agreements.

Similarly, the idea What is your peace?, introduced by Élder Tovar, had the purpose of developing a space for dialogue for citizens that have different narratives of the armed conflict, in order to generate opinions and comments related to these stories and then carry out traces and visualizations of the concepts and emotions that citizens have about peace.

Gary Milante, in partnership with Luc Lapointe and Chris Georgen, showcased an idea for a simple trading game app to demonstrate the power of blockchain.

Mariana Rojas and Nicolás Muñoz presented La Panga, a digital platform to foster interaction between artists and community leaders to build art projects for peacebuilding.

Stephen Gray proposed an idea to prototype a technology that could augment the capacity of civilian ceasefire monitoring networks, by leveraging mobile data collection and participatory mapping tools to document conflict-related incidents and
The hackathon kicked off with introductory remarks by Andy Kyriakides from International Alert, and presentations of the selected challenges. Hackers were able to ask questions of the presenters, after which they decided the groups and challenges they wanted to work on. The hackathon continued over the three days of the conference, parallel to the main activities at Build Peace.

The hackers themselves selected the challenges they wished to work on, and the idea generators had the opportunity to merge with other challenges presented to create complementary projects. Once the teams were formed, the work sessions to develop the prototype officially began.

Spaces for interdisciplinary interaction between professionals of different areas working in technologies for peacebuilding are not very common. The hackathon was an exciting scenario to encourage these discussions, and build meaningful connections to provide sustainability to the ideas presented.

The hackathon was a new experience for some participants, and it provided an interesting space to challenge the imagination and try, as far as possible, to develop prototypes for the proposed ideas, and to build a collaborative work environment.

At the end of three days of work there was still much to do to move the projects closer to implementation. Yet, the hack participants received valuable feedback to move forward the ideas, were able to get involved in valuable conversations and design sessions, and made valuable connections with similar initiatives.

Túpale was used by many participants to design their tech solutions. The project La Panga, the winner of the session, is now under development to implement the platform to curate art projects to showcase in the webpage. The project What is your peace? is now being developed into a pilot of the tool. The team behind iHope, now Public Sentiment, is working on an implementation strategy to launch the project.

Likewise, Juliana Hernández, Fernando Castro and John Fredy Rivera introduced Túpale, a tech tool to build tech tools, that could be used by other participants to build strategically their peacetech solutions.

Paula Quevedo introduced My Sports’ Team, an application to get people together around sports, to foster social cohesion in conflict-affected zones.

Luis Arturo Pinzón presented an idea to design an information system that works both as a mechanism for programming activities and as an educational tool that can be used by students, teachers and administrators, to solve conflicts and build peace in public schools.

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The need of discussion and connection around social innovation for peacebuilding is rising. The need of discussion and connection around the many issues around social innovation for peacebuilding is equally rising. The Build Peace team believes that strategic spaces to allow interaction, sharing and community building around the many challenges, opportunities and lessons learned from peacebuilders working with the use of technology, arts and participatory research worldwide, has meaningful impact in terms of knowledge creation and sharing, and development of new ideas and projects to support peacebuilding. This is corroborated by both an evaluation conducted to measure the immediate impact of Build Peace, the reach of the event, and the opinions of the participants.

RESULTS OF BUILD PEACE 2017

Website
The Build Peace website was viewed nearly 25,000 times in 2017.

Twitter
Tweets from @howtobuildpeace, between the announcement of the conference at the end of May and the end of December, had the following rates of engagement:
• Impressions - 191,209
• Engagements - 4119
• Retweets - 794
• Replies - 107

Facebook
Posts on facebook.com/howtobuildpeace during the same period had the following rates of engagement:
• Total post reach: 41,498
• Total users engaged: 1,668
- 448 people registered from 386 different organizations
- 357 people attended the event
WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE PART OF BUILD PEACE?

78% of participants rated their experience at Build Peace as a 5 out of 5, whereas 19% rated it a 4 out of 5, and 3% rated it 3 out of 5. Below are some selected quotes from the participant’s feedback.

“The quality and content was a lot above expectations. Participants were all inspiring and brilliant. The conference had a very nice and unusual atmosphere, most people were very humble, and collaborative”.

“For me what Build Peace provides is an amazing multi-cultural/disciplinary space to percolate new ideas for research and practice in tech and peace”.

“For those of us who work in support programs for the implementation of peace agreements in Colombia (…), it is very important to know different experiences and ways of motivating the population for the construction of peaceful means of coexistence and conflict resolution, as well as work methodologies that can be transmitted to our institutional partners so that they can do their work in a more efficient way”.

“I appreciated the aspect of diversity of participants, the willingness of participants to share about their projects, ideas, the way the organizing team was well equipped and provided support, the content of the program and the way the facilitators led the sessions and also the short talks and plenary discussions were all well presented”.

“I thought the set-up really lent itself to be a conducive atmosphere for networking and learning. The transition between short talks and workshops was perfect and the innovations presented were varied enough to be extremely interesting”.

“Being part of this conference has changed many perspectives I had about peace and the different ways in which it can be achieved. It made me open my mind more to the situation that my country lives and the situations that also occur in the world”.

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Most participants come to Build Peace to learn about innovation, and many report that their knowledge of peacetech, arts for peace, and participatory methods are enhanced through their attendance to the conference (see charts below.)

WHAT IS THE MAIN REASON THAT BRINGS PARTICIPANTS TO BUILD PEACE?

Learning about innovation in peacebuilding
Networking
Sharing my experience
All of the above and more!

WHAT ARE BUILD PEACE’S OUTCOMES?

This year the Build Peace Team conducted a pre and post survey evaluation to identify and measure the outcomes of the conference. The results show that after attending the Conference the participants increase their knowledge of peacetech, arts for peacebuilding and methods to amplify people’s participation in peacebuilding initiatives.
After Build Peace

Before Build Peace

Arts for peace knowledge

Methods to amplify participation in peacebuilding knowledge

Before Build Peace

After Build Peace
Every year, we look at the key conversation threads that emerge from the conference, in order to build the conversation for the following year. In 2017, we saw three key threads emerge around expanding participation, the power of story, and threats to trust.

The importance of innovation to expanding participation in peacebuilding is not a new conversation strand at Build Peace, but it seems to us that every year it becomes more central to our collective understanding of what needs to change in the future of peacebuilding. Through different avenues, we keep coming back to the idea that the process of peacebuilding is as important as its results or products.

Peacebuilding is a series of individual and collective transformations that require carefully designed engagement. Bringing new actors and methods into the process enriches the potential for discovering common values, developing inclusive memory and finding new modes of expression. In all this, the participatory use of technology is crucial, as technology without participation can exclude rather than empower communities most in need. Solutions developed locally should be empowered and connected. Many speakers and participants came back to a mantra that has featured in our conference conversations since 2014: Design starts with the problem, not the solution; technology is a tool, what matters is how we choose to use it.

In 2016, as we discussed the role of technology and arts in socio-cultural transformation, we started to speak of identities (individual and collective). Many conversations in 2016 felt more like storytelling, and adopted a more personal tone. In 2017, we saw an
result from the growing power of data technologies combined with social media platforms in particular. Many speakers and participants converged on a growing realization that the responsibility for combating disinformation and polarization cannot be deferred to others— it is a collective engagement. Emotions are a powerful tool in these virtual spaces, and peacebuilders must find ways to effectively engage them. Also, while traditional social media has eroded trust in information, the emergence of new technologies (e.g. blockchain) provide avenues to rebuild this trust.

We heard these threads frequently, both from a national and international perspective. Yet, particularly for the Colombian context, one of the lessons learned during Build Peace 2017 was the need to generate greater local capacity, dialogue, community building and knowledge at the local level, around the use of innovative tools for peacebuilding.

Although the Conference showcased brilliant examples from community...
leaders and a diversity of sectors in Colombia that use innovative tools to build peace, it is important to continue generating spaces for training and accompaniment focused on the design, implementation and evaluation of innovative tools that foster social cohesion and coexistence among diverse social actors and populations divided by the conflict. In particular, there are three challenges common to several municipalities that are highly affected by the conflict in Colombia.

First, the Peace Agreement between the Colombian Government and the FARC is the beginning of a peacebuilding process at the territorial level, the outcome of which depends on the participation of citizens. Yet, this participation faces several threats, such as security risks against social leaders, polarization, and a lack of social cohesion.

As the Build Peace 2017 Conference demonstrated, innovative tools could create new opportunities for participation and to build bridges between divided sectors. Nevertheless, despite extensive efforts by civil society at the local level to develop participatory initiatives, social leaders have limited access to technologies that amplify citizen participation. There is a need to increase a local capacity that allows social leaders to direct the design and implementation of civic technologies that respond to their realities and needs.

A third challenge is that usually the experiences of citizen participation with the use of technology does not have a robust participatory design process that ensures sustainability and success in the medium and long term. It is a constant responsibility of designers and developers to bring a broader diversity of voices to the table.

We hope that all these reflections and insights are useful to guide future projects around innovation for peacebuilding. In particular, we aim to continue expanding the Build Peace network and enrich the work done so far the next years. For now, Build Peace 2018 will take place in Belfast, Northern Ireland, on October 29 – 31, and we hope you are part of it.

Check our website for details: www.howtobuildpeace.org/

How to build peace?
Join us to chart the future!