

“Approaches to Peacebuilding”

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Peacebuilding – which is located in post-conflict context and one that seeks to address deep-rooted underlying causes of conflict rather than deal only with the visible violence – has been widely debated since it was outlined in *An Agenda for Peace* report at the UN.

Recent trends favour adopting multi-faceted, multi-agency, system-wide approaches. But while experts seek to privilege one approach over the other justifying it as better in deconstructing a conflict or for evolving peacebuilding strategies, several elements of these approaches continue to fuse and overlap which actually complements each of them in providing a holistic picture thereby generating effective skills and tool-kits that suit conflicts which remain strongly contextual to their space and time.

Effective peacebuilding approach must be grounded in wider and deeper understanding about the parties to conflict, be sensitive to their history and society as also their political and strategic culture. In operational terms, successful peacebuilding presupposes national ownership and a clear division of labour between national leadership and various international actors and agencies. Given its evolutionary nature, these approaches also need to be innovative to face evolving real time challenges.

In the end, peacebuilding requires huge staying power in terms of commitment, resources and patience as processes involved continue to be long-drawn and piecemeal for it seeks to build a sustainable peace.