



## **Summit of the Future Action Days Side Event**

### ***Beyond the Battlefields: Proven Approaches to Halving Global Violence in Support of the SDGs***

[September 21st, 9:45-11:00am, UNHQ CF12]

Organized by: Center on International Cooperation (CIC) at New York University, the governments of Czechia and Costa Rica, the World Health Organization, and International IDEA

#### **Background on the event (one paragraph)**

This event marked the launch of the flagship report of the Halving Global Violence Task Force, "[Beyond the Battlefields: Practical Strategies to Halving Global Violence in Our Homes, Streets, and Communities](#)." The report presents a new and in-depth look at the prevalence and costs of violence outside of conflict and identifies proven, innovative approaches to achieve the ambitious goal of cutting global violence in half. It presents strategies to dramatically reduce violence where it is frequently overlooked, but most often occurs and where there is the greatest promise for a return of investment: in our homes, streets, and communities. The high-level roundtable which included ambassadors and high-level officials from Costa Rica, Czechia, Switzerland, among others, endorsed the findings of the report and expressed their enthusiasm to accelerate the implementation of its recommendations.

#### **Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)**

- This report is a culmination of three years of work from the [Halving Global Violence Task Force](#), and highlights the incidence and costs of interpersonal violence, as well as proven solutions to prevent and reduce it.
- Violence and development are closely entwined challenges, a point underscored by Dr. Vasu Gounden of ACCORD. Most violence happens outside of the battlefield, and has an immediate impact in the everyday lives of people. National and local governments are the ones closest to the issue, and are often better

placed to take action to solve it, but the international community has a crucial role to play in supporting and guiding these efforts.

- With most of the population being concentrated in cities, a trend that will continue to increase over the coming decades, local governments in particular have a pivotal role to play in reducing urban violence in their communities, as highlighted by the former mayor of Palmira, Colombia, Óscar Escobar. Urban networks like [Peace in Our Cities](#), which connects local leaders, civil society, and the multilateral system, are an important avenue to catalyze these efforts.
- As highlighted by Amb. Maritza Chan, the gender dimension of violence cannot be ignored. For women, no place is more dangerous than their own homes, where over half of all femicides happen. Because women experience violence in markedly different ways from men, it is crucial to elevate their voices in efforts to combat violence, with initiatives such as the [Gender Equality Network for Small Arms Control \(GENSAC\)](#) – a network of women activists advocating for gender sensitive small arms control across regions and sectors.
- The role of small arms in interpersonal violence also deserves more attention. 45 percent of all intentional homicides are committed using small arms. As highlighted by USG Izumi Nakamitsu, this violence has a huge impact on livelihoods, community wellbeing, and economic development.

#### **Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)**

- Interventions and programs to reduce interpersonal violence are most effective when they rely on data and evidence to engage specific at-risk places, people, and behaviors. As mentioned by Dr. Etienne Krug, we need to take a scientific-based approach to reducing violence. Including the affected communities directly in these initiatives is equally crucial.
- Prevention is more efficient than reduction. By acting upstream and addressing the structural risk factors for violence, national, and local actors can concentrate efforts to effect long-term change instead of ‘putting out fires.’
- Investments in interpersonal violence reduction should be considered a crucial part of the development agenda. As mentioned in the New Agenda for Peace, calls to reduce violence should not be misconstrued as attempts to intervene in domestic issues or interfere with security dynamics.
- The international community has an important role to play in supporting local and national actors. This support can occur through assistance in drafting prevention plans, supporting mechanisms and standards for data collection, or providing direct financial support for program implementation.

**Webpage to find more information:** <https://www.sdg16.plus/resources/halving-global-violence-flagship-report/>