Internship: Governance and Peacebuilding

Terms of Reference

March 2012

1 Background

Conflict Dynamics International is an independent, not-for-profit organization which works to prevent and resolve violent conflict, and to alleviate human suffering resulting from conflicts and other crises around the world.

Conflict Dynamics was founded in 2004 and strives to fulfill its mission through conflict resolution activities and humanitarian policy development. Conflict Dynamics’ activities span three intersecting program areas: (I) Peacebuilding in Transition States, (II) New Frontiers in Humanitarian Policy and (III) Pressure Points for Conflict Prevention and Resolution. Conflict Dynamics works closely with parties to conflict, national governments, several departments and agencies within the United Nations system, as well as with academic institutions and NGOs.

Conflict Dynamics’ Governance and Peacebuilding portfolio is located within the Peacebuilding in Transition States Program and focuses on political accommodation as a key component of peacemaking and peacebuilding. Conflict Dynamics has developed a typology of six focal areas for political accommodation which is being used to explore technical options for governance in transition States. This work is being undertaken on a number of contexts, including Somalia, the Republic of the Sudan and South Sudan.

2 Scope of work

Conflict Dynamics is seeking to recruit an Intern to support several strands of the organization’s work on political accommodation in Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and other contexts. The Intern will work with the Conflict Dynamics team to achieve the following objectives identified for this portfolio:

I. To explore and generate technical options for political accommodation in the Republic of the Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, and other contexts;

II. To develop overall frameworks and indicators on governance structures, political accommodation, and peacebuilding in transitioning states;

III. To ‘feed in’ these technical options and tools to local and international stakeholders;

IV. To facilitate a limited but targeted dialogue on political accommodation with key interlocutors.

In pursuit of these objectives the Intern will:

1. Perform policy-oriented research on models of governance in a range of pre-identified case studies and contexts to inform technical options for political accommodation in the Republic of the Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia;

2. Compile literature reviews on issues related to political transitions, governance models, and political accommodation;

3. Assist in compiling and analyzing quantitative data on governance and economic indicators for relevant contexts;
4. Assist in the development of material for Conflict Dynamics’ website pertaining to the program;
5. Assist in preparing for events and staff travel pertaining to the project;
6. Other tasks as directed.

3 Location, duration and level of effort

The Intern will work on site at the Conflict Dynamics office in Cambridge, MA. The Internship will begin in May 2012 and terminate in late August (with the possibility for extension through fall semester 2012). The Intern will be expected to work a minimum of 2.0 days (16 hours) per week during that period. The Intern will receive a modest stipend and must have prior authorization to work in the United States.

4 Reporting and management

The Intern will work directly with Conflict Dynamics’ intern supervisor and other staff as necessary.

5 Qualifications / experience

The following qualifications and expertise are indicated for the Internship:

- Bachelor or Graduate (Doctorate/Masters’) degree in progress or completed in international relations; political science; law; or related social science field;
- Some experience working on issues relating to conflict resolution, peacebuilding, political frameworks or other relevant areas;
- Excellent analytical, qualitative and quantitative research skills;
- Excellent organizational and presentational skills;
- Ability to work independently in a fast-paced environment;
- Excellent communication skills, with strong writing skills [in English];
- Experience working on/researching governance and other issues pertaining to the Republic of the Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, and/or other states in transition desirable;
- Working knowledge of Arabic desirable;
- Commitment to Conflict Dynamics’ mission and ethos.

6 Application procedure

Applicants should send a cover letter and Resume/CV by email to internship@cdint.org. Applications will be taken on a rolling basis until the position is filled. The cover letter/email should reference ‘Intern: Governance and Peacebuilding’ position. Shortlisted candidates will be required to provide a recent writing sample and the names of three references.

** NOTE: ONLY SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CONTACTED **