Presenting a
NEW HANDBOOK on
Land and Conflict Prevention

Thursday 24 November 2011, Time 13:00 to 14:30pm
European Peacebuilding Liaison Office, Rue Belliard 205, 1040 Brussels

Brownbag lunch

The last decade has seen growing recognition of the major role played by competition for land in generating conflict. Unequal or insufficient access to land as a source of sustainable livelihoods, insecurity of tenure, and increasing marginalisation of landless poor are often structural causes of conflict. Displacement, eviction, the destruction of homes and property, and post-conflict returns and resettlement can precipitate violence and instability. Effective management of these and related dynamics is essential as demands multiply, resources diminish and competition increases.

IQd has the pleasure to invite you to the launch of a new handbook on *Land and Conflict Prevention* which presents approaches and alternatives for managing tensions over land, resources and property which left unaddressed may lead to violent conflict. Intended as an accessible and practical 'how to' guide, the handbook provides step-by-step guidance for conflict prevention actors in finding the space for legal, institutional and policy reform in the land sector, and promoting just and workable solutions that are in line with international standards and effective practices. It sets out process-oriented measures which can help manage conflict and buy valuable time, as well as options for substantive responses that are crucial to address the underlying fundamental needs and grievances which can lead to conflict. Guidance is also provided in selecting approaches and developing strategies for encouraging and influencing change and in recognising and exploiting critical windows of opportunity for defusing tensions and promoting peace.

The handbook’s authors will highlight essential information, procedural guidance and key messages for the prevention, mitigation and resolution of land-related conflicts. IQd’s Senior Adviser will outline key features of IQd’s unique approach to preventing violent conflict.

Dr. John W. Bruce, principal author, is a land specialist with experience in over fifty developing countries. Formerly a Director of the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s Land Tenure Center, he has served as Senior Legal Counsel (Land Law) and a Senior Land Tenure Specialist for the World Bank and now consults on land policy and law for development agencies.

Sally Holt has worked for over 10 years in the fields of security, development and human rights. She oversees development of IQd’s *Conflict Prevention Handbook Series* (available at: www.iqdiplomacy.org)

John Packer is IQd’s Senior Adviser and Professor of International Law and Director of the Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex, UK. He is a frequent consultant advising governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations on matters of peace and security, conflict prevention and resolution, diversity management, and human rights.

Event co-organisers and sponsors: The event is organised by EPLO in cooperation with IQd with the generous support of the United States Agency for International Development

Handbook Sponsor: UK Department for International Development