Purpose and Goal

The main goal of the conference is to discuss the importance and the potential of archives of so-called transitional justice mechanisms in broader dealing with the past processes. The experience of the last years with regard to archives of truth seeking mechanisms, such as truth or investigation commissions as well as judicial institutions, for instance international, hybrid and national tribunals, has shown that a lack of archival policies often leads to badly maintained archives, lack of access and little or no use in further transition processes. Only recently, archives of such transitional justice institutions are seen as an important part of their legacy. We would like to discuss questions regarding how archives of transitional justice mechanisms can be used in order to be part of a holistic dealing with the past strategy; how their archival policies should look like in order to meet this aim; what is the societal and political impact of such archives and what resources are required to make proper use of such archives with regard to maintenance, description, access and outreach.

Please register until Monday, 13 May 2013 with: alexandra.pfefferle@swisspeace.ch.
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For further information see: http://archivesproject.swisspeace.ch/.

The venue is located 2 min. from the main railway station in Berne.
PROGRAM

8:30 Arrival and registration

9.00 Welcome Note Mô Bleeker, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

9.15 Key Note Archives of transitional justice mechanisms – an important legacy of transitional justice or irrelevant records to be locked away?
Yasmin Sooka, Executive Director of the Foundation for Human Rights, South Africa, and former member of the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions in South Africa and Sierra Leone

10.00 Coffee Break

10.30 Expert Panel I What is needed to make archives meaningful in a legacy of transitional justice mechanisms?
Nerma Jelacic, Head of Communications, International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia
Binta Mansaray, Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (tbc)
Mactar Ndoye, Rule of Law, Equality and Non-Discrimination Branch, Research and Right to Development Division, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

12:30 Lunch break

14:00 Presentation swisspeace research on the use and role of archives of truth commissions, Briony Jones and Sandra Rubli, swisspeace

14:30 Expert Panel II: Best practice or worst case scenarios? Preservation, use, access and outreach of Dealing with the Past archives. Some case studies
Catherine Kennedy, Director, South African History Archive (SAHA)
Patricia Tappatá de Valdez, Head of the directorate for relations with civil society organisations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina, former director of Memoria Abierta
Patrick Walsh, Senior Advisor to the Timor Leste Truth and Reconciliation Commission – CAVR – and to the Post-CAVR Technical Secretariat

15:45 Coffee Break

16:15 Expert Panel III: Possibilities of cooperation between different dealing with the past mechanisms and their archives
Jean-Luc Blondel, Head of the Archives and Information Management Division of the International Committee of the Red Cross
Trudy Huskamp Peterson, Archivist, President of the Human Rights Working Group of the International Council on Archives
Serge Rumin, Deputy Head, Task Force Dealing with the Past and Prevention of Atrocities, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
Vesna Teršelič, Director von Documenta, Croatia

17:30 Closing remarks Elisabeth Baumgartner, Head of Dealing with the Past Program, swisspeace

17.45 Reception