



DPI Roundtable Meeting: “Conflict, Crisis and the Role of the Media”

Carried out with the kind assistance of the National Endowment for Democracy and the Swiss Federal

Department for Foreign Affairs

18-20 November 2016, Geneva, Switzerland

Summary Report

The following is a summary of the discussions that took place during DPI’s recent Roundtable meeting in Switzerland, which comprised a series of talks that took place in Geneva, from 18 to 20 November 2016. The visit focussed on addressing the topic of ‘Conflict, Crisis and the Role of Media’. It explored this question in the context of the experience of conflict resolution in other comparable locations, such as Northern Ireland and Colombia, from the perspective of speakers who represented at the time the government, media and the UN.

The Roundtable meeting was attended by 11 senior journalists from a broad spectrum of mass-media in Turkey, including left-wing, right-wing, liberal and Kurdish platforms, alongside representatives from the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. The group of journalists was

highly diverse and represented both mainstream media as well as opposition media. They included Ali Bayramoğlu, a senior journalist and commentator associated with pro-government publications as well as Al-Monitor, Fehim Işık, a senior Kurdish journalist, author and political commentator, and Balçiçek İter, a primetime broadcaster and noted journalist for HaberTürk and HaberTürk TV, Nagehan Alçi, columnist at Milliyet and political commentator for CNN Türk amongst others, Avni Özgürel, a senior commentator for several highly prestigious platforms, and Cansu Çamlıbel, a senior journalist with Hürriyet and on the Editorial Board of the significant Doğan Media Group. The cohort was comprised of these and other preeminent figures in the media, representing platforms as diverse as Al Jazeera International, BBC Turkish Service, Hürriyet, Milliyet, and Cumhuriyet. The full list of participants is attached in Annex 1.

This was the first opportunity for the journalists to meet following the failed attempted coup of 15 July 2016, underscoring the timeliness and significance of this event. As well as the direct beneficiaries (the participating media representatives), the knowledge generated and exchanged at this activity will contribute to the journalism of each participant's platforms and thus influence the public discourse around democracy and peace building. With such a broad spectrum of newspapers and other outlets represented, the demographics that will have contact either as colleagues or as a readership or audience of the participants is great and varied. In this way, this activity helped to renew interest in the role of media in conflict

Speakers during the visit included Tom Kelly, UK and Irish media commentator and former Spokesperson for Prime Minister Tony Blair, Owen Bowcott, former commentator on Ireland and current legal affairs correspondent at The Guardian and James LeMoyne, Former UN Special Representative to the Secretary-General on Colombia, and war correspondent. DPI's CEO Kerim Yildiz also addressed the participants, giving introductory comments regarding what the Roundtable intended to achieve and what questions were being collectively faced today by journalists,

columnists and media representatives. He also offered fuller remarks on the imperative of freedom of expression in democracy and the crucial role played by a responsible, fair and free media.

DPI's activities are consistently held under the Chatham House Rule. In the interest of transparency, a full transcript of the October 2016 roundtable meeting is available to the public. Please contact info@democraticprogress.org for further information.

The event was live tweeted at DPI_UK, with active engagement from both the journalists present as well as members of the public. A number of articles have been published in the week following the roundtable. We anticipate several other articles and comment pieces in upcoming weeks, as well as televised discussion of the matters that were raised. Other research papers on the subject of conflict resolution, and all previous DPI activity reports, can be found on the Institute's website: www.democraticprogress.org.



Some DPI Participants in front of the Ecumenical Institute in Bogis-Bossey, near Geneva

Context: Dialogue and exchange following a major crisis

This activity took place during an extraordinary time in Turkey's political climate. Following the attempted military coup in July 2016, Turkey has introduced new legal measures in relation to the media. Polarisation throughout society consequently remains high, and the role of an open and independent media is more crucial than ever. Amidst this demanding environment, the Kurdish resolution process remains on hold.

At this significant juncture in Turkey's history, in order for dialogue to resume there is a need for confidence building measures across the Turkish society. Based on the pluralistic principle of democracy, it is only expected that democratic progress should be supported not only by the international community establishing a dialogue on these issues with their counterparts in government, but also by enabling the collaboration and combined efforts of different parts of society, including mass-media. Building platforms for international comparative knowledge exchange has proven to be an effective way to tackle complex issues and DPI's experience in organising multi-stakeholder round tables on conflict resolution and peacebuilding issues has proven to be a fruitful approach to collective, creative problem solving and learning.

DPI accordingly identified the need for a platform for relevant dialogue and discussion. Thus, this was the first Roundtable held exclusively with Media Representatives, a group which included columnists, television broadcasters and other writers and reporters, since the thwarted military coup of July 2016. At this crucial time for the press in Turkey, it was deemed important to have a focused Roundtable only on the role of the media in times of conflict and the opportunities for media in conflict resolution. The meetings that took place during this two-day conference in Switzerland focused on the ways in which the mass media can play a role in peace processes, especially when the corps of journalists is facing significant difficulties and extraordinary circumstances.

The participants, representing a diverse range of mass media outlets (newspapers, TV, mainstream and non-traditional media) were given the opportunity to meet in a neutral environment, away from the political climate within Turkey. A suitable location was chosen just outside Geneva, which ensured that the participants were secluded in each other's company, thus generating fruitful discussion through proximity and focus. In bringing the journalists away together, they were brought into close proximity for the duration of the activity, a situation conducive to ongoing conversations and discussion, which helped to build a constructive network going forward. Together, the participants could learn from the many experiences of the Irish and conflicts and peace processes in South Africa, the Philippines and South America (Colombia, El Salvador). DPI operates on principles of continuity and consistency and thus draws on its extensive experience of international conflicts to enrich discussions about conflict resolution. It also allowed delegates to express diverging perspectives regarding their own situation in a frank and open manner. The ambiguities associated with the role of the media in the comparative peace processes presented, as well as the long cycles of failure that peace processes go through, were recognised and discussed in relation to Turkey's resolution process today. Through the discussion, best practices were identified and evaluated, and participants considered the practical ways to implement the tools and solutions indicated by the examples from other countries.



DPI Participants in the Conference Room of the Ecumenical Institute in Bogis-Bossey, near Geneva

'The temptation of governments, particularly if they are running a peace process, is to get sanctimonious. You are on the side of the angels, everyone stopping you is not on the side of the angels. The reality is that they [journalists] may be criticising you because they are ideologues, because they are viscerally opposed, but equally they could be opposing you because they are asking legitimate questions which need to be answered.' – Tom Kelly, former Spokesperson for Prime Minister Tony Blair

The meeting related to the participants how the media interacted with the government and the UN in contexts other than their own, for example in Northern Ireland and Colombia. In addition, this visit maintained a focus on a pluralistic perspective of discourse, analysing the specific challenges and experiences of different sides of the stakeholders in the Northern Ireland as well as the Columbian conflict and others, and their respective subsequent peace processes. Each speaker drew on their respective expertise in relation to journalism and governance to provide a variety of perspectives on how media can function effectively through conflict and conflict resolution.

Prior to convening this Roundtable, DPI has consistently worked to raise awareness about the role of media in peace processes. Some of the previous Roundtables that included media representatives are outlined below, for reference:

- “The Role of Media in Conflict”, Istanbul, Turkey, 28 April 2012
- “Why Civil Society and Conflict Resolution?”, Istanbul, Turkey, 6 April 2013
- “The Relationship between State and Media and its Effect on Conflict Resolution”, Mardin, Turkey, 29 June 2013
- “The Role of Language, Identity and the Media in Conflict Resolution”, Istanbul, Turkey, 8 November 2014
- “Getting a Process back on Track”, Ankara, Turkey, 3 October 2015

The single focus on the role of the media has enabled in-depth discussions about the responsibilities of both the mainstream and the opposition media in conflict as well as the role of governments. The Roundtable in Geneva expanded the scope for dialogue on issues and challenges relevant to Turkey today.

The evening before the first Roundtable discussion, a dinner was informally hosted by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs to welcome participants and introduce them to the topic of the conference. At this dinner reception, the theme of the role of the media was first introduced and addressed. Kerim Yildiz, CEO of DPI, gave an introductory address that set out the intended agenda

for the upcoming days of Roundtable discussion and how the activity fit into the work and objectives of DPI. The second day included a full schedule with three speakers and moderated question and answer sessions, while the third day was dedicated to an internal evaluation which allowed the participants to express freely their opinions and insights elaborated during the conference. This format allowed participants to detach themselves from their own circumstances and critically assess similarities and differences between the conflicts and the everyday reality in Turkey.

Significantly, the distinguished guest speakers all had experiences either directly in peace negotiations and dialogue or in reporting on this topic. They included Tom Kelly, former Spokesperson for Prime Minister Tony Blair and James LeMoyné, Former UN Special Representative to the Secretary-General on Colombia who has been involved in related NGO work, while Owen Bowcott, currently legal affairs correspondent at The Guardian, recounted his experience as a journalist and commentator on the peace process in Northern Ireland. These three very different and rich perspectives enabled the articulation of a layered depiction of entry points for the media, from which to report with insight and accountability, in line with the duty of the journalist, which Mr Bowcott summarised as 'to tell the truth.'

These speakers provided participants with a more encompassing understanding of how different levels of society responded to, and were impacted by, both the conflict and the post-conflict political and social environment. These meetings highlighted to the Roundtable participants that a peace process necessitates the sustained participation and commitment of various different kinds of actors within a society to succeed.

Most importantly, the significance of staying the course, through the cycles of failure and success of peace processes, underscoring the alternating preparation and active phases of peace reporting, was salient throughout the conference and most relevant for the Turkish context. This focus accords with DPI programming regarding getting a process back on track, and participants expressed how the Roundtable had provided crucial models for a situation they had considered, in some cases, utterly

intractable. The participants were unanimous in expressing their desire to continue the dialogue across political positions and ensure that communication and information about the role of media, and the place of journalists, in challenging political climates, continued.



Roland Salvisberg, Head of Section Peace I at Human Security Division and Georg Stein, Mediation Adviser at Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, speaking at the first night reception

Media Roundtable Objectives

The DPI activities pursue the longer-term objective to identify common priorities and develop innovative approaches to participate in and influence the process of finding democratic solutions.

This round table had three objectives:

1. **To provide an inclusive platform for dialogue:** Following the general principle in the field of conflict resolution that being the voice of peaceful resolution does not only pertain to periods of ceasefire (contrary to what is believed) but it is especially relevant when conflicts return, this Roundtable focused particularly on learning from different conflict resolution cases. Although every conflict is unique, comparative models from around the world were expected to benefit the Turkish media members as they deal with the challenges facing the media after 15 July coup d'état attempt in Turkey. The importance of the media as an instrument for free speech and dialogue was central to this activity.
2. By bringing together representatives from key media outlets in Turkey, DPI aimed **to facilitate collaborative expertise sharing** by encouraging participants to focus their attention on commonalities with another conflicts, rather than their own differences, and explore potential solutions with conflict transformation experts who have practical experience. This was achieved in bringing examples of successful use of the media in other conflicts. It was further carried out by convening journalists from across the political spectrum to highlight their common concerns and experiences as well as encourage them to note how their experiences might diverge or parallel.
3. Establish **the constructive role of the media** in times of crisis. During 'times of trouble', the polarization in a society and the violence generally increases, but as evidenced by other peace processes, this can also open up opportunities and lay the foundation for a new start and new solutions. Learning and comparing with other cases broadens the bases for dialogue and will support the Turkish media members in their context. Through this activity, DPI sought to develop innovative approaches to participate in and influence the process of finding democratic solutions, in particular focalising this aim through the role of the media as a crucial institution in a flourishing democracy alongside a more nuanced examination of different elements of the corporate body of "the media" in the person of the different

journalists representing different platforms and political interests. Our work here was aided by the expert views provided by our speakers.

Themes

Key themes addressed throughout the roundtable include the need to frame the role of media in a positive way and use this transition period to prepare and broaden the bases of civic dialogue across society; violence and political dialogue was another key theme; the need for media to accompany the solution process was emphasised. Thus, a new focus on peace journalism would include issues of ethics of journalism, adopting a new vocabulary to reflect a new, multi-faceted and balanced way of reporting conflict. Also, the need for dialogue between the various mass-media was underscored, and not only journalists, but also citizen journalists and members of the public who use social media to communicate opinions about the peace process.

Following the attempted military coup in July, the government embarked on a programme of cleansing state organs of elements of the Gülenist movement. It was the opinion of some participants that this cleansing has extended to other groups within Turkey's civil society, in particular liberals and the Kurdish opposition, under charges of links to the PKK, and expressed concern about possible authority control of the media. Other participants expressed their support for the actions taken by the government under the circumstances. Dialogue around this matter looked to how this extraordinary time for Turkey should be used to prepare civil society for the resumption of peacebuilding negotiation. The place of the media for generating constructive discussion was stressed.

Other topics discussed include questions of leadership and political commitment in a peace process; the importance of privacy and secret negotiations; understanding the role of violence and political representation in Northern Ireland and Colombia; and the roles and relationship of the British and

Irish governments both in the context of the Northern Ireland peace process, and today. Significantly, given the results of the recent referendum in the United Kingdom, the potential implications of 'Brexit' on the Northern Irish peace agreement were also discussed tangentially in the context of borders, security and identity. The risk of the traditional divide in Northern Ireland to deepen as a consequence was put forth as an example of the fragility of peace and the potential for gains to be reversed in time.

Participants

The meeting was attended by a diverse group of journalists from Turkey. The participants represented a full spectrum of publications and broadcasting networks, including many highly prestigious platforms who are household names in Turkey.

The level of passion and commitment to the profession of journalism was palpable among participants, and throughout the conference there was a genuine sense of engagement and openness to reach across the divides through dialogue.

Lessons learned – the Northern Irish experience from a government perspective



Tom Kelly, former Spokesperson for Prime Minister Tony Blair introduced by the CEO of DPI, Kerim Yildiz

‘For a peace process to succeed, context has to be right, media is a vital ingredient in getting that context right. [In the Northern Ireland context,] media was an important driver in humanising attacks and bringing the conflict to a stalemate. Media increased the pressure for a ceasefire. Viewers became increasingly used to seeing anchors question the process and that gave them confidence to be involved in the debate.’ – Tom Kelly, former Spokesperson for Prime Minister Tony Blair

The meetings proved the important message that the situation in Turkey was not unique and without precedent and that other countries had overcome very similar circumstances. This provided

hope and encouragement to the participants to continue to work on issues and not to give up on democratisation as a goal. The embrace of possibility created more discussions in renewing the interest of journalists and others present in a process of conflict resolution supported by a robust media. This led to fuller understanding of the importance of media at this critical time and inculcated a sense of responsibility for supporting fellow journalists who might be affected by the political climate, fostering a deeper sense of shared experience among participants who had come to the Roundtable representing different views and perspectives.

Tom Kelly's speech brought hope for the peace process in Turkey, as evidenced by one of the Turkish journalists, live tweeting during the event. Firstly, the speaker framed the Northern Ireland conflict as apparently an insoluble problem at the time, chiefly because 'it touched both big and small parts of life', that were necessarily enforced by the media coverage and thus reverberating throughout society in endless circles of fear, anger and violence.

Mr Kelly postulated that 'Peace processes are a race between hope and fear,' and they fuel a slow process of realisation that 'hatred cannot be turned into consensus, but into a reluctant admission that the other side has a valid point of view.' He argued that the media cannot bring peace, but they can 'create the desire for peace.' A message that was echoed throughout the conference was that ultimately success or failure of the peace process does not rest with the media, but the members of the media are important stakeholders.

The issue of time was a key element of Mr Kelly's discourse. Thus, he maintained there is a tension between the desire to deliver peace quickly and the delicacy of going into the detail of negotiations, which take time.

Kerim Yildiz provided the focus on Turkey in relation to the intersection of media and conflict. Mr Yildiz spoke to the participants about the work of the Roundtable in bringing to light best practices with respect to media and conflict. He emphasised the role of comparative study and the lessons that can be drawn from previous examples regarding what needs to be done and how the media can

engage with the process of conflict through to conflict resolution, a situation predicated on the existence of a free media and the security of journalists to report. Mr Yildiz assured the participants that despite the challenges inherent in the current situation, DPI believes that the failed coup attempt has provided a new opportunity to discuss full democratisation with an inclusive approach to the resolution. He noted the integral role of freedom of expression in democracy and the immeasurable importance of the role media can play in broadening the base for democracy, telling the participants “it is possible to implement peace without democracy but not democracy without peace”. Mr Yildiz noted the need for democratic validation of peace processes in today’s world, and emphasised the essential position of the media in influencing civil society by engaging readers and audiences.



Participants actively listening to Tom Kelly and Kerim Yildiz

THE ROLE OF LEADERS

Mr Kelly's unique perspective from a government angle was refreshing, since it framed the role of leaders as fundamental for the peace process:

'You can't half-commit to a peace process, you have to fully commit. You have to be prepared to show that it is difficult. That you are putting your political career on the line.' – Tom Kelly, former Spokesperson for Prime Minister Tony Blair

Moreover, he reminded participants that signing a peace agreement is only the beginning, not the prize, and implementation is the actual difficult road that true leaders need to embark upon in a delicate balance of persuasion and negotiation that ultimately delivers the prize of lasting peace.

Interestingly, participants were keen to understand whether there was a Communications strategy that framed the peace negotiations and in a frank admission, Mr Kelly revealed that:

'There was no strategy. We made it up as we went along. My strategic advice to anybody else trying to work through a peace process is don't kid yourself. You cannot sit down and write how you're going to respond in Colombo, in Turkey, wherever. You have to absorb the local context. You have to know what your big picture goal is. You have to work through a zig-zag process. Keep trying to work through the big picture, but keep in mind the details of the little picture. Projects like peace processes take a long time to deliver. Morning after the GFA I was six weeks in my new job, got to work with the PM, I was very excited. I couldn't work out why it didn't feel better. The reason was because I thought I was going to be out of work a week later. Nine years later I left government, that's how long it takes.' – Tom Kelly, former Spokesperson for Prime Minister Tony Blair

The need for flexibility and commitment to the process as well as personal integrity and honesty in dialoguing with the media was an important lessons learned from the Northern Irish experience. Even though the intricacies of the communications plan were not revealed, it was made clear that negotiating behind closed doors is a vital ingredient of peace processes and in many cases the details are not accessible to the media. In many cases, if they were, the peace process might have been jeopardised. This reality in turn raises issues for the theme of journalism ethics and adhering to a way of reporting that keeps the integrity of the process of reporting but is also able to determine whether a certain peace of information is going to advance or indeed hamper the peace process, a recurrent discussion point throughout the meeting.



Owen Bowcott, former commentator on Ireland and current legal affairs correspondent at The Guardian and James LeMoyne, Former UN Special Representative to the Secretary-General on Colombia, and war correspondent, a panel moderated by Ali Bayramoğlu, Turkish senior journalist and commentator

The second section was framed from the perspective of journalists who report on conflict and interact with members in the conflict that raise moral dilemmas for the journalist.

Mr Bowcott replied with his own account of the experience of the Northern Ireland conflict from the perspective of a war journalist and provided a counterbalance to Mr Kelly's government communications perspective. He was able to show the range of ambiguity with which a journalist has to deal with in terms of vocabulary used, the type of news that the public has an appetite for at certain points in the process, the determination to stay with the process even when nothing seems to happen on the surface was key to unlocking the energy in the room and elicit insights from the Turkish journalists.

Mr Bowcott's point was echoed by other participants in terms of 'self-censorship', an effect of the current suppression of the media in Turkey that doesn't allow for ambiguity, but pushes reporting into black and white accounts. In an insightful follow up on this point, Mr Kelly concluded that *'People, by staying inside their comfort zones because of fear of being misunderstood, didn't actually ask the questions which ultimately had to be addressed to solve the problem.'*



DPI Participants actively engaging with Owen Bowcott and James LeMoynes

Following on, James LeMoyne, Former UN Special Representative to the Secretary-General on Colombia, and war correspondent, chose to speak off the record given his status as an active part in mediation and negotiation processes around the world. However, a pertinent series of questions to the group is rendered below, since it adequately depicts the constant internal battle that a journalist has to deal with during a peace process:

'I remember the strength of this encounter with what people call the 'other', the 'enemy', the 'alien'. When you write your next article, ask yourself, am I being fair? Am I telling the truth as best as I know it? Do I know sufficient information to say what I'm saying? Have I given the other the chance to answer their views? It's very easy to write propaganda. It's very easy to write one sided stories. It's harder to write balanced and informed news in a fair way.' James LeMoyne, Former UN Special Representative to the Secretary-General on Colombia, and war correspondent

In his speech, he also echoed Mr Kelly's opening statement about the protracted nature and fragility of peace processes:

'Peace efforts seem to go in a long cycle of failure. Remain open to at least the possibility of peace at some point. People can change. It is hard to believe at the moment of battle.' James LeMoyne, Former UN Special Representative to the Secretary-General on Colombia, and war correspondent



DPI participants at the Geneva Media Roundtable

Throughout the day, participants actively engaged with the speakers, in a bid to understand more about their personal experiences as well as potential lessons and insights that they could take away for their own situation. In the words of a participant, echoing the themes of the day:

'First of all, I would like to thank DPI. This is the first time I've attended such a meeting. I benefitted from Tom, James and Owen's points and I was really impressed. [...] There are many concepts to discuss. There is the issue of independence. What is a free press? What is independence? Is it independence from media bias? The relationship between media and violence is another issue. The relationship between professional ethics and sharing photos of massacres is something else to be discussed. The language of the news is another thing. Even in a so-called peace process, in the media

we didn't use peace language. The journalists were just trying to break news, and trying to catch up with the details. Sometimes we impeded on the privacy of the process, but I think there is a crisis in the transparency of processes. Journalists were more interested in details which had not been told to the public, they also wrote what is not good to be written, so they were sabotaged against certain processes. – DPI Participant, Geneva Roundtable



Conference Room Overview – Media Roundtable, Geneva

Creating a platform for continued dialogue

The Roundtable meetings incorporated an internal evaluation meeting, in which all of the participants shared their learnings and perspectives on the visit, and their plans for further developing and sharing the lessons learned.

Many questions focussed on the key themes: the need for peace journalism and a media that was directed towards conflict resolution; the need for a new peace terminology that is describing the ambiguities of the negotiating process; the need for a commonly shared ethics agenda for journalists that is adhered to and breaks the stalemate of ‘writing to please the editor or the owner of the newspaper.’

The criticality of the role of the media was unanimously underscored and also the benefit of having spent time together listening to insightful perspectives was praised. DPI’s work in the area was commended unanimously. Participants suggested the need to involve broader sections of society both inside Turkey and also expose Turkish participants to international experiences, such as the ones presented during this roundtable.

‘In Turkey, there is a media which needs to hear what these three guests said. Not even the mainstream but even the rest of the media needs to listen to this. We need a method for bringing them. In Turkey we are so dependent on the centre and the government, but I’ve not lost my hope. Even in the worst conditions, I am expecting something better.’ – DPI Participant

One participant spoke about the practical implications of the vocabulary used:

'The terminology we use, such as martyr gives holy status to the dead. We use 'those who lost their lives'. However, we were being criticised by both parties for the use of terminology – because for both parties these deaths were holy; we could not get any advertisement because of this.' – DPI Participant



DPI participants during the Internal Evaluation Meeting, Roundtable Day 2

Participants expressed concern regarding the decrease of the newspaper coverage, from 5 million copies to over one million and the focus of the governing party on TV as the main channel to share information. Many participants expressed their views regarding social media, some illustrating the freedom of such a platform and others raising the issue of arrests that had been undertaken because of tweeting or retweeting particular views deemed anti-establishment.

There was great appetite among participants to discuss the lessons of the solution process in Turkey and a desire for DPI to organise such meetings in Turkey and abroad, in order to reflect in a constructive manner on ways forward. The current period was dubbed as a period of ‘preparation’ for the media, a season in which certain fundamental issues such as ethics and terminology can be dealt with through the participation of various stakeholders in society, so that when the time comes and the process of negotiation is re-activated, the media is ready to report in a way that helps rather than hinders the solution process. The banner of peace journalism seemed to be widely embraced by participants, and the idea was put forward recurrently by participants throughout the meeting and recapped during the internal evaluation.

The moderator summarised these recurrent threads into the idea of creating a ‘balance sheet’ of the past in order to restart the peace process on a different footing. Reference was made to the previous day’s speakers who had urged the participants to think of readiness and preparation.



DPI participants, Internal Evaluation, Media Roundtable Day 2

Many participants showed concern for those detained by the authorities and further to journalists who had been incarcerated. Some spoke of journalists feeling at risk and leaving the country in order to be able to practice their vocation, while others saw the steps taken by the government as necessary and pragmatic. Across these divides, journalists expressed sympathy across the journalistic profession as a broader response to the activity, with journalists with opposing views indicated a new respect and desire for collaboration with their counterparts.



DPI participants during Internal Evaluation Meeting, Day 2

One of the participants called to realism and the importance of dialogue within and across the Turkish mass-media, and the involvement and exposure to international examples that can enrich the understanding of the situation in Turkey:

'We need to do these meetings for more participation. When that day comes, for being more prepared, we should do something. At least behind the scenes we can do something. There is no media in Turkey which can change the world, but even if all these works are minor we shouldn't lose our courage. How can we find partners from Turkey and from the world? We should look for ways to expand this participation.' – DPI Participant



DPI participants, Private Tour in Geneva, post-conference

Outcomes of the visit

The participants unanimously expressed their desire to continue communication among themselves beyond the visit, and are especially keen to continue to participate in DPI activities in this area.

The positive effects of this roundtable meeting are also visible through the publicity it has received. Participants actively reported the visit on social media, and a number of Turkish articles have also been published, which will be made available on the DPI website.

Several articles have already been published which discuss the Media Roundtable and the lessons that were drawn from the discussions and examples. Further articles and news features based on the discussions are expected in the aftermath of the Roundtable and DPI will monitor and endeavour to estimate their reach in follow up reports.

DPI hopes that this understanding and publicity will continue to engender further dialogue on key topics, beyond the visit and among Turkey's public in general, through the hard work of the journalists present, who face hardship and challenges to do their work in extraordinary circumstances.

As per the DPI regular practice, following the Roundtable a transcript of the discussions will be published in both English and Turkish and distributed to relevant individuals within Turkey and internationally. These transcripts serve as an important record of discussions and access to the information for a wider audience. They are also an important aspect of ensuring transparency.

In addition to the publication of the transcript DPI will produce briefings and full evaluations based following on from this activity.

Also, as we take the approach of ensuring that our work builds on that which has previously been carried out, we will ensure that the experience of this Roundtable will feed into future planning for future activities of DPI.

ANNEX 1: PARTICIPANT LIST

Name	Title and Affiliation
Ahmet İnel	Columnist at daily Cumhuriyet Newspaper, political commentator and academic
Ali Bayramođlu	Senior journalist, political commentator, academic, columnist at Al-Monitor
Avni Özgürel	Senior Journalist and publisher, Columnist at daily Yeni Birlik and political commentator for several TV channels including CNN Türk TV and NTV News
Ayşegül Dođan	Kurdish journalist and TV programmer for IMC TV
Balççek İlter	TV programmer at HaberTürk TV and Columnist at daily HaberTürk
Cansu Çamlıbel	Senior Journalist for daily Hürriyet and Hürriyet Daily News, Member of Editorial Board of Dođan Media Group, biggest media group in Turkey
Fehim Işık	Senior Kurdish journalist and author, columnist at daily Evrensel, political commentator for several Kurdish TV channels and leftist TV channels in Turkey , expert on Kurdish question in Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Syria
Mahmut Bozarslan	Senior journalist based in city of Diyarbakır and working for Voice of America Kurdish service and Al Jazeera International, contributor to BBC Turkish Service and columnist for Al-Monitor
Oral Calıslar	Senior journalist
Nagehan Alçı	Columnist at Daily Milliyet, political commentator on CNN Türk TV's programmes on local and international politics
Yeter Polat	İstanbul based news editor for BasNews, Kurdish media outlet based in Turkey