

PROPAZ

Culture of Dialogue: Development of Resources for Peacebuilding in Guatemala

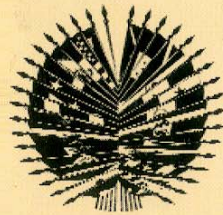
In September 1996, the OAS and the Government of Guatemala signed a framework agreement that formally initiated a Program of Support to the Peace Process in Guatemala. A key component of this comprehensive Program is "Culture of Dialogue: Development of Resources for Peacebuilding, OAS/PROPAZ".

FOR MORE INFORMATION regarding the OAS/PROPAZ Program in Guatemala or other UPD Programs contact:

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Or refer to www.oas.org/EN/PROG/UPD/OAS/PROPAZ

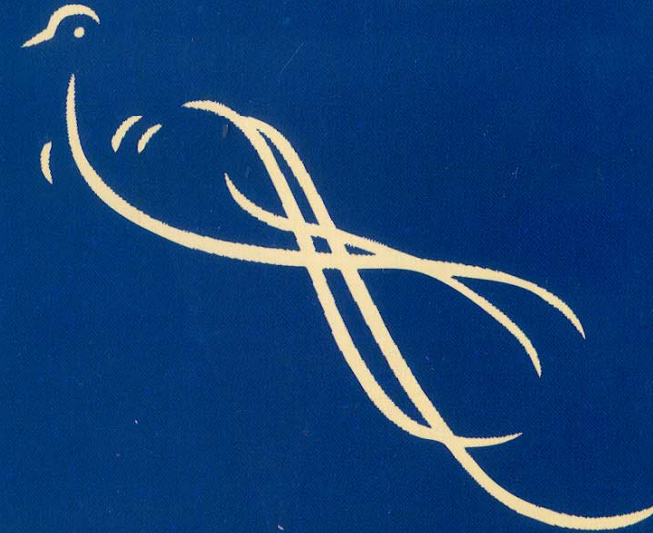


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PROPAZ

**Culture of Dialogue:
Development of Resources
for Peacebuilding
in Guatemala**



PROPAZ is a program of the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy (UPD) of the Organization of American States aimed at increasing government and civil society capacity to promote dialogue and the peaceful resolution of disputes.

Culture of Dialogue: Development of Resources for Peacebuilding

The general goal of the PROPAZ Program is to contribute to the creation of conditions and procedures that allow for a transition from confrontation towards a “culture of dialogue”. PROPAZ’s mission is to support the establishment of an infrastructure for peace-building, democratization and reconciliation in Guatemala. The specific objectives of the Program are:

- To strengthen the institutional capacity of government bodies to respond positively and effectively to problems that generate conflict.
- To strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to constructively deal with the problems that affect them.
- To support the creation or development of inter-sectoral mechanisms which facilitate the participation of State and civil society actors in a common search for solutions to key problems that affect Guatemalan society.
- To increase and strengthen the human resource capacity in Guatemala in third party facilitation, and the design and facilitation of multilateral negotiation processes.
- To share lessons learned, methodologies and learning materials of the PROPAZ experience with Guatemalans and international actors interested in peacebuilding.

Program Activities

To meet its various objectives, PROPAZ worked between 1996 and 1999 in three principal areas: inter-sectoral, zonal and training. In the inter-sectoral area the Program provided strategic support to key actors in government and civil society involved in developing institutional mechanisms to deal with national problems that generate social conflict. In the zonal area, PROPAZ contributed to strengthening local capacity to analyze and manage community problems that impede local development. PROPAZ concluded its field work in this area in 1999 and is now working to systematize the lessons learned and to produce didactic materials for general distribution. In the area of training, PROPAZ has contributed to strengthening national capacity in the design and facilitation of processes of dialogue and related peace-building skills.

Today, the OAS/PROPAZ program works in an integral manner offering technical assistance, facilitating processes of dialogue, training political actors, and accompanying processes and initiatives to promote dialogue, consensus-building and negotiations. The nature and scope of PROPAZ’s support activities varies according to the context and specific needs of the soliciting institutions and organizations.

PROPAZ provides process assistance, training and/or technical support in the following areas:

- Facilitation & accompaniment of processes
- Communication and dialogue
- Conflict analysis and transformation
- Consensus-building
- Negotiation (includes preparation & planning for negotiation)
- Mediation and conciliation
- Design of multilateral processes
- Systems design approach/Designing processes for managing disputes
- Organizational strengthening/Fundamentals of strategic planning
- Training of facilitators

Achievements

- In 1999, through the OAS/PROPAZ School of Advanced Studies, Guatemalan professionals have received training in the design and facilitation of processes to promote dialogue and inter-sectoral cooperation. These professionals came from the government and civil society sectors.
- From 1996-1999, PROPAZ trained and provided technical assistance to numerous organizations representing indigenous, peasant and displaced communities, as well as to various government agencies that deal with land-related issues.
- In 1998 PROPAZ provided assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture to develop a rapid response system for dealing with crisis stemming from land disputes and to develop a strategy for public policy discussions with civil society on agrarian and land-related issues.
- From 1997-1998, PROPAZ trained inspectors at the School of Advanced Studies in Conciliation and Mediation of the Ministry of Labor, furthering the use of mediation and mediation techniques to resolve labor disputes.
- From 1997-1998, PROPAZ supported a process to build consensus among the members of the Joint Commission on Land Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- From 1998-1999, PROPAZ facilitated the training of community leaders from eleven communities in the municipality of Rabinal and supported a process to build a network of community conciliators.
- In 1997 PROPAZ provided support to the Rafael Landívar University by training staff at the Institute for Conflict Analysis & Transformation where they continue to offer this type of training to others.
- In 1998 PROPAZ provided assistance to the Ministry of Justice/Commission on Reform in the design of community mediation centers.

PROPAZ and its counterparts

PROPAZ works with a wide variety of national and local actors referred to by the Program as counterparts. Between 1996 and 1999, PROPAZ has primarily supported government and civil society actors working at the national and municipal level in critical areas of conflict relating to land, labor, displaced communities, educational reform and citizen participation.

PROPAZ Counterparts

Governmental sector

- Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA)
- Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (MTPS)
- Land Trust Fund - FONTIERRA
- Executive Office for Legal Aid & Resolution of Land Conflicts – CONTIERRA
- Local government and assistant mayors in the Municipality of Rabinal
- National Surveying & Land Registry Program

Civil society sector

- Standing Committee on Indigenous Rights to Land of the Mayan Peoples’ Coordinating Council of Guatemala (CNPT/COPMAGUA)
- National Coordinating Council of Peasant Organizations (CNOC)
- Forum of Non-governmental Organizations

Inter-sectoral counterparts

- Joint Commission on the Land Rights of Indigenous People (COPART)
- Roundtable Initiative for the Resolution of Land Disputes in Alta Verapaz
- Municipal Council for Urban & Rural Development of the Municipality of Ixcán (COMUDUR)

What is the UPD?

The Unit for the Promotion of Democracy (UPD) is the principal body within the General Secretariat of the OAS responsible for activities in support of democratic consolidation in the Member States. The Unit was created to provide advisory services and support to the Member States to strengthen their democratic institutions and practices.