

**The Peacebuilding Support Office is pleased to invite you to a Brownbag lunch discussion on:**

**Challenges of Inclusivity in Mediation and Peacebuilding: Lessons from Iraq, South Sudan and Syria**

with

**Dr. Daisaku Higashi, Professor at Sophia University in Tokyo**

on Thursday 20 June 2019, 1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

in Room FF-778 (304 East 45<sup>th</sup> Street)

Feel free to share this invitation with colleagues.

It has been widely recognized that inclusive national ownership is one of the most critical determinants in achieving sustainable peace (see, e.g., Report of the Advisory Group of Experts, “The Challenge of Sustaining Peace,” June 2015). The twin General Assembly and Security Council Resolutions (70/262 and 2282, respectively), adopted on 27 April 2016, and the Secretary-General’s report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, released on 18 January 2018, also emphasized that “inclusivity is key to advancing national peacebuilding processes.” While there is a consensus on the importance of inclusivity in peacebuilding, translating this principle into practice is an ongoing challenge for the United Nations, international organizations, and national governments. This event aims to facilitate discussions by different actors on how to promote inclusive national processes, especially with the support of UN peacebuilding efforts and projects. Dr. Daisaku Higashi will share the key findings of his field research over the last several years on the questions of inclusivity in both peace negotiations and peacebuilding in Iraq, South Sudan and Syria. He will explore the challenges and different natures of inclusivity in mediation under military conflicts and in peacebuilding, referencing his recent visits to Iraq, South Sudan and Turkey (about Syria) in February and March 2019. He will also discuss how inclusive processes in peacebuilding can be strengthened by the support of the UN and its projects.

Dr. Daisaku Higashi is a professor at Sophia University in Tokyo, specializing in mediation, peacebuilding, and international relations. From 1993 to 2004 he worked for NHK, Japan Public TV station, as a program director and produced numerous TV documentaries. He then completed his PhD in political science at the University of British Columbia in Canada. He consulted on Afghan policies with government officials in Japan and the United States, including in support of a new reconciliation mechanism in Afghanistan, which was adopted by the Japanese government in its Afghan strategy announced in November 2009. He worked for the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) from December 2009 to December 2010 as a team leader for reconciliation and reintegration. In January 2011, he started working for the University of Tokyo as an associate professor. He also served as a Minister-Counsellor in the Permanent Mission of Japan to the UN from August 2012 to August 2014, with the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) in his portfolio. He returned to the University of Tokyo in August 2014. He transferred to a tenured position at the Center for Global Education at Sophia University in April 2016. His publications include *Human Security and Peacebuilding* (Nihon Hyoronsha 2017) and *Challenges of Constructing Legitimacy in Peacebuilding: Afghanistan, Iraq, Sierra Leone and East Timor* (Routledge 2015).