

The Second Cycle of the BMW Foundation Global Table  
2016/2017

# Concept Note

## Rethinking Governance

**German Foreign Minister Frank Walter Steinmeier emphasized that crises have become the ‘new normal’ and that this situation will remain so for the foreseeable future. Europe is surrounded by conflicts: from Ukraine to the MENA region and to large parts of Sub-Saharan Africa. As the total of forcibly displaced persons has reached a new worldwide record high of more than 60 million, Europe has become the destination of exceptionally large numbers of refugees and migrants. In the light of this scenario, we want to rethink concepts for preventing conflicts and rebuilding societies.**

One of the key findings from the first cycle of the BMW Foundation Global Table on Resource Security and Shared Responsibility was that most conflicts can be traced back to either poor or no local and regional governance. The majority of international interventions have failed to build sustainable peace. What are the lessons learned? We want to discuss how the international community can better fulfill its responsibility to protect. At the same time, we need to understand how the affected communities can be supported in rebuilding their nation.

What are the essential elements for ensuring ‘good enough governance’ as a basis for sustainable structures in failed, failing, or fragile states? What are the key areas in which the international community needs to exercise its responsibility to protect? What are the preconditions for the successful cooperation between international players and local communities?

By considering the legitimate interests of all relevant stakeholders, and in particular the pivotal role of local actors for providing stability in their communities, we want to identify realistic arrangements for an inclusive kind of decision-making, aimed at robust and sustainable solutions.

The BMW Foundation Global Table provides an alternative space for establishing trust and tapping into areas of convergence between Europe and the emerging powers. Our approach is to bring together young and experienced leaders from politics, business, academia, civil society, and the media, because we believe that cross-sector cooperation is the most comprehensive and successful way of finding solutions. Via frank and meaningful dialogue, we want to raise awareness for the importance of shared responsibility in regard to addressing global governance challenges. We seek to identify common national and regional interests and to transform them into policy recommendations that can be adapted for formal decision-making processes and multilateral negotiations.

The first cycle of the BMW Foundation Global Table addressed issues of resource security and shared responsibility. It concluded with the 1st Berlin Global Forum in November 2015.