



Transforming Conflict into Opportunity Through Innovation and Sustainability in Nigeria.

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Abstract

The study examined how conflict can be turned into opportunities for innovation and sustainable development in social, organisational, political, and environmental settings. It examined stakeholders' perceptions, experiences, and strategies for managing conflict and turning it into productive outcomes. A qualitative approach was taken, employing thematic analysis to interpret the data obtained from secondary qualitative sources such as scholarly journals, sustainability reports, case studies, and the literature on peacebuilding. The study was based on Conflict Transformation Theory. The findings indicated that if conflicts are managed in a constructive manner they can lead to creativity, institutional reform, and sustainable innovation. The study found that key themes such as inclusive governance and collaboration, sustainability-oriented innovation, digital innovation, and conflict transformation are essential mechanisms for converting conflict into opportunity. Furthermore, the analysis demonstrated that innovation-driven methods, for example digital communication systems, green technology, and collaborative policymaking, make a significant contribution to conflict transformation and to long-term societal resilience. The study concluded that sustainability-oriented innovation offers practical solutions for tackling structural inequalities, environmental crises, and governance failures which are often the causes of conflict. It recommends that governments increase their investment in innovation and sustainable development programmes and that policymakers incorporate sustainability principles into their conflict management strategies.

Keywords: Conflict, Innovation, Opportunity, Sustainability, Transformation

Introduction

Conflict is an inevitable part of human interaction and of social life and arises in families, organizations, communities, and nations as a result of differences in interests, values, beliefs, goals, and access to resources. In the past, conflict has generally been linked with violence, destruction, social instability, and economic decline. Yet recent advances in the fields of peace and sustainability show that conflict can also lead to opportunities for social transformation, innovation, institutional reform, and sustainable development provided that it is handled in an appropriate way. Conflict transformation may be understood as a process which does not simply involve settling disputes but also tackles the underlying causes of conflict while fostering long-term social change, reconciliation, and reform of institutions. de Gooyert et al. (2024) stress that engaging constructively with conflict can lead to innovation, creativity, and resilience. West et al. (2024) claim that societal tensions and crises can act as catalysts for systemic change and for adaptive governance. Innovation plays a significant role in turning conflict into an opportunity. It refers to the creation and implementation of new ideas, technologies, policies, and systems intended for overcoming social, economic, environmental, and political challenges. In societies prone to conflict, innovation helps to promote peacebuilding, collaborative governance, social inclusion, and economic recovery. Sustainability-oriented innovation has become an important means of enhancing resilience and achieving long-term transformation. On the other hand, sustainability means meeting the needs of society today without undermining the needs of future generations. Sustainable development combines economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection. Today's major

global challenges, such as climate change, environmental degradation, resource scarcity, poverty, unemployment, and political instability, are among the factors that cause conflict. Sustainable innovation thus offers strategic routes for tackling these fundamental causes of conflict while at the same time creating opportunities for development and resilience. The present study therefore looks at how conflict can be turned into an opportunity through innovation and sustainability.

Concept Clarification

Conflict is a social phenomenon which occurs when individuals, groups, organisations or nations see a lack of compatibility in their interests, values, objectives, beliefs, needs or access to resources. It is a natural part of human interaction since people and societies differ in their opinions, expectations, priorities and cultural orientations. The form that conflict takes may be verbal disagreements, political struggles, social tensions, violent confrontations or institutional disputes, depending on the character and intensity of the disagreement. Conflict is not by nature destructive; instead, the results of it are mostly determined by the way it is handled and transformed (Ramsbotham et al., 2023). It can be found at a number of levels within society, such as the interpersonal, organisational, community, national and international levels. Interpersonal conflict happens between individuals as a result of differences in personality, communication or interests. Organisational conflict develops within workplaces or institutions over questions of power, leadership, responsibilities or the distribution of resources. Community and national conflicts usually see social groups competing for political representation, economic opportunities, cultural recognition or environmental resources. International conflicts arise between states or global actors over territorial disputes, economic interests, ideological differences or geopolitical influence (Jeong, 2021). The present study focuses on political, environmental and ethnic conflict because of the important effect that they have on innovation, governance and sustainable development.

Political Conflict

Political conflict may be seen as consisting of struggles caused by competition for political power, control of governance and policy, leadership posts, or differences in ideology within a society. It is usually linked with electoral disputes, corruption, marginalisation, weak institutions, authoritarian rule, and unequal participation in decision-making. In a great many developing countries, political conflict leads to instability, violence, economic decline, and social fragmentation. On the other hand, if it is handled in a constructive way, political conflict can also lead to democratic reforms, institutional restructuring, policy innovation, and greater civic participation (Miall, 2024).

Environmental Conflict

Environmental disputes arise due to competition over natural resources such as land, water, forests, minerals, and energy. Worldwide, environmental conflicts have become more severe as a result of climate change, environmental degradation, desertification, pollution, and the scarcity of resources. People who are affected by ecological crises frequently experience displacement, food insecurity, poverty, and social tension. At the same time, environmental conflicts have also led to sustainable innovation, climate adaptation strategies, the development of renewable energy, and cooperative environmental governance. Sustainability scholars claim that ecological crises can trigger adaptive governance and institutional change (Patterson et al., 2024).

Ethnic Conflict

Ethnic conflict arises among groups that see themselves as belonging to the same group because of common language, culture, religion, ancestry, or a shared historical identity. It is often caused by discrimination, social exclusion, unequal political representation, old grievances, and competition for economic or territorial resources. Such conflicts may lead to violence, forced migration, and a breakdown of social cohesion. Yet, if they are handled through dialogue, reconciliation, inclusive governance, and peacebuilding efforts, ethnic conflict can promote social integration, institutional reform, multicultural cooperation, and national unity (Jeong, 2021). Even though conflict is usually linked with violence, insecurity, and instability, modern conflict transformation theories highlight its potential benefits. When managed in a constructive way, conflict can encourage innovation, creativity, social awareness, institutional reform, and resilience. The kinds of social tensions and crises that occur often cause individuals, organisations, and governments to come up with new methods of dealing with governance, technology, sustainability, and collaboration. Moreover, sustainability transformation research claims that conflict can create opportunities for systemic change, adaptive governance, and long-term development provided that inclusive participation and innovative problem-solving strategies are employed (West et al., 2024).

Conflict Transformation

Conflict transformation is a broad and long-term process which aims to fundamentally alter the underlying relationships, structures, and systems that lead to violent or destructive conflict. Instead of just settling disputes or arriving at temporary agreements, it is intended to tackle root causes such as inequality, exclusion, injustice and institutional weakness. It therefore goes beyond the results of surface-level negotiations in order to promote sustainable peace by bringing about structural and relational changes (Ramsbotham et al., 2023). At its heart, conflict transformation sees conflict as both a challenge and an opportunity for positive social change and it assumes that conflicts are not fixed events but rather dynamic processes which can take on either destructive or constructive developments depending on how they are handled. In this way, conflict transformation is not only concerned with ending violence but also with rebuilding relationships, reforming institutions and encouraging cultures of peace and cooperation (Jeong, 2021). There is a key difference between conflict resolution and conflict transformation. Conflict resolution mainly concentrates on reaching mutually acceptable solutions to immediate disputes, usually by means of negotiation, mediation or arbitration. Although it is effective in dealing with specific issues, it does not always deal with the deeper structural conditions that caused the conflict in the first place. Conflict transformation, by contrast, works to change the wider social, political and economic systems which sustain conflict, thus making peace more durable and inclusive (Lederach, 2014). From a transformative point of view, sustainable peace requires more than simply the absence of violence; it also requires the presence of justice, equity and inclusive governance. This means looking at and overcoming forms of structural violence such as poverty, discrimination, political marginalisation and unequal access to resources. Conflict transformation therefore incorporates social justice principles, human rights frameworks and participatory governance mechanisms into peacebuilding (Miall, 2024). Recent studies on sustainability transformation have further broadened the understanding of conflict transformation by stressing the importance of collaborative governance and relational approaches. Collaborative governance involves a number of stakeholders, including governments, civil society, private sector actors and local communities, working together to jointly develop solutions to complex social and environmental problems. This approach increases trust, transparency and shared responsibility for peacebuilding processes (West et al., 2024). Moreover, research focused on sustainability points out that conflict transformation is closely connected to systemic change and adaptive governance. Societies that are facing environmental and socio-political crises tend to develop new governance structures, innovative policies and adaptable institutions as a response to the pressures of conflict. In this way, conflict can act as a catalyst for innovation and for transitions towards sustainability when it is managed in a constructive manner (Patterson et al., 2024). In practice, conflict transformation includes a number of important processes such as dialogue facilitation, reconciliation, capacity building, institutional reform and the development of inclusive policies. These processes are intended to strengthen social cohesion, increase trust and build resilient institutions that are able to manage future conflicts peacefully. In the end, conflict transformation strives to create societies in which justice, sustainability and peace are mutually reinforcing rather than opposing goals.

Innovation and Sustainability

Innovation involves the systematic development and the application of new ideas, methods, technologies, practices, or systems in order to improve the way society functions and to enhance human well-being. It is generally seen as a major factor in development since it allows societies to deal effectively with complex and changing problems such as poverty, inequality, environmental degradation, and conflict (OECD/Eurostat, 2018). In current academic discussion, innovation is not any longer regarded simply as a technological process but is considered to be a multidimensional phenomenon that is part of social, institutional, and environmental systems. Sustainability-oriented innovation builds on this wider perspective by focusing on solutions which at the same time advance environmental protection, social inclusion, and economic resilience. Unlike traditional innovation, which might place a priority on efficiency or profit alone, sustainability-oriented innovation incorporates long-term ecological balance, equity, and systemic resilience into the process of innovation. This kind of approach is especially appropriate in situations affected by conflict or in fragile contexts, where existing structural inequalities, governance difficulties, and the lack of resources call for integrated and adaptable solutions (Adams et al., 2016). In the fields of sustainability and peacebuilding, innovation is becoming more and more acknowledged as a powerful force capable of transforming institutions, promoting social cohesion, and eliminating the structural causes of conflict. It allows societies to shift from managing crises in a reactive way to actively redesigning systems, thus helping to build resilience and achieve long-term stability (Baregheh et al., 2009). Even though innovation can be divided into technological, social, institutional, and environmental types, this

study concentrates on social and institutional innovation because of their direct connection with conflict transformation, governance reform, and sustainable development.

Social Innovation

Social innovation means creating and putting into action new social practices, relationships, or organisational models which are more effective than current methods in meeting social needs. It places a strong focus on collaboration, inclusion, participation and empowerment, especially for marginalised or vulnerable groups (Mulgan, 2006). When it comes to conflict transformation, social innovation plays a vital role in restoring trust, improving community cohesion and encouraging dialogue between conflicting groups. Examples of this include community peace committees, participatory decision-making platforms, cooperative economic projects and restorative justice systems. These innovations help to tackle social fragmentation by providing inclusive opportunities for engagement and for working together to find solutions to problems. Social innovation is also at the heart of sustainability transitions since it fosters changes in behaviour and helps to build up the local abilities needed to manage resources, settle disputes and adapt to environmental and economic pressures. Research has shown that social innovation increases resilience by allowing communities to organise themselves and respond more effectively to shocks and crises (Cajaiba-Santana, 2014).

Institutional Innovation

Institutional innovation means setting up or altering the formal rules, the ways of governing, and the organisational setups which influence social, political and economic interactions. It includes things like decentralisation, policy reform, transparency mechanisms, anti-corruption systems and participatory governance frameworks (North, 1990). In situations that are fragile or prone to conflict, weak or exclusionary institutions are frequently the main cause of instability. It is therefore necessary to carry out institutional innovation if one is to deal with existing structural inequalities and to increase the legitimacy of governance. For instance, reforms which encourage inclusive political participation, the fair distribution of resources and accountability mechanisms can greatly decrease the grievances that lead to conflict. Institutional innovation also contributes to better sustainability results by improving co-ordination among stakeholders, increasing the coherence of policy and allowing adaptive governance systems to respond effectively to changes in the environment and in society (Loorbach, 2010). In this way, institutions are not fixed structures but rather systems that are capable of learning and adapting to new challenges.

Innovation, Sustainability, and Transformative Change

Research continually demonstrates that sustainability-focused innovation has a significant effect on enhancing resilience, organisational adaptation, and transformative societal change. Resilience refers to the ability of systems—whether social, ecological or institutional—to absorb shocks, adapt to disruptions, and keep on functioning effectively. Sustainability-focused innovation boosts resilience by offering new tools, strategies and structures for dealing with uncertainty and change (Adams et al., 2016). It also contributes to transformative change, which means bringing about deep structural changes in the way societies operate. Unlike small, step-by-step improvements, transformative change involves reorganising governance systems, economic models and social relations so that they are in line with sustainability principles. Social and institutional innovation are both essential to this process since they have a direct impact on human behaviour, power relations and governance systems. In situations involving conflict, innovation acts as a means of converting tensions into opportunities for reform and development. Social innovation promotes reconciliation and inclusion, while institutional innovation makes sure that governance systems are fair, transparent and responsive. Together, they help to achieve long-term peacebuilding and sustainable development by tackling both the relational and structural aspects of conflict. In the end, innovation and sustainability are interdependent: innovation supplies the means by which change can take place, while sustainability provides the ethical guidelines that ensure the change is equitable, inclusive and oriented towards the future. When combined, they form a strong framework for turning conflict into opportunity and for establishing resilient, peaceful societies.

Theoretical Framework

The study makes use of John Paul Lederach's Conflict Transformation Theory (1990). This theory maintains that conflict should not merely be "managed" or "resolved" but should be transformed at its root causes, such as structural inequalities (economic, political and social), broken relationships and mistrust, cultural narratives which maintain exclusion or violence, and weak or unfair institutions. The theory offers the basis for understanding how conflict can become a source of opportunity rather than one of destruction. If the theory is combined with innovation and sustainability, it becomes a practical framework for development and for societal renewal. According to the theory,

conflict is seen as a dynamic process, not as a failure; when it is properly addressed, it reveals weaknesses in existing systems and causes societies to reconsider how they function. It is in this context that innovation becomes necessary: political conflict can result in institutional innovation (for example, electoral reform and anti-corruption systems); social conflict can lead to social innovation (such as community peacebuilding platforms and dialogue forums); and environmental conflict can prompt green innovation (for instance, renewable energy and sustainable agriculture).

Conflict continues to be a problem in many societies worldwide because of political instability, ethnic tensions, environmental crises, inequality, unemployment, poor governance, and rivalry over resources. Such conflicts tend to weaken social cohesion, economic development, environmental sustainability, and the effectiveness of institutions. Standard methods of handling conflict usually concentrate on achieving only temporary solutions or on putting down disagreements without tackling the fundamental causes. As a result, a great many conflicts go on or happen again. Moreover, because there is not enough funding directed towards innovation, sustainability projects, and participatory governance, long-term peacebuilding opportunities are limited. Even though there is an increasing amount of literature on sustainability and innovation, there is still not enough qualitative analysis of how innovation and sustainability can turn conflict into opportunities for development. The present study is therefore aimed at overcoming this gap by investigating the mechanisms through which conflict can promote innovation, institutional reforms, and sustainable transformation.

The primary aim of this study is to look at the way in which conflict can be turned into an opportunity by means of innovation and sustainability. The specific objectives are:

1. examine how inclusive governance and collaboration contribute to sustainable conflict transformation and peacebuilding in Nigeria.
2. assess the role of sustainability-oriented innovation in promoting conflict prevention and environmental sustainability in Nigeria.
3. investigate the impact of digital innovation and conflict transformation, particularly in enhancing communication, transparency, crisis management, and mediation processes in Nigeria.
4. explore strategies and provide recommendations for sustainable conflict transformation through participatory governance, technological innovation, and collaborative development approaches in Nigeria.

Methodology

The research used a qualitative approach because it allows for a thorough understanding of the social phenomena, perceptions, experiences, and processes linked to conflict transformation, innovation, and sustainability. The qualitative data came from secondary sources such as scholarly journals, books, sustainability reports, case studies, and policy documents, and were drawn from journal articles, academic books, sustainability reports, and online scholarly databases. Thematic analysis was carried out to analyse the qualitative data, this method consisting of identifying, arranging, and interpreting the themes that occur in qualitative information. The study found several key themes: Inclusive Governance and Collaboration, Sustainability-Oriented Innovation, Digital Innovation and Conflict Transformation, and Community Participation and Social Resilience. In order to ensure credibility, the study made use of peer-reviewed and recent scholarly materials. Triangulating the data sources enhanced the validity and reliability of the findings. The study presents the results of the thematic analysis and interprets the findings from the qualitative literature review and case studies.

Results

Theme 1: Inclusive Governance and Collaboration

The analysis shows that collaborative governance and stakeholder participation are essential in achieving constructive conflict transformation, sustainable peacebuilding, and social resilience. Inclusive governance is a system of governance which actively involves a wide range of stakeholders, such as governments, civil society organisations, private-sector actors, local communities, traditional institutions, and marginalised groups, in the decision-making process (Ansell & Gash, 2008). By facilitating dialogue, negotiation, consensus-building and collective problem-solving, collaborative governance provides opportunities for reducing the exclusion, mistrust and social fragmentation which often lead to a rise in conflict. This shows that collaborative governance fosters transparency, social trust, accountability and shared decision-making. Transparency in the way governance processes are carried out helps to lessen suspicion, corruption and the perception of injustice among stakeholders, while accountability enhances the legitimacy of institutions and public confidence (Fung & Wright, 2003). With shared decision-making, the

communities affected are able to take an active part in the policies and interventions that affect their social, economic and environmental well-being. Collaborative governance means that public agencies involve non-state stakeholders in decision-making processes that are formal, collective and participatory (Ansell & Gash, 2008). These participatory structures help to prevent conflict by making sure that different interests and viewpoints are recognised and incorporated into the governance systems.

Theme 2: Sustainability-Oriented Innovation

The results showed that sustainability-focused innovation plays a vital role in advancing peacebuilding, social stability, and the prevention of conflict in both societies and organisations. Sustainability-oriented innovation refers to the development and implementation of new ideas, technologies, systems, and practices that at the same time take account of environmental protection, social well-being, and economic development (Adams et al., 2016). This is in contrast to conventional innovation, which mainly aims at maximising profit and improving productivity, since sustainability-oriented innovation incorporates long-term ecological balance, social justice, and resilience into the processes of organisational and community development (Boons & Lüdeke-Freund, 2013). The analysis indicated that innovative sustainability measures help to lessen structural inequalities, environmental degradation, and resource scarcity, all of which are frequently root causes of social conflict and instability. By ensuring equitable access to resources and by improving people's livelihoods, sustainability innovations contribute to reducing tensions between communities and to strengthening social cohesion (United Nations, 2015). Scholars like John Elkington have stressed the 'triple bottom line' approach, which calls for balancing economic, environmental, and social objectives in the way organisations make decisions (Elkington, 1997). Likewise, Johan Schot and Steinmueller maintained that transformative innovation policies are necessary for tackling complex societal challenges such as conflict, climate change, and poverty (Schot & Steinmueller, 2018).

Theme 3: Digital Innovation and Conflict Transformation

The results showed that digital innovation has now become an essential means of achieving conflict transformation, promoting peacebuilding, managing crises, and building sustainable resilience in modern societies and organisations. Digital innovation is defined as the use of digital technologies, data systems, and communication tools to enhance social interaction, governance, service delivery, decision-making, and the effectiveness of institutions (Nambisan et al., 2017). The rapid development of digital technologies has changed the way in which individuals, institutions and governments deal with conflicts, manage crises and advance social stability. In societies that are becoming more interconnected, digital transformation has become central to achieving sustainable resilience among both organisations and societies. The analysis found that digital technologies such as online communication platforms, digital governance systems and artificial intelligence make a significant contribution to conflict prevention and crisis management. Digital communication platforms, such as virtual collaboration systems, social media networks, video conferencing tools and online community forums, enable quick communication, dialogue and coordination amongst stakeholders when there is social tension or an emergency (Castells, 2010). They allow communities, organisations and governments to share information, deal with complaints and take part in discussions that are sensitive to conflict without having to overcome physical barriers. Digital communication thus helps to improve social connectivity and supports collaborative responses to crises.

Discussion

The analysis mentioned above shows that collaborative governance and stakeholder involvement are key mechanisms for achieving constructive conflict transformation and sustainable peacebuilding. This conclusion is in agreement with the theoretical stance of collaborative governance scholars, who maintain that contemporary governance systems are becoming more reliant on participation by a variety of actors rather than on decision-making which is based solely on the state (Sørensen & Torfing, 2011). It also agrees with the perspective of Ansell and Gash (2008), who describe inclusive governance as a process in which governments intentionally involve a wide range of stakeholders, such as state institutions, civil society organisations, private sector actors, traditional authorities, and marginalised groups, in collective decision-making procedures designed to deal with public problems and to reduce social tensions. In this respect, inclusive governance acts as a conflict-sensitive framework since it minimises exclusion and enhances the legitimacy of governance systems.

The results show that sustainability-oriented innovation plays a vital role in advancing peacebuilding, social stability, and the prevention of conflict in societies. This is in line with the literature on the sustainability transition, which

defines sustainability-oriented innovation as the development and implementation of new ideas, technologies, systems, and practices that at the same time take account of environmental protection, social well-being, and economic development (Adams et al., 2016). In this way, sustainability-oriented innovation is not merely about technological progress but also involves systemic change with the aim of enhancing long-term societal resilience. This conclusion is strongly supported by Boons and Lüdeke-Freund (2013), who claim that sustainability-oriented innovation is fundamentally different from conventional innovation since it incorporates ecological integrity, social equity, and economic viability into organisational processes. Instead of focusing solely on profit maximisation, sustainability-oriented approaches integrate ethical and long-term considerations into the decision-making process. This is consistent with the current finding that sustainability innovation contributes to social stability by tackling the underlying causes of inequality and competition for resources.

The findings reveal that digital innovation has become a vital instrument for conflict transformation, peacebuilding, crisis management, and sustainable resilience in contemporary societies and organisations. This finding aligns with the view of Nambisan et al. (2017), who conceptualise digital innovation as the application of digital technologies, data systems, and communication tools to improve social interaction, governance, service delivery, decision-making, and institutional effectiveness. From this perspective, digital innovation is not merely a technological upgrade but a structural shift in how institutions and societies organise communication, coordination, and conflict-response systems. The finding is also strongly supported by Castells (2010), who argues that contemporary societies are increasingly organised around digital communication networks that reshape power relations, governance processes, and social interaction patterns. In this context, digital platforms become critical infrastructure for managing social complexity, enabling real-time interaction and decentralised coordination across institutional and geographic boundaries. This supports the study's finding that digital transformation is central to sustainable organisational and societal resilience.

Conclusion

This qualitative study looked at the way in which conflict can be turned into an opportunity by means of innovation and approaches that focus on sustainability. The results showed that conflict is not just a disruptive factor, but that when it is properly managed it can act as a stimulus for creativity, institutional learning, collaboration and long-term development. Instead of seeing conflict only as a failure of social order, the study proved that it can lead to adaptive reactions which reinforce governance systems and help create more resilient social structures. It also showed that innovation plays a key role in both peacebuilding and in building resilience. It was found that technological, social and institutional innovations all contribute to better communication, increase the responsiveness of governance and help to develop more effective crisis management strategies. At the same time, sustainability offered an important long-term basis for tackling the structural causes of conflict such as inequality, scarcity of resources, environmental degradation and social exclusion. Together, innovation and sustainability function as complementary methods for changing conflict situations into routes towards development and stability. Moreover, the study found that Inclusive Governance and Collaboration, Sustainability-Oriented Innovation, and Digital Innovation and Conflict Transformation are the main mechanisms for achieving sustainable conflict transformation. These mechanisms help to build trust, improve accountability, enhance engagement with stakeholders and promote fair access to resources and to the decision-making processes. The overall effect of these mechanisms is to reduce tensions while helping to create more cohesive and resilient societies and organisations. The study concludes that societies can successfully turn crises and conflicts into opportunities for innovation and development by using collaborative, inclusive and sustainability-oriented methods. Such approaches not only deal with the immediate dynamics of conflict but also improve long-term adaptive capacity, thus ensuring sustainable peace, resilience and development outcomes.

Recommendations

The study, based on its findings on inclusive governance, sustainability-oriented innovation, and digital transformation in conflict management, makes the following recommendations:

- It is advisable for governments to boost their funding and provide greater policy support for innovation ecosystems which combine social, economic and environmental aims. This involves putting money into green infrastructure, renewable energy systems, sustainable agriculture and research and development centres. Such investment will not only help to promote economic growth but also will serve to reduce the structural inequalities and resource-related tensions that frequently lead to conflict.
- Conflict prevention and conflict resolution programmes must clearly incorporate sustainability principles such as equity, inclusion, environmental protection, and long-term resilience. Policymakers should use

integrated methods which tackle the underlying causes of conflict, for example poverty, inequality, environmental degradation and governance failures. For this to happen there needs to be coordination across sectors between the ministries and agencies in charge of security, the environment, social welfare and economic development. There should also be a priority given to evidence-based policymaking so that the measures taken are appropriate to local conditions and to emerging risks.

- Governments and organisations ought to increase their use of digital platforms, such as e-governance systems, early warning systems, online mediation tools, and civic engagement platforms, in order to improve transparency and promote participation. Artificial intelligence and data analytics can likewise be used to identify the early indications of social tension and to enable timely interventions. It is important, though, to prioritise digital inclusion if the digital divide is to be reduced and equitable access to technology is to be ensured, especially for marginalised and rural communities. Appropriate regulation is also needed in order to deal with risks involving misinformation, data misuse, and algorithmic bias.
- International development agencies, peacebuilding organisations and multilateral institutions should give technical, financial and institutional support to sustainability-focused innovation programmes in developing and conflict-affected areas. This means providing funds for collaborative research, capacity-building activities and technology transfer programmes which encourage green innovation and inclusive governance. It is also important for international cooperation to take place in order to share best practices, reinforce global partnerships and help countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially those concerning peace, justice and the creation of strong institutions.

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