

**Key Points by Prof Daisaku Higashi at the Brownbag meeting at UN Headquarters in New York, “Traditional Conflict Resolution Mechanism and Roles of UN missions” on 10 March 2020**

Here are the key recommendations from Prof. Higashi

- There is a fundamental need for UN missions to understand traditional conflict resolution mechanism (TCRM). In many post conflicted states, state authorities do not have enough functions and trust in solving local traditional conflicts, as typical in South Sudan or Afghanistan. Thus, it is crucial for UN missions to empower TCRM and to provide people with the confidence that their local problems can be solved. Both South Sudan and Afghanistan have TCRM imbedded in local populations.
- The long-term goal is to create the institutionalized mechanism in UN field missions to map TCRM and identify influential local leaders who can play positive roles in solving local conflicts and enhancing national peace process. It is highly recommended that UN missions will obtain resources to hire anthropologists, regional experts, and indigenous scholars within conflicted states as short- term consultants, as they already have rich experiences and understanding about TCRM. These members also may conduct some additional field research to update the political mapping and make some specific recommendations on how to strengthen TCRM for both UN missions and UN Headquarters.
- In some case, it may be difficult for UN missions just to utilize TCRM if the key components of the TCRM have contradictions against the UN principles. In these cases, it would be critical to have some “adjustments” of TCRM, including the broader participation of youth and women into the traditional decision-making mechanisms.