

JASS discussion: Alliances

Day 2 Sunday, April 15, 2012

Questions

- What is our added value in the region?
- How do we sustain a partnership?
- How and when do we decide when a partnership is over?
- What does it mean to form a partnership with a mixed-partner group?

Lessons

- Acknowledge that this partnership is a political process and requires a deeper analysis on our differences and similarities
- Be clear about what you are negotiating
- Recognize that there are different types of alliances in particular moments
- It's important to *guard* our strategic alliances so to not exhaust them
- Make visible JASS' position/work in the alliance
- Who sets the agenda has power; be clear about accompanying/supporting role vs. agenda setting
- Money is a core dilemma, especially where resources aren't as readily available; changes the relationship forever; this will be a big issue as JASS gets bigger
- Alliances are determined by strength and nature of social movements
- Important to recognize the difference between a partnership, an alliance and a tactical alliance (usually task specific and time limited) and even a strategic ally - terms may vary
- Acknowledge and address conflict as it arises
- Confidence and trust are built over time
- Too much confidence and trust without established mechanisms for decision-making and "rules" can be dangerous; trust is not enough
- Recognizing our differences without imposing our style; may not always agree, but its important to be clear on who we are and where we are going
- An individual can have the power to poison and destabilize an alliance or partnership
- Be careful to recognize the power imbalances that exists and address them to avoid possible manipulation
- Perceptions matter
- Make sure accountability is both ways
- Be active in the transition process in order to close chapter positively