

Local Ownership:
What does it mean on the
ground other than rhetoric

Local Ownership

- Involvement of locals in designing and implementation of peacebuilding
- Increases legitimacy of UN operation
- Increases sustainability of peace
- Debate between communitarian and liberal views of peacebuilding
- International actors tend to view from liberal stance
- Gap between theory and practice

Asymmetric Relationship

- Donors have their own agenda before local involvement
- Asymmetry regarding the knowledge on local system

Who are the locals?

- Ambiguity of the concept
- Government institutions? Civil society organization? Indigenous peoples?
- International actors tend to focus on elites and ignore civil society
- Limited contact with rural population
- Legitimacy of local partners
- Problem of spoilers
- Capacity building

The case of UNMIL



UNMIL

- Mandate to assist in reestablishing national authority
- Liberian Government has executive and legislative powers
- Involvement in justice system
- Capacity building
- Control of the whole process by Liberian Government
- 80 percent of the population is outside of judicial reforms
- More interventionist approach would make more effective results
- Lack of leverage over Liberian government
- International aid was not conditional on progress

Thanks for the attention