



Civil Society Dialogue Network Geographic Meeting

Civil society perspectives on lessons learned from conflict prevention and peacebuilding approaches to addressing the root causes of (i) forced migration and (ii) violent extremism in the Horn of Africa

Thursday 9 June 2016 (09.00 – 16.30)

Scotland House Conference Centre

Rond-point Robert Schuman / Robert Schumanplein 6, 1040 Brussels, Belgium

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The European Union (EU) aims to mainstream conflict sensitivity in all of its external action, and to maximise the positive impact of its engagement on conflict dynamics, thereby contributing to conflict prevention, structural stability and peacebuilding.

EU conflict sensitivity guidelines were developed by the European Commission's (EC) Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) in collaboration with the European External Action Service (EEAS) in 2015. An EU online course on conflict sensitivity is under development and a DG DEVCO guidance note on conflict sensitivity will be sent to EU delegations (EUDs) to support their programming work.¹ Policy guidance on programming for countering violent extremism (CVE) has been produced by DG DEVCO's Directorate B, which promotes a conflict-sensitive and development approach to addressing violent extremism.

The [EU Horn of Africa² Regional Action Plan 2015-2020](#), identifies a number of key challenges, including addressing the root causes of migration and violent extremism, which will both require separate conflict-sensitive, cross-border interventions and a more synchronised approach to the political, development, economic, migration, gender-based and security aspects underlying them. The Plan's two areas of thematic focus have been selected to merit deeper analysis and discussions of lessons learned. They will thus be treated in two separate sessions.

Strong research and analysis will be central to understanding the context and ensuring that interventions have a positive impact. DG DEVCO's Research and Evidence Facility, which is funded through the [EU Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa](#), will have a key role in this regard.

¹ See guidance notes on '[The use of Conflict Analysis in Support of EU External Action](#)', '[Conflict sensitivity and analysis for effective EU external action](#)', and '[Addressing conflict prevention, peacebuilding and security issues under external cooperation instruments](#)'.

² The Horn of Africa is defined by the EU as the countries belonging to the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) (i.e. Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda).

Objective

- To contribute to a better understanding of regional dynamics in the Horn of Africa context, in particular of the key drivers of conflict, migration and radicalisation, and the main resilience factors with input from civil society practitioners from the region.
- To scrutinise EU responses to addressing the drivers of conflict in the Horn of Africa and to identify what could be done differently in light of the EU Agenda on Migration and/or PVE/CVE.
- To inform the EU conversation on how conflict sensitivity could be applied to all relevant areas of EU engagement, including to political dialogue and Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operations in the Horn of Africa.
- To think about theories of change for EU approaches to migration, violent extremism or radicalisation in the Horn of Africa.

The meeting will consider the complex trade-offs which the EU faces through its political dialogues and action on migration and CVE, barriers to conflict sensitivity and means to overcome them.

Participants

The meeting will bring together approximately 30 participants, including representatives of peacebuilding civil society organisations (CSOs) working in the region, and officials from the EC, EEAS, relevant CSDP operations and EU Member States.

Format

The meeting will consist of three sessions. In each session, initial presentations from speakers will be followed by a facilitated discussion in which all participants will be encouraged to provide analysis and recommendations.

Civil Society Dialogue Network

The Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) is a mechanism for dialogue between civil society and EU policy-makers on issues related to peace and conflict. It is co-financed by the European Union (Instrument for Stability). It is managed by the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO), a civil society network, in co-operation with the European Commission (EC) and the European External Action Service (EEAS). The second phase of the CSDN will last from 2014 to 2016. For more information, please visit the [EPLO website](#).

AGENDA

08.30 – 09.00	Registration of participants
09.00 – 09.15	<p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sonya Reines-Djivanides, Executive Director, European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) • Elisabeth Pape, Acting Head of Unit, Fragility and Resilience, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) • Malgorzata Wasilewska, Head of Division, Conflict Prevention, Peace Building and Mediation Instruments, European External Action Service (EEAS)
09.15 – 10.15	<p>Session 1: Introduction</p> <p>The aim of this session is to set the stage for the subsequent discussions. The EC and/or the EEAS will provide an overview of the policies and instruments which the EU is using to support peace, stability, sustainable growth and prosperity in the Horn of Africa.</p> <p>The Research and Evidence Facility consortium will present the rationale and context of their project which aims to collate, synthesise and produce evidence and policy-relevant knowledge to inform targeted interventions so that they have a positive impact on addressing instability, migration and violent extremism across the Horn of Africa.</p> <p>Moderator: Sonya Reines-Djivanides, Executive Director, EPLO</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hans Stausboll, Head of Unit, Development Coordination East Africa and Regional Cooperation in Eastern and Southern Africa, DG DEVCO • Dietmar Krissler, Deputy Head of Division, Horn of Africa, East Africa and the Indian Ocean, EEAS • Ben Fisher, Policy Officer, Fragility and Resilience, DG DEVCO <p><i>Open discussion</i></p>
10.15 – 10.45	Coffee Break
10.45 – 13.00	<p>Session 2: Conflict-sensitive approaches to preventing violent extremism (PVE) / countering radicalisation in the Horn of Africa</p> <p>The aim of this session is for civil society participants to share their analysis of the situation in the Horn of Africa and to share lessons learned in terms of how to take a conflict-sensitive approach to <u>all</u> actions aimed at CVE/PVE/ countering radicalisation in the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can these lessons contribute to ensuring that all EU interventions (political, policy and programming) aimed at PVE / countering radicalisation take into account the structural conflict risks and support upstream conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts? • How can the EU ensure that its short-term responses to crises do not undermine its and other actors' long-term conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can CSOs contribute to strengthening linkages between context analysis, early warning and early action to mitigate the risks of the outbreak and recurrence of violent extremism and radicalisation? • What theories of change could be defined to improve the impact of the EU across the full spectrum of its action on CVE/PVE/countering radicalisation (i.e. diplomacy, mediation, negotiation, development, humanitarian, security) in the Horn of Africa? • Are there linkages between forced migration and violent extremism in the Horn of Africa context and, if so, how could they inform subsequent EU action in addressing the drivers of conflict? <p>Moderator: Monique van Es, Programmes Director, European Institute of Peace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rashid Abdi, Horn of Africa Senior Analyst, International Crisis Group • Eunice Mwendu, Country Coordinator Kenya / Somalia, International Alert • Demessie Fantaye, Research Advisor, Horn of Africa Regional Programme, Life & Peace Institute <p><i>Open discussion</i></p>
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 16.15	<p>Session 3: Conflict-sensitive approaches to tackling the root causes of forced migration in the Horn of Africa</p> <p>The aim of this session is for civil society participants to provide their analysis of the situation in the Horn of Africa and to make recommendations on how the EU could adopt a conflict-sensitive approach to <u>all</u> of its actions aimed at tackling the root causes of forced migration in the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do EU migration dialogues seek to achieve? What trade-offs are faced? How can they incorporate conflict sensitivity? • How can the EU ensure that the development assistance which it provides for strengthening the resilience of both host and return communities, and increasing the capacities of national and regional authorities to better manage forced migration, is conflict-sensitive? • How can the EU adopt a conflict-sensitive approach to addressing the migration-security nexus, including the challenges which stem from forced migration (e.g. human trafficking, smuggling, criminal networks etc.)? • How can CSOs help to fill knowledge gaps about the causes and drivers of instability, including violent conflict, leading to forced migration and forced displacement at regional, national and local levels? <p>Moderator: Richard King, Chief Executive, Concordis International</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entisar Abdelsadig, Country Director Sudan, Search for Common Ground • Valerie Vat Kamatsiko, Peacebuilding Advisor, World Vision East Africa Regional Office <p><i>Open discussion</i></p>
16.15 – 16.30	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elisabeth Pape, Acting Head of Unit, Fragility and Resilience, DG DEVCO • Sonya Reines-Djivanides, Executive Director, EPLO