Civil Society Dialogue Network Policy Meeting

The EU-wide Strategic Framework for Security Sector Reform: Consultation workshop with civil society organisations

Friday 4 December 2015 (09.00-17.00)

Scotland House Conference Centre
Rond-point Robert Schuman / Robert Schumanplein 6, 1040 Brussels

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

In May 2015, the EU's Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) adopted the following conclusions during its discussions on the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP):

'In line with the EU's Comprehensive Approach and in order to maximize the impact, efficiency and consistency of EU support, the Council invites the High Representative and the Commission to develop, in consultation with the Member States, an EU-wide strategic framework for Security Sector Reform by mid-2016. This policy concept should bring together CSDP and all other relevant CFSP tools as well as development co-operation instruments and Freedom, Security and Justice actors, while respecting their respective legal bases, primary objectives and decision making procedures.'[1]

The European Commission (EC) and the European External Action Service (EEAS) are organising a number of consultations in order to obtain input and feedback from EU Member States (MS), the European Parliament (EP), civil society organisations (CSOs) and academia on the EU-wide strategic framework for security sector reform (SSR).

In this context, EPLO has been asked to organise a consultation workshop with CSOs.

Objective

The overall objective of this meeting is to enable CSOs to provide their input into the development of the EU-wide Strategic Framework for SSR in discussions on the following four topics:
1. Political engagement to support implementation (Politics)
2. Governance, accountability and effectiveness (Governance)
3. Supporting local ownership and building sustainable solutions (Ownership)
4. Community security and service delivery-focused interventions (Community security)

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[1] See http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2015/05/18-council-conclusions-csdp/

Participants

The meeting will bring together 20-30 participants, including representatives of civil society peacebuilding organisations, and officials from both the EC and the EEAS.

Other interested parties, including academics and other experts may also be invited to participate.

Format

The meeting will be organised as follows:

1. Introductory plenary session in which all four topics will be presented
2. Small group discussions covering each of the four topics
3. Final plenary session in which the outcomes of the small group discussions will be presented.

AGENDA

08.30 – 09.00	**Registration of participants**
09.00 – 09.15	**Welcome** *Ben Moore – European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)* *Irène Mingasson – Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), European Commission (EC)* *Gianmarco SCUPPA – European External Action Service (EEAS)*
09.15 – 10.30	**Session 1: Introduction** The aim of this session will be for the EC and the EEAS to introduce the overall thinking behind and process for developing a new EU SSR framework, and the four topics for discussion: 1. Political engagement to support implementation (Politics) 2. Governance, accountability and effectiveness (Governance) 3. Supporting local ownership and building sustainable solutions (Ownership) 4. Community security and service delivery-focused interventions (Community security) *Introduction by officials from the EC and the EEAS* *Moderator: Ben Moore – EPLO* Open discussion
10.30 – 11.00	**Coffee break**
11.00 – 12.30	**Session 2: Working Group discussions (in parallel)** The aim of this session will be to have in-depth discussions on two of the four topics: **1. Political engagement to support implementation** **Key issues** • SSR is first and foremost a political process but the focus of interventions is often technical rather than political • CSOs have a political role to play (e.g. monitoring political situations, decisions, engagement etc.) but they are often weak (or perceived to be weak) and not heard • Opposition political parties are often non-existent, lack capacity, coherence etc. • Local political dynamics are often unknown and not taken into account in SSR support • CSO voices are not sufficiently heard or taken into account in formal political dialogue between the EU and partner governments

	• Non-state actor providers of justice and security are often sidelined in SSR support programmes **Questions** • How is the EU engaging with opposition parties? • How is the EU supporting CSOs in their watchdog function regarding security issues? • How is the local political situation taken into account when implementing SSR programmes? • How are CSO voices heard in political dialogue between the EU and partner governments? • How are non-state providers of justice and security approached and included in SSR programming? • What will be required to ensure a pluralistic political engagement approach in the Strategic Framework for SSR? • What guidance should the Strategic Framework for SSR give on managing the politics of engaging with non-state providers of justice and security? *Facilitator: Sébastien Babaud – Saferworld* Open discussion **2. Governance, accountability and effectiveness** **Key issues** • The EU is supporting the development of security sector governance and accountability, but not in a systematic manner and, perhaps, not to the extent it should • CSOs have a role to play in terms of the governance and external accountability of the security forces but have limited impact • Populations are often more confident to go to a CSO for complaints (e.g. indicating abuses by security forces) but CSOs have little power and capacity to resolve the issues or to bring them in front of courts • CSOs are not sufficiently listened to by local government security services and they are largely ignored when it comes to complaints regarding officers' conduct or behaviour **Questions** • How can the EU reinforce the role of CSOs to contribute to greater and improved external accountability of the security forces? • What can CSOs do to enhance their role and be more effective in supporting the population when the state structures do not work? • What mechanisms can be used to ensure systematically that governance, management, and accountability have been appropriately considered in the initial programme identification and needs assessments? *Facilitator: Rashmi Thapa – Search for Common Ground* Open discussion
12.30 – 13.30	**Lunch**

13.30 – 15.00	**Session 3: Working Group discussions (in parallel)**
	The aim of this session will be to have in-depth discussions on two of the four topics:

3. Supporting local ownership and building sustainable solutions

Key issues
- National actors and CSOs are often consulted on but not involved in the design of EU support to SSR
- The EU is struggling in identifying genuine ownership
- Sustainability is a priority but it is not adequately tackled in EU programmes and missions

Questions
- What can the Strategic Framework for SSR do to support a genuine partnership on SSR between partner countries (governments, CSOs and non-state actors) and EU actors?
- How can local actors be more involved in the assessment and design phases of EU interventions?
- What aspects of local ownership do EU programmes currently support successfully, and what could the Strategic Framework for SSR do to build on them?
- What are the lessons regarding sustainability of reform initiatives that could inform the Strategic Framework for SSR and improve EU programming?
- What are the structural factors that result in a lack of attention to sustainability, and how and to what extent could the Strategic Framework for SSR address them?

Facilitator: Nicolas Rougy – Interpeace

Open discussion

4. Community security and service delivery-focused interventions

Key issues
- The EU's focus on institutional strengthening does not yet deliver the results expected by the population
- Little is invested in interventions focused on direct service delivery responding to the population's security and justice needs
- CSOs are engaged in community security interventions but these are often limited in scope, finance and sustainability

Questions
- How can the EU focus more on supporting service delivery, or ensure that it is coupled with institutional strengthening?
- How can the EU reconcile the top-down, bottom-up approach to human security?
- How can community security interventions and community liaison roles for the police be scaled up?

Facilitator: Santa Falasca – International Center for Transitional Justice

Open discussion

15.00 – 15.30	**Coffee break**
15.30 – 16.45	**Session 4: Reporting back from the small group discussions** 1. Political engagement to support implementation (Politics) 2. Governance, accountability and effectiveness (Governance) 3. Supporting local ownership and building sustainable solutions (Ownership) 4. Community security and service delivery-focused interventions (Community security) *Moderator: Ben Moore – EPLO* Open discussion
16.45 – 17.00	**Closing Remarks** *Charlotte Adriaen – Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), EC* *Karin Gatt Rutter – EEAS* *Ben Moore – EPLO*

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.