



Civil Society Dialogue Network

EU Conflict Prevention after the Global Strategy: A Look at Mediation and Security Sector Reform

Thursday 10 November 2016

Pääposti, Mannerheiminaukio 1 B - 00100 Helsinki, Finland

Background:

The EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy presented in June 2016 provides an opportunity for the EU to close the implementation gap in its support to conflict prevention. While the document confirms that tackling root causes of conflict and promoting peace are priorities of EU external action, in practice conflict prevention remains a relatively minor dimension of the EU's external relations, receiving limited political support and human and financial resources despite the strong support of key Member States such as Finland.

In this context, this meeting will look at the implementation of the EU's commitments on conflict prevention, in particular on mediation support and security sector reform, focusing on improving practices and the impact of EU external action in fragile and conflict-affected countries.

Objectives:

The overall objective of this meeting is to gather analysis and recommendations from civil society on making the EU commitments on conflict prevention operational. In particular, the meeting will look to:

- Analyse the EU Global Strategy and its commitments for conflict prevention
- Analyse and gather recommendations on the way forward for the EU's support to dialogue and mediation
- Analyse and gather recommendations for a conflict-sensitive implementation of the new EU-wide Strategic Framework for Security Sector Reform by both the EU and its Member States

Format: Roundtable discussions under the Chatham House Rule with skilled facilitation to support interactive discussion. The meeting will be held in English.

Participants: The meeting will bring together 30-40 participants, including representatives of civil society peacebuilding organisations, academics as well as officials from the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and EU institutions.

Agenda

8:45-9:00	<p>Registration and coffee</p>
9:00-9:15	<p>Welcome and objectives of the meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Tarja Kantola, Chair of the Wider Security Network (WISE) • Mr Andrew Lane, Quaker Representative to the European institutions and Member of the Steering Committee of EPLO
9:15-10:45	<p>Session 1 – Reactions to the EU Global Strategy: analyzing its commitments on conflict prevention</p> <p>This session will discuss the content of the EU Global Strategy, in particular commitments on conflict prevention, and the reactions of the Finnish government and civil society.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Tomas Henning, Team Leader, Mediation Support Team, EEAS • Ms Sari Rautio, Director, Unit for European Common Foreign and Security Policy, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland • Ms Anna Penfrat, Senior Policy Officer, EPLO <p>Facilitated by Ms Anne Palm, Executive Director, WISE</p>
10:45-11:15	<p>Coffee break</p>
11:15-12:45	<p>Session 2 – Strengthening the EU’s role in mediation and dialogue</p> <p>The EU mediation support team has been active since the inception of the EEAS. This session will explore the potential and obstacles for further EU support to dialogue and mediation, building on Finland’s mediation expertise and looking at the role that civil society can play in dialogue processes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Tomas Henning, Team Leader, Mediation Support Team, EEAS • Ms Sirpa Mäenpää, Ambassador, Peace Mediation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland • Ms Tuija Talvitie, Executive Director, Crisis Management Initiative <p>Facilitated by Mr Jonathan Cohen, Executive Director, Conciliation Resources</p>
12:45-13:45	<p>Networking lunch</p>
13:45-15:15	<p>Session 3 – Implementing the EU-wide Strategic Framework on Security Sector Reform in a conflict sensitive way</p> <p>The European Commission published in July 2016 a Joint Communication on the EU-wide Strategic Framework on Security Sector Reform. This session will discuss, inter alia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The roles of Brussels, EU delegations and Member States in ensuring that the implementation of this new policy framework is conflict-sensitive - The role of civil society in participating in and monitoring these efforts - Implications for the discussions on EU Capacity Building in Support of Security and Development (CBSD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Outi Nieminen, Programme Manager, Foreign Policy Instruments,

	<p>European Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Mikko Kinnunen, Director, Security Policy and Crisis Management Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland • Ms Shelagh Daley, Advocacy Manager, Saferworld <p>Facilitated by Ms Eeva Alarcón, Team Leader, Unit for Eastern and Western Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland</p>
15.15-15:30	Concluding remarks

The 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](#).