Civil Society Dialogue Network Policy Meeting

Peacebuilding in the EU Global Strategy:
Gathering civil society input

Tuesday 23 February 2016
Hotel Sofitel Brussels Europe, Place Jourdan 1, Brussels

Background

In June 2015, following the presentation of the report on the European Union in a changing global environment[1], the European Council invited the High Representative to:

> 'continue the process of strategic reflection with a view to preparing an EU global strategy on foreign and security policy in close cooperation with Member States, to be submitted to the European Council by June 2016.'[2]

The EU has been committed to 'preserve peace, prevent conflicts and strengthen international security' since the Lisbon Treaty (Article 21.2(c)). The development of the EU Global Strategy provides an opportunity to take into account the wealth of evidence on effective responses to conflict that has been generated in the past decade and to make the EU more effective at building peace.

Objective

The objective of this meeting is to gather input from civil society peacebuilding organisations for the 'Peace' Section of the EU Global Strategy.

Participants

The meeting will bring together 30-40 participants, including representatives of civil society peacebuilding organisations and officials from the European Commission (EC) and the European External Action Service (EEAS).

Other interested parties, including representatives from the European Parliament (EP), the Member States and academics may also be invited to participate.

Format

Facilitated round-table discussions, in plenary and in working groups, under the Chatham House Rule. Initial comments from speakers (one from the EU, one from civil society) will be followed by an open discussion in which all participants will be encouraged to engage.

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.

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[1] See The European Union in a changing global environment: A more connected, contested and complex world, 2015
[2] See European Council Conclusions, 25-26 June 2015

Agenda

9.00 – 9.30	**Registration of participants**
9.30 – 9.45	**Welcome** • Alfredo Conte, Division for Strategic Planning, European External Action Service (EEAS) • Ben Moore, European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)
9.45 – 10.15	**Session 1: Introduction** The aim of this session is to inform the participants about the state of play in the development of the EU Global Strategy and to summarise the discussions held so far on its priorities, in particular with regards to conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Speaker: Alfredo Conte, Division for Strategic Planning, EEAS Moderation: Ben Moore, EPLO
10.15 – 10.45	**Coffee Break**
10.45 – 12.15	**Session 2: Working Group discussions (in parallel)** **A. Understanding and preventing conflict** Based on the EU's repeatedly stated commitment to conflict prevention[3], and the new tools and resources developed by the EEAS to increase the EU's early warning and conflict analysis capacities, the aim of this working group is to discuss how conflict prevention can be further operationalised. Issues to be addressed: • How can the EU's context analysis be improved? • How to ensure that the EU's knowledge covers systematically all dimensions of conflict: human rights violations, political, economic, gender, regional dimensions, etc.? • What are the obstacles to effective EU early action and what can be done about them? Introductory comments by: • Chiara Biscaldi, International Crisis Group • Heino Van Houwelingen, Division for Conflict Prevention, Peace Building and Mediation, EEAS Followed by an open discussion moderated by Nicolas Rougy, Interpeace

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[3] The Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflict (Gothenburg Programme, June 2001), the Council conclusions on conflict prevention (June 2011), the Joint Communication on the EU Comprehensive Approach to external conflict and crises (December 2013) and the Council conclusions on the EU's comprehensive approach (May 2014).

	B. Supporting peacebuilding approaches to crisis management The aim of this working group is to provide recommendations on how the EU can best support human security and the protection of civilians in crisis situations. Issues to be addressed: • What civilian and military capabilities are necessary to protect civilians and foster security zones? • What role can the Common Security and Defence Policy play in this respect? • What other actors (e.g. intergovernmental organisations, civil society organisations, etc.) and tools (e.g. mediation, sanctions, etc.) can the EU support and how? • How can gender analysis be meaningfully integrated into peacebuilding approaches to crisis management? Introductory comments by: • Hans Rouw, PAX • Sari Kouvo, Crisis Management and Planning Directorate, EEAS Followed by an open discussion moderated by Olivia Baciu, Partners Global Network
12.15 – 13.15	**Lunch Break**
13.15 – 14.00	**From Hybrid Peace to Second Generation Human Security: Rethinking EU Strategy towards Conflict** Keynote speaker: Mary Kaldor, London School of Economics
14.00 – 15.30	**Session 3: Working Group discussions (in parallel)** **C. Supporting inclusive governance** The aim of this working group is to see how the EU can better support inclusive political governance, in particular through bottom-up approaches. Issues to be addressed: • How can the principles underpinning democratic and inclusive governance, including gender equality, be fostered at the local and national level? • Are there positive examples and/or lessons identified on this? • What role can the EU and civil society play in this respect? Introductory comments by: • Izabella Toth, Cordaid • Charlotte Adriaen, Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), European Commission Followed by an open discussion moderated by Andrew Lane, Quaker Council for European Affairs

	D. Addressing the economic dimension of conflicts The aim of this working group is to see how the EU can better address the economic dimension of conflicts, in particular through bottom-up approaches. Issues to be addressed: • How can the EU contribute to fighting war economies? • How can the EU better anticipate the socio-economic impacts of sanctions on affected populations and take them into account? • How can the EU contribute to legitimate livelihoods in conflict areas? Introductory comments by: • Julian Egan, International Alert Followed by an open discussion moderated by Kloe Tricot O'Farrell, Saferworld
15.30 – 16.00	**Coffee break**
16.00 – 16.45	**Session 4: Reporting back from the working group discussions** A. Understanding and preventing conflict B. Supporting peacebuilding approaches to crisis management C. Supporting inclusive political governance D. Addressing the economic dimension of conflicts Followed by an open discussion Moderation: Ben Moore, EPLO
16:45 – 17.00	**Closing remarks** • Cristina Barrios, Division for Strategic Planning, EEAS • Malgorzata Wasilewska, Division for Conflict Prevention, Peace Building and Mediation, EEAS • Ben Moore, EPLO