

Civil Society Dialogue Network Meeting

Implementing the Responsibility to Protect principle: UN, EU and civil society perspectives

Thursday 16 February 2017
12:30 – 14:00

Hotel Sofitel Brussels Europe, Place Jourdan/Jourdanplein 1, 1040 Brussels

More than ten years after its adoption, the concept of Responsibility to Protect (RtoP) has become an important part of the normative framework related to peace and conflict. While its operationalisation remains a considerable challenge, the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU) and civil society organisations (CSOs) have developed new policies, tools and mechanisms to improve the use and effectiveness of this principle.

The aim of this meeting is to gather civil society's analysis on the RtoP and conflict prevention in order to inform UN and EU approaches.

During this meeting, the recently appointed UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on the RtoP, Mr Ivan Šimonović, will exchange views with civil society experts involved in conflict prevention and peacebuilding and EU policy-makers on the current challenges related to the implementation of the RtoP principle. The meeting will take place under the Chatham House rule.

Since 2015, the Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) has been hosting a series of meetings on the EU and the UN. In March 2015, an exchange of views with the former UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on the RtoP, Ms Jennifer Welsh, was also organised to discuss the most effective ways to ensure the protection of civilians in armed conflicts.

Objectives of the meeting:

- State of play of policies related to the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP);
- Identify challenges of upholding the principle of RtoP;
- Identify roles and options for the EU in improving the effectiveness of the UN and other actors in upholding the principle and in protecting civilians in armed conflict.

12h00	Registration & Informal Lunch
12h30	<p>Implementing the RtoP principle: UN, EU and civil society perspectives</p> <p>Moderation: Sonya Reines-Djivanides, Executive Director, EPLO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ivan Šimonović, UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on the RtoP • Jonas Jonsson, Head of Division, Multilateral relations division, EEAS <p>Followed by an open discussion. The discussion will explore the following key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where do the UN and EU stand on the Responsibility to Protect? • What are the key challenges faced by the UN and other actors in upholding the Responsibility to Protect for conflict prevention and the protection of civilians? • What role can the UN, the EU and CSOs play in improving the effectiveness and accountability of the RtoP principle?
14h00	End of the meeting

The Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN)

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 lasts from 2014 to 2017. For more information, please visit the [EPLO website](#).