

## **(8) EPLO's objectives 2013 to 2015**

### **Policy Objectives**

#### **(1) To ensure that conflict prevention and peacebuilding are prominent within the policies and structures of EU external affairs**

- To promote integrated policy-making and a whole-of-EU approach which put conflict prevention and peacebuilding at the centre of EU external policies
- To advocate for coherent and practical ways to build peace, highlighting the value of and need for effective civilian responses
- To contribute to the positive institutional development of the EEAS as the key body in EU conflict prevention and peacebuilding through the provision of constructive input and analysis to relevant processes
- To ensure CFSP, including CSDP missions and other relevant tools, integrates a human security approach, and is more supportive of peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

#### **(2) To secure increased resources for conflict prevention and peacebuilding**

- To increase the overall resources available for EU conflict prevention and peacebuilding activities through the inclusion of conflict prevention and peacebuilding in the EU's external funding instruments (2014-2020), multiannual strategy papers and annual programmes in line with EPLO's targets
- To increase the resources available for activities carried out by conflict prevention and peacebuilding civil society organisations, including EPLO member organisations.

#### **(3) To integrate peacebuilding into EU development policy, programmes and approaches**

- To ensure that EU development policies and practices adequately incorporate conflict prevention and peacebuilding, statebuilding, good governance and human security
- To promote and monitor conflict sensitivity in the use of EU development assistance.

#### **(4) To promote the inclusion of a meaningful gender perspective<sup>1</sup> in EU policy, programming and implementation related to peace and security**

- To act as a hub of expertise, analysis and advice on gender, peace and security in the EU
- To channel and support the contributions of women from conflict-affected countries into EU peace and security policies
- To promote greater support of Member States to the implementation of the EU gender, peace and security agenda
- To bring a consistent gender perspective into all of EPLO's work
- To reach out to a larger group of peacebuilding practitioners who support the message of UNSCR 1325 through their own work and commitment.

#### **(5) To promote peacebuilding in EU response to specific conflicts**

- To create opportunities to feed civil society's evidence and analysis from conflict-affected countries into EU policy-making<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Integrating a "gender perspective" requires acknowledging and acting on the following considerations when developing and implementing peace and security policies: 1) women and men, boys and girls understand and experience security and conflict differently; 2) conflict has a transformative (positive and negative) potential on traditionally-defined gender roles; 3) there is an imbalance between women's and men's representation and contributions to peacebuilding in formal, institutional processes and in decision-making positions in peace and security; 4) the links between gender-based violence in conflict and social models (including traditional models of masculinity and femininity) are insufficiently explored.

<sup>2</sup> EPLO does not develop common positions on specific conflicts. Its work on specific conflicts focuses on facilitating dialogue between EU policy-makers and civil society on specific conflicts.

- To use the Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) to support peacebuilding in the EU's strategies and actions in particular conflicts.

**(6) To ensure conflict sensitivity is included in the EU's trade policy and in EIB lending<sup>3</sup>**

- To advocate for EU trade policy to take into consideration the EU's commitments regarding conflict prevention and peacebuilding by promoting the do-no-harm approach in trade policy and demonstrating the potential for trade to support peace
- To promote the integration of conflict sensitivity into the EIB's lending practices.

**Organisational Change Objectives**

These objectives will help EPLO to effectively manage the internal changes that are necessary for it to meet its policy objectives and to address the challenges identified above. EPLO has grown significantly and its members are committed to continued growth; this growth needs to be carefully managed including putting safeguards in place to ensure that member participation and ownership are maintained. For a peacebuilding network, managing organisational change is a strategic issue. Organisational change objectives allow EPLO:

- To set targets in the area of EPLO's management
- To manage discussions on EPLO's working methods, which can be a contentious issue
- To illustrate and accommodate the differences between management of a network and of an organisation and, in particular, the membership dimension.

**(1) To maintain and develop good working relationships with EU policy-makers in Brussels and Member States, NGOs, thinktanks, academics and other networks in order to maintain and/or improve EPLO's reputation and to make effective use of the access that EPLO currently has.**

**(2) To consistently produce content (written papers and presentations) that is clear, concise, user-friendly, and reflects the expertise of EPLO and all of its members.**

**(3) To expand EPLO's membership in order to increase its legitimacy and diversity and to enlarge the pool of expertise at its disposal by accepting at least six new members.**

**(4) To secure funding for EPLO in the medium-term; to efficiently manage reductions in EPLO's budget should they occur.**

**(5) To make EPLO's work informative, inclusive, efficient and rewarding for those involved in it in any capacity.**

**(6) To ensure effective governance of EPLO, through (1) applying EPLO's policy on roles and responsibilities of EPLO office and EPLO Steering Committee<sup>4</sup>; and (2) ensuring functioning of EPLO Steering Committee (recruitment of members, allocation of roles and use of conflict of interest guidance).**

**(7) To evaluate EPLO's work and to develop workplans using the objectives set out in the Strategic Plan as a framework.**

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<sup>3</sup> This is a new policy objective for EPLO; progress will be reviewed after one year with the possibility of dropping or revising the objective if it does not prove to be fruitful.

<sup>4</sup> Roles and responsibilities within EPLO are set out in the EPLO internal statutes. The statutes were revised during 2009/2010 so no significant revision is planned for 2013 to 2015.