



European Union
Global Strategy



Civil Society Dialogue Network Policy Meeting

Peacebuilding in the EU Global Strategy: Gathering civil society input

Tuesday 23 February 2016, Brussels

Key Recommendations

This document is a compilation of the key recommendations made by participants in the Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) Policy Meeting entitled 'Peacebuilding in the EU Global Strategy: Gathering civil society input' which took place on Tuesday 23 February 2016 in Brussels. (NB/ The following recommendations do not necessarily represent the views of the organisers, nor can they be attributed to any individual participant or participating institution.) A full report of the meeting will be available soon.

General recommendations for the EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy

- Include human security as one of the core principles of the EU Global Strategy (EUGS).
- Invest more in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, rather than in crisis management, including within EU structures.
- Support locally-driven initiatives, building on what already exists and works, in particular, draw more on local civil society analysis and local capacities for peace.
- Develop EU geographic strategies which include clear end goals and exit strategies and are context- rather than tool-oriented.
- Better use the EU's leverage for reforms which address the root causes of conflict.
- Continue upholding the EU's normative agenda as promoting universal norms and values is in the medium- and long-term interest of the EU and its Member States (MS).
- Strengthen and empower EU delegations (EUDs) with more human and financial resources as they can play a key role in conflict prevention and peacebuilding.
- Be realistic about what the EUGS can achieve and ensure that the political commitments it includes are complemented by appropriate resources and structural changes in the institutional set-up.

How could the EU better understand and prevent conflicts?

- Recognise that parts of the EU have already built substantial capacity for internal conflict analysis, but acknowledge the need to increasingly involve other relevant EU actors in such conflict analysis efforts (e.g. from the European Commission's (EC) directorate-generals for Trade (DG TRADE) and for Home Affairs and Migration (DG HOME).
- Engage in and support more participatory conflict analysis with civil society, including women and youth groups, faith-based communities, minorities, other vulnerable actors and diaspora groups.
- Make conflict-sensitive programming for all EU funding instruments a requirement.
- Share the burden (i.e. work alongside international, regional, national and local organisations, as well as MS, for information-sharing and early action).
- Narrow the gap between EU early warning and early action by taking a more political approach to conflict prevention in discussion with MS.
- Use the EUGS to create momentum for conflict prevention and propose an update of the Gothenburg Programme to further operationalise conflict prevention within the EU.

How could the EU support peacebuilding approaches to crisis management?

- Increase support for peacebuilding civil society organisations (CSOs) in crisis areas in a demand-driven way and simplify the EC's funding rules for activities taking place in crisis contexts. Provide core funding in addition to project funding.
- Provide space and resources for EUDs to take a more proactive role with regards to public diplomacy and coordination in crisis management.
- Consider mediation tools and practices as part of the EU's toolbox in crisis management.
- Hold the EU's intergovernmental partners which are being funded for peace support operations accountable.
- Ensure that crisis management missions which are led or funded by the EU are open to dialogue with civil society actors.
- When engaging in security sector reform and other institutional capacity building efforts for crisis management, ensure that the partner government is genuinely interested in inclusive reforms and in making the relevant institutions more accountable to the population.
- Continue fostering civil-military dialogue within EU structures.
- Uphold the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and lead by example (e.g. by having more women EU officials dealing with security issues).

How could the EU better support inclusive governance?

- Embed the EUGS into existing policy frameworks, such as the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Invest in thorough political economy analysis to better understand the diversity of needs and interests of the different actors involved in governance.
- Use service delivery as a means of assessing how the relationship of trust between citizens and governments can be improved.
- Encourage staff from EUDs to reach out to civil society and increase the number of civil society focal points in both operational and political sections.
- Facilitate inclusion, alongside the creation of confidence building spaces to explore how and where to renew the social contract between citizens and government structures at different levels, so trust can be rebuilt for sustainable and enduring peace.
- Use the leverage provided by budget support and the political dialogue which comes with it to improve accountability mechanisms and to counter the shrinking of civil society space.

How could the EU address the economic dimensions of conflict?

- Integrate peace into economic development projects, including for countries in situations of fragility or lower-intensity conflicts.
- Use the EU's regulatory and trade clout to emphasise corporate social responsibility (CSR) norms with the private sector, at transnational, national, and local levels.
- Take companies beyond a 'do no harm' approach towards actively supporting peace in their business practices.
- Acknowledge the positive role of certain shadow economies on conflict dynamics (e.g. cross-border trade initiatives).
- Assess the impact of EU internal policies on war or criminalised economies (e.g. how migration policies affect the smuggling economy).
- Engage with CSOs before adopting sanctions to assess potential negative impacts which may contribute to war or criminalised economies. If sanctions are approved, then ensure constant monitoring alongside CSOs to ensure continuity and evidence-based review.

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](#).