



Civil Society Dialogue Network Policy Meeting

Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture: The perspective of civil society and the EU

Wednesday 15 April 2015 (09:00 – 13:00)

Martin's Brussels EU Hotel, Boulevard Charlemagne / Karel de Grotelaan 80, 1000 Brussels

Background

The UN Peacebuilding Architecture (PBA) was agreed in 2005 so that international actors would cooperate to develop more coherent and better-funded responses to countries emerging from violent conflict (including peacekeeping, development, humanitarian and human rights aspects) in order to prevent relapse into conflict again. It is comprised of the [Peacebuilding Commission](#) (PBC), the [Peacebuilding Fund](#) (PBF) and the [Peacebuilding Support Office](#) (PBSO). EU Member States (EUMS) have taken leading roles in the UN PBA, and Sweden is currently chairing the PBC.

According to the agreed Terms of Reference, the review should propose ways to strengthen the performance and impact of the PBA by providing recommendations on the functioning, resources, modes of engagement and links with the UN system entities with which it engages. The Advisory Group of Experts, nominated by the UN Secretary-General to conduct the review, has promised to be independent and bold. Its report is expected by June 2015, with intergovernmental negotiations taking place in the autumn. EUMS could play an important role in building consensus during this period. Options for reform include providing the political and financial support needed for the PBA to fulfil its original mandate; narrowing its mandate or to more accurately reflect its activity and impact. The review of the PBA should be conducted in coordination with other ongoing reviews of UN peace operations and the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security as well as with the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States (g7+ countries) and the post-2015 development agenda (Sustainable Development Goals).

Objectives

The overall objective of this meeting is to discuss the current review of the PBA, including how it relates to EU approaches to peacebuilding in the post-conflict period. The specific objectives are:

- To discuss the relevance of the PBA to the needs of countries emerging from violent conflict;
- To consider EU and UN approaches to peacebuilding, and opportunities for partnership;
- To identify options for the future development of the PBA, and the potential points of influence for the EU, EUMS and civil society organisations (CSOs).

Format

The meeting will consist of two sessions. In each session, initial presentations from speakers will be followed by an open discussion in which all participants will be encouraged to engage.

Participants

The meeting will bring together approximately 25-35 EU policy-makers, UN officials and representatives from civil society peacebuilding organisations.

Other interested parties, including representatives from think tanks, academics and other experts will also be invited to participate.

Agenda

08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 10:30	<p>Session 1: The UN PBA in the international system: The current state of peacebuilding mechanisms</p> <p>Moderator: Eldridge Adolfo, European External Action Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How effectively has the PBA increased the attention and capacity given to peacebuilding at the UN? • How does it fit into the UN system and wider peacebuilding structures and initiatives worldwide? • Do its approaches and activities create a more sustainable peace for countries emerging from conflict? How are local expertise, skills, and capacity involved? <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan Smith, International Alert • Jair van der Lijn, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) • Achim Wennmann, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rory Keane, UN Liaison Office for Peace and Security <p>Followed by a facilitated discussion.</p>
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 13:00	<p>Session 2: Options for a revitalised UN PBA: what role for the EU, regional organisations and civil society?</p> <p>Moderator: Andrew Lane, Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the main scenarios and options for the future UN PBA after the 2015 review? • What is the role of regional organisations in supporting or partnering the UN PBA? Should there be a division of labour? • How might civil society engagement improve the UN PBA? Is there a role for the EU to encourage the PBA to include local knowledge and the development of local civilian peacebuilding capacity? • On which issues might consensus be more difficult, for example between Member States (MS) from the Global North and Global South? How might the EU build consensus when the review's recommendations are negotiated? <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eleanor O'Gorman, Conciliation Resources • Darynell Rodríguez Torres, Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Khaldoun Sinno, European External Action Service <p>Followed by a facilitated discussion.</p>
13:00 – 14:00	End of meeting - Lunch

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 will last from 2014 to 2016. For more information, please visit the [EPLO website](#).