



AGENDA

Civil Society Dialogue Network Meeting

Looking forward in Myanmar's peace process: How can the EU and civil society provide constructive support?

Friday, 23 May 2014

Summit Parkview Hotel, 350 Ahlone Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, Myanmar

8:15 – 8:30 Registration

8:30 - 9:00am Welcome and Opening Remarks by EU Ambassador Roland Kobia and Catherine Woollard, EPLO Director

The welcome and opening remarks will welcome participants to the meeting, introduce the meeting objectives, methodology, role of the participants, and questions for discussion during the day. It will also briefly touch on the link to the previous CSDN meeting in Brussels in March 2013.

9:00 – 11am Session 1 - Visions for Myanmar's National Dialogue

Speakers:

- U Isaac Khen, Civil Society Forum for Peace Working Committee Member
- U Harn Yawngwe, Euro-Burma Office Executive Director

Moderator: Catherine Woollard, EPLO Director

This session is intended to look forward towards the next phase of the peace process and to discuss the present plans for a national dialogue, lessons learned from national dialogues in other countries, and the different visions within Myanmar for the national dialogue. It will address the following questions:

- What is civil society's vision for a national dialogue in Myanmar? What should be the main objectives of the national dialogue?
- What lessons can be learned from other national dialogues?
- What topics should the Myanmar national dialogue address?
- How will the current peace process be linked with the national dialogue?
- What role should civil society play in the national dialogue? Is there agreement amongst civil society actors on the desired role?
- How do other actors (government, armed ethnic groups, political parties, Parliament) see civil society's role? How could any gaps in these two visions be bridged?
- How should the public be engaged in the national dialogue? How could the dialogue be structured to ensure that it is truly "national"?

11 - 11:30am Coffee Break

11:30 – 1pm Session 2 - Challenges for a National Dialogue and for the Peace Process

Moderator: Manuel de Rivera, Program Officer, European Union Delegation

This session is intended to focus on issues that could undermine the process, with an emphasis on how civil society and the EU can proactively seek to address these challenges and reduce the potential risks. It will address the following questions:

- What are the main challenges for a national dialogue in Myanmar?
- How can these challenges be addressed in order to increase the chances for an effective national dialogue?
- What are the main challenges to the wider peace process in Myanmar? What are the key conflict risks in the short and medium term?
- What mitigation strategies can be employed to prevent these risks from undermining Myanmar's peace process? How can the EU and civil society support each other's efforts to do so?

1 – 2pm Lunch

2 – 4pm Session 3 - EU and External Actors' Support to Myanmar's Process

Speaker: EU Ambassador Roland Kobia

Moderator: Catherine Woollard, EPLO Director

This session is intended to be a continuation of the discussion about EU and external actors' support to Myanmar's peace process that took place at the first Myanmar CSDN meeting in Brussels in March 2013. There will be brief remarks from panellists representing the EU followed by moderated open discussion and Q&A. It will address the following questions:

- What role should the EU and other external actors play in seeking to support Myanmar's peace process? And what should they avoid?
- Should they support a national dialogue? Why or why not? Under what conditions?
- What is the planning process for EU and external actors as they design their peace process support programs? How can civil society give input on these plans? How should plans be communicated to the population?
- How can the international community avoid competition and ensure best practices in support to Myanmar's peace process?
- What are the obstacles to applying conflict sensitivity in EU support to Myanmar? How do other EU policies (development, trade, etc.) affect the EU's support to the peace process?
- Q and A with civil society/EU Delegation

4 – 4:30pm Coffee Break

4:30 – 5:30pm Recommendations and Next Steps

Moderator: Sarah Levit-Shore, EPLO

5:30 – 6pm Wrap up, thanks and conclusion

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 and Peace). 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 www.eplo.org.