



Martti Ahtisaari Centre



Civil Society Dialogue Network Meeting

The UN Guidance for Effective Mediation: Translating the Fundamentals into EU Practice

Thursday, 14 November 2013

Finland's Permanent Representation to the EU
Avenue de Cortenbergh 80
1000 Brussels

Introduction

The **United Nations Guidance for Effective Mediation** was drafted in response to the request of the General Assembly in resolution 65/283. Developed after an inclusive consultation process, involving UN Member States, regional and sub-regional organizations, high-level mediators and mediation experts, civil society organizations and the broader UN system, the Guidance helps to sharpen the concept of mediation and emphasizes how it can be used to prevent, manage and resolve violent, political conflict. The guidance identifies a set of key fundamentals that should be considered in a mediation effort, and offers some practical indication as to how the international community should conduct mediation activities in often complex environments.

The EU has an extensive track record in building peace inside its borders and in contributing to the peaceful settlement of violent conflicts around the world. These efforts have been recently recognized by the Norwegian Nobel Committee who has awarded the Nobel peace prize for the EU in 2012.

The objective of the meeting is to provide a forum for taking stock of the experience of the EU in supporting mediation efforts (with concrete case studies) and to reflect on how the implementation of the UN fundamentals in EU mediation practice can best be achieved. By looking at concrete challenges, the conference will help generate ideas within the EU on

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how to enhance its in-house mediation capacity and the design of support to mediation processes.

The discussions will focus on the following fundamentals:

Inclusivity

The UN Guidance for effective mediation gives considered attention to the value of inclusivity, as well as to how wider participation should be promoted and achieved. This panel will look at EU experience in this regard, including with the supporting insider mediators and local civil society in conflict situations, in particular increasing the participation of women.

Coherence, coordination and complementarity of the mediation effort

The Guidance addresses the proliferation of governmental, multilateral, and non-governmental organisations involved in mediation processes and recommends that mediation processes be run by a lead mediator, with other mediation actors working in coordination with, and under the umbrella of, the lead. This panel will look at examples of cooperation among mediation actors with a particular emphasis on the EU contribution in supporting or leading on mediation efforts.

National Ownership

This fundamental underscores the fact that peace agreements should seek to address the root causes of the conflict as well as to create an appropriate framework for a unified vision after having taken into consideration as many opinions as possible. It also emphasizes the importance of clear modalities for implementation.

Participants

The meeting will bring together 60 - 80 participants, including civil society and EU policy-makers from the EU Parliament, EU Commission, and the EEAS - including Special Representatives (EUSRs) and EU Member States representatives. Invitations will also be sent to regional and international organizations and the broader diplomatic community in Brussels.

The meeting takes place under the Civil Society Dialogue Network with additional support from the governments of Ireland and Finland.

The Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) is a three-year project co-funded by the European Union (Instrument for Stability) aimed at facilitating dialogue on peacebuilding issues between civil society and EU policymakers. The CSDN contributes to strengthening international and regional capacity for conflict prevention and post-conflict co-operation (for more information www.eplo.org). It is managed by EPLO, the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office in cooperation with the EEAS and the EC.

Agenda

8:45 – 9:00 Arrival & registration

9:00 – 9:30 Welcoming remarks & Setting the scene

- **Tuija Talvitie**, Executive Director, Crisis Management Initiative
- **Robert Dann**, Chief, Mediation Support Unit, UN DPA

9:30 – 11:00 KEYNOTE PANEL: Shaping international peace mediation practice – standards and common understanding

Moderator: **Robert Dann**, Chief, Mediation Support Unit, UN DPA

- **Martti Ahtisaari**, former President of Finland, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Chairman of the Board of CMI
- **Margaret Vogt**, Mediator-in-Residence at the UN Department of Political Affairs and former Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic
- **Maciej Popowski**, Deputy Secretary General of the European External Action Service (EEAS)

Discussion with participants

Questions to be addressed: Why does the international community need standards when addressing violent conflict through mediation? How can these standards be translated into practice by the EU and what has already been done by the EU in this regard?

11:30 – 13:00 Inclusivity – Why and for whom?

Moderator: **Malgorzata Wasilewska**, Head of Division, Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Mediation Instruments, EEAS

- **Jeremy Brickhill**, Director, Zimbabwe Peace and Security Programme
- **Erwan Fouéré**, Special Representative for the Irish 2012 Chairmanship of the OSCE and former EU Special Representative and Head of Delegation
- **Antonia Potter Prentice**, Senior Manager on Mediation, Gender and Inclusiveness, CMI

Comments: **Marie-Joelle Zahar**, UN Standby Team of Mediation Experts

Followed by an interactive discussion

Questions to be addressed: What are the insights from the EU's efforts to ensure an effective support and mediation in conflict situations? What more could it do, what are the examples of best practices and common pitfalls and how can specific challenges, such as reconciling minority/majority rights and concerns be addressed? What support is needed from the international community in order to conduct sustainable peace processes?

14:00 – 15:30 Coherence, coordination and complementarity of the mediation effort

Moderator: **Claus Neukirch**, Deputy Director, Conflict Prevention Centre, OSCE

- **Bettina Muscheidt**, Head of Delegation of the EU to Yemen
- **Katia Papagianni**, Director Policy and Mediation Support Programme, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue
- **Andrew Marshall**, Senior Mediation Adviser, CMI

Comments:

- **Ilker Kiliç**, Permanent Mission of Turkey to the UN
- **Mikko Kivikoski**, Permanent Mission of Finland to the UN

Followed by an interactive discussion

Questions to be addressed: Do contact groups and groups of friends have the potential to contribute to coordinated mediation efforts? How can information sharing increase potential for coherence and complementarity of mediation efforts without overloading lead mediators and their teams and leading to unmanageable processes? What is the EU doing in this respect and how can this effort be further supported?

15:45 – 17:15 National Ownership – balancing local and international approaches and interests

Moderator: **Jonathan Cohen**, Director of Programmes, Conciliation Resources

- **Barbara Unger**, Programme Director, Berghof Foundation
- **Genoveva Ruiz Calavera**, Head of Stability Instrument Operations, FPI
- **Sean Kane**, Special Assistant, United Nations Assistance Mission for Afghanistan

Comments: **Matthias Siegfried**, Head of Mediation Programme, swisspeace on behalf of the Mediation Support Network

Followed by an interactive discussion

Questions to be addressed: How should mediators and third parties navigate between choosing tools that promote internationally acceptable solutions while enabling local responses and strategies to emerge and be taken up? How to avoid cut and paste solutions? Is an “inclusive” process the only recipe? How does the EU support national ownership in the mediation processes it supports?

17:15 Closing remarks followed by a reception

- **Joe Hackett**, Ambassador to the Political and Security Committee of the EU, Ireland
- **Katri Viinikka**, Director for UN and General Global Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland