

Civil Society Dialogue Network Meeting

Designing and Supporting National Dialogues: What Role for the EU and Civil Society?

Thursday, 30 October 2014

Hotel Renaissance, Rue du Parnasse 19, 1050 Bruxelles
Brussels

The purpose of the meeting is to look at the use of national dialogues as a tool for conflict prevention and an option for responding to conflict, and to assess how to improve their design and implementation. Through the use of case studies, the dialogue meeting will identify lessons and generate concrete recommendation on the use, design and support for national dialogues by the EU and others.

Objectives of the meeting:

- To assess the usefulness and potential of national dialogues as a mechanism for preventing and responding to conflict;
- To capture emerging lessons from the use of national dialogues and identify obstacles to their effective implementation and means to overcome these obstacles;
- To formulate recommendations to the EU, EU Member States and civil society on the use and support for national dialogues.

8h45	Registration of participants
9h00	Welcoming remarks - Malgorzata Wasilewska, EEAS
9h05	<p>Session 1: National Dialogues: State of Play</p> <p>Moderator: Catherine Woollard, EPLO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are national dialogues? When are they used and what are they useful for? • Why are national dialogues increasingly perceived as an appropriate response to conflict? • Where have they been implemented successfully and what were the outcomes? • What are the main challenges and lessons from recent examples? Are there risks attached to national dialogues and what are the political and practical obstacles? <p>Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Ladley, HD Centre <p>Comments: Sanne Tielemans, Conciliation Resources ; Nicholas Duncan Ross & Christian Keller, The Graduate Institute, Geneva</p> <p>Presentations are followed by a facilitated discussion</p>
10h30	Coffee Break
11h00	<p>Session 2: Designing National Dialogues (with particular reference to Guinea Bissau, Yemen and Sudan)</p> <p>Moderator: Canan Gündüz, EEAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What objectives can realistically be achieved in national dialogues? What matters most:

	<p>processes (dialogue) versus results (recommendations for action)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the main lessons on national dialogues structure, mandate and relation to existing institutions? • How can national dialogues be inclusive, in particular regarding civil society? <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fafali Koudawo, Voz de Paz • Ali Saif Hassan, Political Development Forum in Yemen • Rosalind Marsden, Chatham House <p>Response: Julien Bourtembourg, EEAS</p> <p>Presentations are followed by a facilitated discussion</p>
13h00	Lunch
14h00	<p>Sessions 3: Small groups session: a look at inclusivity, Ukraine and Libya</p> <p>1. National dialogues and inclusivity models</p> <p>Inclusivity is important as a principle but is it possible in practice? <i>Facilitator: Nicolas Rougy (Interpeace) - Comments: Oliver Wils (Berghof Foundation), Nureldin Satti (CMI)</i></p> <p>2. National dialogue in Ukraine</p> <p>Would a national dialogue in Ukraine contribute to peace? Should the EU support it? <i>Facilitator: Josephine Liebl (EPLO) - Comments: Kirsi Joenpolvi (OSCE)</i></p> <p>3. National dialogue in Libya</p> <p>What are the pros and cons of having a national dialogue in Libya? Should the EU support it? <i>Facilitator: Nabila Habbida (EPLO) - Comments: Christopher Thornton (HD Centre)</i></p>
15h00	Coffee Break
15h30	<p>Session 4: The Role of the EU in Supporting National Dialogues</p> <p>Moderator: Catherine Woollard, EPLO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When and where should the EU offer support to national dialogues? How does it fit into its external action priorities? • What is the added value of EU involvement? What is the comparative (dis)advantage of the EU towards other international actors? • What is the scope of tools and resources at the EU's disposal to support national dialogues? How can EU Member States' resources be integrated in it? • What are the minimum standards for national dialogue before the EU provides support? <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harn Yawngwe, Euro-Burma Office • Tomas Henning, EEAS • Victoria Wulff Barreiro, Permanent Representation of Spain to the EU <p>Followed by a facilitated discussion</p>
17h00	End of the meeting

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](#).