

Civil Society Dialogue Network Strategic Debates¹

Protection of Civilians: Key international debates and the role of the EU

Wednesday 25 February 2015, 14:00 – 16:00
Hotel Martin's Brussels EU, Boulevard Charlemagne 80, 1000 Brussels

AGENDA

Objectives of the meeting:

- Examine the key contemporary debates on protection of civilians
- Explore the current and potential role of the European Union and of civil society in the protection of civilians

Participants and format

This informal roundtable will bring together civil society representatives, academics as well as policy-makers from across the EU institutions and Member States.

Brief opening comments will be followed by an interactive and carefully facilitated discussion.

Agenda

13.45	Welcome coffee and registration of participants
14.00	<p>Introductory comments by Mel Duncan, Co-Founder of Nonviolent Peaceforce and Director of Advocacy</p> <p>Contributions to the discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDR Vincenzo de Benedictis, EU Military Staff, EEAS • Borhan Osman, Afghanistan Analysts Network <p>The facilitated discussion will examine the key contemporary debates on protection of civilians, covering the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The changing nature of armed violence and new threats to civilians • Assessment of international capacity to protect civilians in conflict • Methods for protection of civilians: emerging practices and the role of unarmed peacekeepers • Protection of civilians and the review of UN peace operations • Civil society's role and cooperation with peace operations in order to protect civilians <p>The roundtable will then move to explore the current and potential role of the European Union in the protection of civilians, with suggestions as to how the EU can improve its efforts to directly and indirectly support the protection of civilians, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the EU's role in international norm setting, • the EU's tools and the direct protection of civilians (CSDP, Development, diplomacy) • EU support to the efforts of others, such as intergovernmental organisations (e.g. EU support to African Union-led peace support operations) and civil society organisations. <p>Moderation: Catherine Woollard, Independent Diplomats</p>
16:00	End of the meeting

¹ CSDN strategic debates are roundtables on key topics in peace and security.



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 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](#).