

Civil Society Dialogue Network

France and the implementation of the EU Global Strategy: A look at conflict prevention and economic diplomacy

Monday 13 March 2017 (14h00 – 19h00)
France Stratégie, 18 rue de Martignac, 75007 Paris, France

Background:

Fifteen years after the adoption of the EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts (also known as the 'Gothenburg Programme') and almost ten years after the Lisbon Treaty enshrined conflict prevention as a key goal of the EU external action, the EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy provides a major opportunity for the EU and its Member States to close the implementation gap in its support to conflict prevention.

This meeting will look at the implementation of the EU's commitments on conflict prevention, with one session looking at the state-of-play after the publication of the EU Global Strategy and a second one looking particularly at the EU's role in addressing the economic dimensions of conflicts. Recommendations will focus on improving the practice and the impact of EU external action in fragile and conflict-affected countries.

Objectives:

The overall objective of this meeting is to gather analysis and recommendations from civil society on making the EU commitments on conflict prevention operational.

The specific objectives of this meeting are to:

- Analyse the EU Global Strategy and its commitments for conflict prevention
- Analyse and gather recommendations on the role of the EU and its Member States, France in particular, in addressing the economic dimensions of conflicts

Format: Each session will start with a panel of representatives from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, EU institutions and civil society. Facilitation will support interactive discussion with the other participants. The meeting will be held under the Chatham House Rule. Simultaneous translation in French and in English will be provided.

Participants: The meeting will bring together 30 participants, including officials from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and EU institutions, as well as representatives of civil society organisations (CSOs).

The 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 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 2017. For more information, please visit the [EPLO website](#).

Agenda

13h45-14h00	<p>Registration of participants</p>
14h00-14h15	<p>Welcome and objectives of the meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Aurélien Colson, Director, ESSEC IRENE • Michel Yahiel, Commissaire Général, France Stratégie • Sonya Reines-Djivanides, Executive Director, EPLO
14h15-15h45	<p>Session 1 – Conflict prevention and the EU Global Strategy: what perspectives for France?</p> <p>This session will discuss the content of the EU Global Strategy with regard to conflict prevention, including the reactions of France and of peacebuilding civil society organisations. The EU emphasis on the concept of resilience provides an opportunity to discuss its definition and its potential impact in implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are France's priorities with regard to the EU Global Strategy? - How can France contribute to improving the EU's capacities for conflict prevention? - What are the actions of France to promote resilience? <p>Introductory comments by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Nicolas Suran, PSC Ambassador, Permanent Representation of France to the EU</i> • <i>Bruno Dupré, Head of Strategy and Defense Sector, European External Action Service</i> • <i>Maria Manuela Cabral, Head of the Fragility and Resilience Unit, Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission</i> • <i>Grégory Robert, Democratic governance Mission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i> • <i>Nicolas Rougy, Chair, EPLO Steering Committee</i> <p><i>Open discussion moderated by Sonya Reines-Djivanides, Executive Director, EPLO</i></p>
15h45-16h15	<p>Coffee break</p>
16h15-17h45	<p>Session 2 – Economic diplomacy and the EU Global Strategy: Improving the EU's role in addressing the economic dimensions of conflicts</p> <p>The EU Global Strategy has highlighted the importance of fostering a 'political economy of peace' in conflict affected countries. This session will look at how the EU and its Member States, in particular France, can better integrate the economic dimension of conflicts in their analysis and in their actions, using trade and development, or engaging with the private sector, in order to promote peace-conducive economic developments.</p> <p>Issues to be addressed through practical examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How to ensure that EU and MS trade initiatives promote peace-conducive economic developments?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How is the private sector being engaged by the EU, MS and civil society organisations in conflict affected contexts? - How can the EU and MS maximise its positive role and minimise its negative impact on conflict dynamics? - Can we talk about economic diplomacy? <p>Introductory comments by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Angel Carro Castrillo, Senior Adviser, Strategic Planning Division, European External Action Service (EEAS)</i> • <i>Ludovic Pouille, Deputy Director for North Africa and Middle East, Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i> • <i>Yadaira Orsini, Head of Economic Development for Peace, International Alert</i> <p><i>Open discussion moderated by Prof. Linda Benraïs, “Governance and conflicts” Program director, ESSEC IRENE</i></p>
17h45-18h00	<p>Concluding remarks</p> <p><i>Prof. Joseph Maïla, Programmes director, ESSEC IRENE</i></p>
18h00-19h00	<p>Reception</p>