

EPLO activities in EU Member States aimed at strengthening EU peacebuilding policy

Recommendations from Member State meeting

This document summarises the recommendations to the EU, the Swedish government and civil society from Sweden which came out of the meeting entitled ‘**How can the EU contribute to peacebuilding in the Horn of Africa?**’ which took place in Stockholm on 22 May 2013. For more information, please visit [EPLO's website](#).

During the meeting, the state of play regarding conflict prevention, peacebuilding and the EU was discussed as well as the challenge of implementing the EU's commitments to gender, peace and security in the Horn of Africa and the EU's approach to building peace in the Horn of Africa as a whole.

The EU, conflict prevention and peacebuilding

Recommendations to policy-makers:

1) EU:

- Limit fragmentation of peacebuilding expertise and practice which is, at present, divided across EU institutions;
- Use the concepts that the EU adopted (such as 2001 EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflict and the 2009 Concept Paper on Strengthening EU Mediation and Dialogue Capacities) and follow-up implementation of commitments systematically;
- Ensure adequate financial support for the European External Affairs Service (EEAS) and the work it does on conflict prevention and peacebuilding;
- Increase the role of the EU as interlocutor in international discussions on peacebuilding, for instance at the UN level;
- Invest in EU partners' peacebuilding capacity including the African Union, League of Arab States etc;
- Adopt an integrated approach to ensure that the EU employs all the different policy tools in a consistent and comprehensive way;
- Increase the EU's activities on the implementation of the New Deal and the EU's involvement in the current discussion of the post-2015 framework by adopting a common position and pushing for MDGs that are sensitive to conflict;
- Improve co-operation with outside actors, especially civil society;
- Increase the support for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 focusing on creating and protecting the space for women's participation in peacebuilding processes and including women's priorities and perception of security in the EU's engagement with peace processes.

2) Swedish government:

- Work through the EU and invest resources to make it more effective, for instance through the secondment of national experts;
- Take a leadership role in placing peacebuilding as a priority in EU external action including in relevant discussions at the Council;
- Build alliances with like-minded Member States on peace and conflict issues to strengthen the peacebuilding agenda at the EU level in the relevant processes, such as the mid-term

review of the EEAS in 2013;

- Ensure that Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) is integrated in the broader approach of the EU towards a specific country and region;
- Insist on modernising development assistance with a view of including conflict prevention and peacebuilding;
- Ensure that there are sufficient resources for external action within the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and that the external affairs budget supports conflict prevention and peacebuilding;
- Review the European Commission's financial regulations to ensure that they are simplified and that they are better suited to support peacebuilding processes;
- Nominate more women for positions in EU institutions, especially for senior-level positions and CSDP missions.

Recommendations to civil society:

1) Civil society:

- Monitor what individual Member States are doing in terms of EU peacebuilding policy instead of only focusing on EU institutions;
- Present independent evidence and analysis to inform how the EU can most usefully support peacebuilding in conflict-affected countries;
- Invest in understanding the EU system and policy processes and building network and lobbying capacity.

2) Think tanks and academics:

- Support civil society and EU institutions by providing evidence on the impact of EU activities in conflict-affected countries.

Implementing the EU's commitments to gender, peace and security in the Horn of Africa

Recommendations to policy-makers:

1) EU:

- Integrate guidance on how to implement UNSCR 1325 through specific tools, e.g. how to integrate gender perspectives across all components of the CSDP;
- Make sure that when commitments to UNSCR 1325 are included in the mandates of CSPD missions and EUSR teams, they are translated into practice;
- Ensure all EU entities, including EUSR teams, CSDP missions and EU Delegations regularly report on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 as required by existing monitoring mechanisms in place;
- Set-up reporting mechanisms at a sufficiently high level within the EU hierarchy;
- Ensure that more women are recruited to work in the EU Military Training Mission (EUTM) Somalia.

2) Swedish government:

- Nominate more women for positions in EU institutions, especially for senior-level positions

and CSDP missions.

3) Officials from both the EU and the Swedish government:

- Support women by insisting on space for women's participation in political processes; the 30% quota in the selection of the parliament in Somalia was a missed opportunity in this respect;
- Facilitate dialogue between civil society and governments in the Horn of Africa as a way to include women and use the expertise of civil society;
- Expand the definition of security in Somalia to include and prioritise the security of the Somali people, taking the focus away from solely military approaches.

Recommendations to civil society:

- Generate more evidence on the effectiveness of including women in the early stages of peace processes;
- Develop cross-clan political movements which include women and seek engagement with the EU.

Improving the EU's approach to building peace in the Horn of Africa

Recommendations to policy-makers:

1) EU:

- Strengthen the 3-pronged EU Horn of Africa policy (conflict prevention, economic growth and co-operation) by incorporating a clear peacebuilding component in each of them;
- Develop a comprehensive approach to the Horn of Africa, moving from an instruments to an integrated approach which includes regional and multilevel dimensions and guidance on how to make linkages with different policies; this would also help the EU to hold governments in the Horn of Africa to account for their commitments;
- Strengthen the civilian component of CSDP by exploring how it can support peacebuilding, especially in Somalia;
- Encourage in-country conflict analysis and ensure that it informs EU policy-making for the Horn of Africa;
- Explore the possibility of working with Somalian diaspora;
- Apply experience of peacebuilding within Europe and the process of regional integration within the EU.

2) Swedish government:

- Support the EU by working through EU actors present in Somalia;
- Monitor what the EU is doing and the impact it has on peacebuilding in the region;
- Follow up on policy commitments by providing the matching resources: money, expertise, management and flexibility.

3) Officials from both the EU and the Swedish government:

- Support the positive developments in Somalia and consider how to support civil society's peacebuilding work;

- Work together with civil society despite the shrinking space available and support their presence and activities;
- Be aware what the role of the EU including its Member States is in peacebuilding as an outside actor: How can external actors best engage in peacebuilding, which perspectives and expertise are useful, what kind of engagement? Related to this, the EU has to practice what it preaches, especially when it comes to involvement of women;
- Recognise that peacebuilding is a process and that funding allocated on a project basis may be inadequate.

Recommendations to civil society:

- Design regional peacebuilding programmes to address cross-border conflicts in the Horn of Africa;
- Provide EU institutions, especially the EEAS, with policy analysis from the Horn of Africa;
- Identify the Member States which play leading roles in different areas, e.g. Sweden on peacebuilding, UK on stabilization etc. and target their governments with specific, evidence-based, ideally joint multi-agency, policy briefs;
- Establish institutional mechanisms of consultations with national governments.

EPLO's suggestions for follow-up and possible next steps:

EPLO will be taking forward the recommendations related to the EEAS' role in making the EU more effective in peacebuilding in its work on the mid-term review of the EEAS throughout 2013. Together with LPI and Kvinna till Kvinna, EPLO will follow Sweden's role in EU peacebuilding policy and support Sweden to promote conflict prevention and peacebuilding at the EU level. For more information, please contact Josephine Liebl (jl Liebl@eplo.org).

EPLO will provide input into the discussions on policy reform and civilian CSDP in the run-up to the European Council meeting in December 2013 which will discuss, among other things, the effectiveness, visibility and impact of the CSDP. For more information, please contact Josephine Liebl (jl Liebl@eplo.org).

EPLO works on the EU's role in peace processes and has recently published policy paper on EU support to peace processes. For more information, please contact Giulia Pasquinelli (gpasquinelli@eplo.org).

EPLO continues to follow the EU's implementation of UNSCR 1325. For more information, please contact Giulia Pasquinelli (gpasquinelli@eplo.org).

EPLO works on ensuring that EU development policies and practices adequately incorporate conflict prevention and peacebuilding and will develop a statement on how conflict considerations can be integrated in the post-2015 framework. For more information, please contact Ben Moore (bmoore@eplo.org).