

(8) EPLO's objectives 2016 to 2018

Policy Objectives

(1) To ensure that conflict prevention and peacebuilding are prominent within the policies and structures of EU external affairs

- To promote integrated policy-making and a whole-of-EU approach which put conflict prevention and peacebuilding at the centre of EU external policies
- To advocate for coherent and best-practice ways to prevent conflict and build peace, including conflict analysis, early warning and mediation, highlighting the value of and need for effective civilian responses
- To contribute to the positive institutional development of the EEAS as the key body in EU conflict prevention and peacebuilding through the provision of constructive input and analysis to relevant processes
- To ensure that the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), including Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and other relevant tools, integrates a human security approach, and is more supportive of peacebuilding and conflict prevention

(2) To secure increased resources for conflict prevention and peacebuilding

- To increase the overall resources available for EU conflict prevention and peacebuilding activities through the inclusion of conflict prevention and peacebuilding in the EU's external funding instruments (2014-2020), multiannual strategy papers and annual programmes in line with EPLO's targets
- To increase the resources available for activities carried out by conflict prevention and peacebuilding civil society organisations, including EPLO member organisations (MOs)
- To strengthen the capacities of EPLO MOs to access EU resources

(3) To integrate peacebuilding into EU development policy, programmes and approaches

- To ensure that EU development policies and practices adequately incorporate conflict prevention and peacebuilding, statebuilding, good governance and human security
- To promote and monitor conflict sensitivity in the use of EU development assistance

(4) To strengthen the implementation of a gender-sensitive approach¹ in EU policy and practice which enables the EU to be more inclusive and effective in promoting peace

- To bring a gender perspective consistently into all of EPLO's work
- To act as a conduit for gender expertise, gender-sensitive analysis and advice on gender, peace and security into the EU institutions

¹ Integrating a "gender approach" requires acknowledging and acting on the following considerations when developing and implementing peace and security policies: 1) women and men, boys and girls understand and experience security and conflict differently; 2) conflict has a transformative (positive and negative) potential on traditionally-defined gender roles; 3) there is an imbalance between women's and men's representation and contributions to peacebuilding in formal, institutional processes and in decision-making positions in peace and security; 4) the links between gender-based violence in conflict and social models (including traditional models of masculinity and femininity) are insufficiently explored.

- To channel and support the contributions of women from conflict-affected countries into EU peace and security policies
- To promote greater support of Member States to the implementation of the EU gender, peace and security agenda

(5) To promote peacebuilding in EU response to specific conflicts

- To create opportunities to feed evidence and analysis from civil society in conflict-affected countries into EU policy-making²
- To use the Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) to support peacebuilding in the EU's strategies and actions in particular conflicts

Organisational Change Objectives

These objectives will help EPLO to manage effectively the internal changes which are necessary for it to meet its policy objectives and to address the challenges identified above. EPLO has grown significantly since it was established in 2001 and its MOs are committed to strengthening the network and to accepting new MOs as desirable and appropriate. For a peacebuilding network, managing organisational change is a strategic issue.

(1) To maintain and develop good working relationships with EU policy-makers in Brussels and Member States, NGOs, think tanks, academics and other networks in order to maintain and/or improve EPLO's reputation and to make effective use of the access which EPLO currently has

(2) To produce content (written papers and presentations) which is consistently clear, concise, user-friendly, and which reflects the expertise of EPLO and its MOs

(3) To strengthen the network and to accept new MOs as desirable and appropriate in order to increase its legitimacy and diversity and to enlarge the pool of expertise at its disposal

(4) To secure funding for EPLO in the medium-term; to manage efficiently reductions in EPLO's budget should they occur

(5) To make EPLO's work informative, inclusive, efficient and rewarding for those involved in it in any capacity

(6) To ensure effective governance of EPLO, through (1) applying EPLO's policy on roles and responsibilities of the EPLO office and the EPLO Steering Committee³; and (2) ensuring functioning of EPLO Steering Committee (recruitment of members, allocation of roles and use of conflict of interest guidance)

(7) To evaluate EPLO's work and to develop work plans using the objectives set out in the Strategic Plan as a framework

² EPLO does not develop common positions on specific conflicts. Its work on specific conflicts focuses on facilitating dialogue between EU policy-makers and civil society on specific conflicts.

³ Roles and responsibilities within EPLO are set out in the EPLO internal statutes. The statutes were revised during 2009/2010 so no significant revision is planned for 2016 to 2018.