



Civil Society Dialogue Network

Unpacking the 'Peace' Component of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus: Gathering Civil Society Input

Tuesday 21 May 2019, 8:30 – 16:30

Scotland House Conference Centre
Rond-Point Robert Schuman / Robert Schumanplein 6, Brussels

Concept note

Background:

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the interlinkages between humanitarian, development and peace actions. It is estimated that more than 500 million people living in extreme poverty inhabit fragile and conflict-affected contexts, and violent conflicts are the main drivers of humanitarian needs worldwide.¹ The European Union (EU) has consistently emphasised in policy documents the importance of preventing violent conflict and of building sustainable peace to improve the sustainability of humanitarian and development efforts, as well as of ensuring that these efforts are conflict-sensitive. In 2016, the [EU Global Strategy](#) called for the synergies between EU development, humanitarian and peace actions to be developed further, and in December 2017 the Council of the EU expressly [recognised](#) “the linkages between sustainable development, humanitarian action and conflict prevention and peacebuilding.”²

As the EU is looking to further develop its approach to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, this meeting will bring together civil society experts with experience in addressing these linkages. The meeting will focus in particular on implementing the ‘peace’ component of the nexus. The civil society experts will share their experiences and recommendations on how they understand and apply the ‘peace’ component of the nexus and on how the EU should operationalise the nexus in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

Objective:

The dialogue meeting will provide an open space to share perspectives and explore ideas on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, in particular with regard to its ‘peace’ component. The overall objective of the meeting will be to gather the input and recommendations of civil society representatives with expertise in humanitarian, development and peace actions on how the EU should approach and operationalise the nexus.

¹ See for example: OECD, [States of Fragility 2018](#) and Development Initiatives, [Global humanitarian assistance report 2018](#).

² The EU’s [Integrated Approach to Conflict and Crises](#) similarly emphasises the need to use the EU’s various policies and instruments in a more coherent, holistic and conflict-sensitive manner. See also the [EU’s Strategic Approach to Resilience](#), the [European Consensus on Development](#), the [European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid](#), and the EU’s commitment to implementing the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).



Participants:

The meeting will bring together around 20-25 participants from civil society and the EU institutions, including civil society experts working in the areas of humanitarian aid, development cooperation and peace, and EU officials from relevant institutions.

Format and structure:

The event will take the form of a day-long informal dialogue meeting with facilitated interactive sessions under the Chatham House Rule.³

It will consist of a mix of facilitated plenary and working group sessions, in which all participants will be encouraged to share their perspectives and recommendations.

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 contributing to Stability and Peace). 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 third phase of the CSDN will last from 2017 to 2020. For more information, please visit the [EPLO website](#).

³ Participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.

Agenda

08:30 – 09.00	Registration of participants and welcome coffee
09:00 – 09.15	Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sonya Reines-Djivanides (European Peacebuilding Liaison Office)
09.15 – 10.30	Session 1: The European Union and the nexus <p>In this session, EU officials will share information on their work relating to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, in particular with regard to its peace component and to operationalising the nexus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • René van Nes (EEAS.ISP.2) • Patrick Rabe (DG DEVCO.B.2) • Kim Eling (DG ECHO.E.1) • Giovanni Squadrito (FPI.2) <p>The discussion will then be opened for a Q&A and an interactive exchange with the participants.</p>
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee Break
11.00 – 12.15	Session 2: Approaching the ‘peace’ component of the nexus <p>In this session, participants will share their perspectives on how to understand the ‘peace’ component of the nexus.</p>
12.15 – 13.15	Lunch
13.15 – 14.45	Session 3: The nexus informed by practice <p>In this session, participants will exchange experiences, lessons learned and good practices relating to the operationalisation of the nexus in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.</p>
14.45 – 15.00	Coffee Break
15.00 – 16.15	Session 4: Making a difference through the nexus <p>In this session, participants will discuss next steps and what the EU and civil society should do to ensure that their work and actions across the nexus have the best possible impact on the lives of the people living in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.</p>
16.15 – 16.30	Participants’ key takeaways