



Civil Society Dialogue Network Geographic Meeting

Conflict Dynamics and Peace Drivers in the Lake Chad Region: Exchange of views with the EU

Thursday 10 October 2019, Brussels
NH Berlaymont Brussels, Boulevard Charlemagne 11-19, 1000 Brussels

Concept Note and agenda

Background

The Lake Chad Basin is seen as one of the most fragile regions in the world. Multifaceted tensions (intergenerational, religious, and inter- and intra-community), as well as extreme poverty, climate change and political fragility, affect negatively the situation of local populations. Protracted violent conflicts further impact their conditions, leading to human rights abuses, massive internal and cross-border displacement, acute food insecurity, and destruction of livelihoods.

The European Union (EU) is currently looking at how to further its engagement in the region, especially on peace and security issues, taking on a wider regional approach. This meeting will bring together local civil society actors, as well as international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) representatives, to provide input on current sources of tension and instability, possible risks of conflicts, and drivers of resilience and peace. Participants will be invited to share their views looking at both short and long term issues and dynamics, and focusing in particular on policy implementation.

Objective

The overall objective of this meeting is to gather civil society input on conflict dynamics and peace drivers in the Lake Chad Basin, and more specifically to exchange with the EU on: regional policies and dynamics; short and long term issues; local and regional actors; role of civil society; and recommendations for EU engagement.

Participants

The meeting will bring together around 30 participants, including local civil society actors, INGOs, and officials from the European Commission (EC) and the European External Action Service (EEAS).

Format

One day meeting, in addition to a preparatory meeting for civil society participants.

Language

Simultaneous interpretation French–English/English–French will be provided.

Agenda

08.30 – 09.00	Registration of participants
09.00 – 09.15	<p>Welcome and introductory remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marc Fiedrich, Head of Unit for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), European Commission • René van Nes, Head of Unit, Conflict prevention and mediation support unit, European External Action Service (EEAS) • Sonya Reines-Djivanides, Executive Director, European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)
09.15 – 11.00	<p>Session 1: Lake Chad region: conflict dynamics and prospects for peace</p> <p>In this session, participants will analyse the conflict and peace context, examining similarities and differences in conflict dynamics and peace drivers in the Lake Chad countries – Chad, Niger, North-East Nigeria and North Cameroon - and in the region.</p> <p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jean-Baptiste Valmary, Deputy Head of Division, Central Africa, European External Action Service (EEAS) <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are positive drivers of peace and resilience? • What are risks and opportunities associated with cross-border and human security? • What are the challenges associated with community security? • What are the challenges associated with social cohesion and inclusivity? • What are the challenges associated with climate change and resources management? <p>Facilitator: Sonya Reines-Djivanides, Executive Director, EPLO</p>
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee Break
11.30 – 13.00	<p>Session 2: Analysis of the actors affecting peace and security</p> <p>In this session, participants will discuss the different actors who can influence conflict dynamics and obstacles for peace, exploring the role of civil society organisations and its partners in broadening the impact of peace drivers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the risks and opportunities associated with community and religious leaders, state security forces, non-state armed groups, and minorities? • What are the key challenges for civil society? • What role for regional actors? <p>Facilitator: Sonya Reines-Djivanides, Executive Director, EPLO</p>
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch

14.00 – 15.30	<p>Session 3: Recommendations and ways forward</p> <p>In this session, participants will discuss recommendations collected throughout the day on what the EU and civil society should do to work better together and ensure their activities mitigate conflict dynamics and strengthen drivers of peace in the Lake Chad region, as well as on how the EU can implement a regional approach to Lake Chad conflict.</p> <p>Facilitator: Sonya Reines-Djivanides, Executive Director, EPLO</p>
15.30 – 16.30	<p>Networking session and refreshments</p>

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](#).