

European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)

Strategic Objectives & Policy Objectives 2020-2025

Adopted by the EPLO General Assembly on 18 March 2020

(A) Strategic Objectives

These interconnected objectives will frame EPLO's work towards its mission in the period 2020-2025. Each strategic objective (SO) will be operationalised through the policy objectives (POs) detailed below.

1) Advance the strengths of peacebuilding/ conflict prevention in the narrative around EU external action

EPLO will:

- a) Build on its track record of influencing EU policy to incorporate peacebuilding approaches into EU external action policies
- b) Promote CPPB activities as effective first choice responses to violent conflicts

2) Improve EU peacebuilding in practice

EPLO will show how the EU can make an effective contribution to peace and security and the prevention and resolution of violent conflicts worldwide by:

- a) Demonstrating what to do, when and how: from scoping to analysis to implementation to evaluation
- b) Addressing the gendered dimensions of conflict, from analysis through promoting women's leadership, engaging with women-led civil society throughout the policy and programming cycles, and centring intersectional gender equality consistently across policy and practice
- c) Supporting inclusive peacebuilding, including promoting youth participation
- d) Building EU capacity to build peace, including through ensuring the full implementation and proper resourcing of EU peacebuilding policies
- e) Improving evidence-based input to policy and practice to support effective prevention and peacebuilding

3) Help the EU to improve its engagement in fragile or conflict-affected contexts

Conflict prevention is much more than simply implementing conflict prevention policies. It is a way of acting in the world and a way of understanding how the EU as a whole, both in headquarters and in EU delegations (EUDs), affects particular situations.

EPLO will help the EU to join the dots by:

- a) Advocating for sufficient funding for peacebuilding programmes and activities, especially those which are implemented by civil society actors
- b) Facilitating better engagement with populations by the EU in fragile or conflict-affected contexts
- c) Helping the EU to develop approaches (e.g. conflict analysis which fully integrates gender analysis) and other skills which can strengthen its peacebuilding efforts
- d) Helping the EU strengthen its knowledge management systems and architecture to improve lessons learning for effective approaches to peacebuilding, prevention and security

(B) Policy Objectives

These POs help to frame how different work streams will feed into the SOs. Addressing the climate crisis and gender equality will be core themes in each PO.

1) A stronger EU policy framework for peacebuilding

- a) Working with EC policies, the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), and Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) to strengthen peacebuilding components
- b) Identifying entry points and, where possible, influencing other policy areas which affect conflict contexts

2) Significant EU funding for peacebuilding

- a) Working on all aspects of funding for peacebuilding with a particular focus on EU funding for civil society-led peacebuilding activities, including within development aid

3) Centring gender equality in peace

- a) Ensuring gender analysis and intersectional gender equality, including promoting women's leadership and participation in decision-making, is integrated throughout EPLO's internal and external work
- b) Strengthening the EU's capacity to promote gender equality in peacebuilding and address the gendered dimensions of conflict from analysis through to promoting women's participation in all aspects of peacebuilding.
- c) Promoting gender equality consistently in our internal processes and activities

4) A move from policy to practice

- a) Supporting capacity building of EU decision-makers in key peacebuilding practice
- b) Tracking the implementation of and making recommendations for specific peacebuilding approaches in a limited number of areas

5) Better EU engagement in fragile and conflict-affected contexts

- a) Recommending how to maximise the EU's effectiveness as a peacebuilding actor in different contexts
- b) Facilitating connections between EU decision-makers and inclusive civil society actors in the EU's partner countries and beyond capitals therein
- c) Using specific geographic examples to show how the EU's potential as a peacebuilding actor can be maximised (without undertaking specific country- or region-focused advocacy)
- d) Facilitating reflection among MOs on working within the EU

6) Broaden support for peacebuilding approaches

- a) Building alliances with other actors so that they can "make our issues their issues"
- b) Encouraging MOs to use their networks in their countries, across the EU and internationally to actively promote and advocate for peacebuilding and EPLOs SOs and POs.