



## Civil Society Dialogue Network Policy Meeting

# Preventing Election-related Violence: Analysis from Civil Society

### Concept Note

7-8 October 2020, Online

#### Objectives

This meeting will convene civil society experts and EU policy-makers to

1. Reflect on common forms of election-related violence across the electoral cycle;
2. Consider whether and how the risks of election-related violence have been exacerbated or have changed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic;
3. Identify opportunities for preventive action considering both the full range of instruments at the EU's disposal and best practices / lessons learnt by civil society actors.

The meeting will consider case studies from:

- Bolivia
- Ghana
- Myanmar
- Sudan

The case studies will contribute to the more universal questions above as well as generate in-depth analysis of the current context in each situation, and specific recommendations for EU action in each case.

#### Method

The meeting will be a facilitated, online meeting, hosted on the Zoom platform and designed as a virtual meeting (not a physical meeting held online). There will be around 16 civil society participants in total. Participants will participate in all sessions.

In keeping with best practice for online meetings, the sessions will be broken up into one session of 2 hours, and one of 90 minutes. Each session will include introduction exercises, energisers and discussion in case study-specific breakout rooms to boost participation and creativity.

Each session will have a facilitator and an appointed rapporteur who will report back the key findings from each session to the final session. Reporting will be in plenary to enable validation / dissent.

Participants are expected to attend all sessions. The language(s) of the meeting will include English and will be specified following case study selection. The meeting will be held under the Chatham House Rule.

#### Outcomes

A public report summarising the key findings and recommendations to the EU will be written and distributed following the meeting.

## Programme

**Day 1 (Wednesday 7 October) – 14:00 – 16:00 (CEST time)**

### **Understanding election-related violence in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic**

14:00 – 14:20	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Marc Fiedrich</b>, Head of Unit, Service for Foreign Policy Instruments, Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (FPI.2), European Commission (EC)</li><li>• <b>Katariina Leinonen</b>, Deputy Head of Division, Integrated Approach for Security and Peace, Conflict prevention and mediation support (ISP.2), European External Action Service (EEAS)</li><li>• European Peacebuilding Liaison Office</li><li>• Tour de table</li></ul>
14:20 – 14:45	<b>Plenary discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Common forms of lethal and non-lethal election-related violence across the electoral cycle: change and continuity with the Covid-19 pandemic</li></ul>
14:45 – 15:30	<b>Country-specific analysis (case studies part I)</b> <p>Participants meet in 4 facilitated country-specific breakout groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Specific conflict risks associated with the electoral cycle in each case study</li><li>• Impact(s) of Covid-19 (measures) on these risks</li></ul>
15:30 – 15:50	<b>Reporting from each group</b>
15:50 – 16:00	<b>Close Day 1</b>

**Day 2 (Thursday 8 October) – 14:00 – 15:30 (CEST time)**

### **From analysis to action: Recommendations for EU action to prevent election-related violence in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic**

14:00 – 14:15	<b>Introduction to Day 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Patrick Costello</b>, Head of Division, Democracy and electoral observation (Global.3), EEAS</li><li>• Programme and working method</li><li>• Short overview of tools at EU (EC, EEAS, EP) disposal for addressing election-related violence</li></ul>
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14:15 – 14:45	<p><b>Country-specific recommendations (case studies part II)</b></p> <p>Participants meet in 2 facilitated breakout groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific recommendations for EU action in the case studies</li> </ul>
14:45 – 15:00	<p><b>Reporting from each group</b></p>
15:00 – 15:20	<p><b>Plenary discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From the specific to the universal: lessons and recommendations for future EU support to preventing election-related violence</li> </ul>
15:20 – 15:30	<p><b>Closing remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EC, EEAS, EPLO</li> </ul>