



Civil Society Dialogue Network Policy Meeting
Towards a new EU strategic approach to support DDR:
Gathering Input from Civil Society

Concept Note

17-18 February 2021, Online

Background

In October 2020, the European Commission (EC) announced in its [2021 Work Programme](#) that it would present “a new strategic approach to support disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) of ex-combatants, which is key for ensuring lasting stability and peace in conflict-stricken countries and regions.”

The current [EU Concept for support to DDR](#) dates from 2006. The [Joint communication on elements for an EU-wide strategic framework to support security sector reform](#), adopted in 2016, also refers to the DDR of ex-combatants (along with references to other sectorial approaches such as transitional justice) in the following paragraph:

“Disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) refers to a set of interventions in a process of demilitarising official and unofficial armed groups by disarming and disbanding non-state groups or downsizing armed forces and reintegrating them into civilian life. DDR processes should respond to immediate security needs and help lay the foundations for longer-term stability in a country or region. They should therefore link in with an overall peace process and preferably with a broader [security sector reform] (SSR). In conflict and post-conflict contexts, EU SSR and DDR support will balance the need to restore basic security services as an urgent stabilisation measure with the need to avoid hindering longer-term stability by, for instance, legitimising non-inclusive security forces.”

In 2017-2019, the United Nations also undertook a review of their approach to DDR, which culminated in the launch of the revised [UN Integrated DDR Standards](#) in December 2019.

Objectives

The overall objective of the meeting is to gather analysis and recommendations of civil society experts for the development of the new EU Strategic Approach to support DDR.

Specific objectives include:

- Identifying lessons learned and recommendations on making EU support to DDR processes (more) successful
- Identifying lessons learned and recommendations on how to better connect EU support to DDR to other types of support, e.g. SSR, mediation and transitional justice
- Identifying best practice in safeguarding human rights and international standards throughout

Throughout the meeting, participants will reflect on how different women, men, boys and girls experience recruitment and disarmament, and present best practice in addressing the different needs of different people in DDR processes.

Format

The meeting will be a facilitated, online meeting, hosted on the Zoom platform. It will bring together 25-30 participants, including civil society experts and EU officials.

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.

Participants are expected to attend all sessions. The discussions will take place 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.

Draft Agenda

Day 1 (Wednesday 17 February) – 15:00 – 17:00 (CET time)

15:00 – 15:20	<p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brice de Schietero, Head of Division, Integrated Approach - Methodology and Implementation (ISP.1), European External Action Service (EEAS) • Marc Fiedrich, Head of Unit, Service for Foreign Policy Instruments, Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (FPI.2), European Commission • Laura Davis, Senior Associate, European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) • Tour de table
15:20 – 17:00	<p>Reflecting on successful DDR: lessons learnt and best practice for EU engagement</p> <p>Possible issues to be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the logic of recruitment : tailoring DDR programmes to meet participants' needs and experiences • Creating opportunities for disarmament: What measures (economic, psychosocial, community-based, etc.) can facilitate successful disarmament and reintegration for different DDR participants? • Ensuring local ownership of DDR processes: What does it mean in practice? • Linking D-D-R: best practices and opportunities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DDR, SSR and other official measures – best practice and pitfalls • DDR and long-term peacebuilding: lessons learnt and best practice <p>Two country case studies will be particularly used during this session (complemented by other examples from participants' geographic areas of expertise):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colombia, as an example of DDR efforts taking place in the framework of a peace process • Nigeria as an example of DDR efforts taking place outside a peace process and separately from SSR efforts
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Day 2 (Thursday 18 February) – 15:00 – 16:30 (CET time)

15:00 – 15:15	Introduction to Day 2
15:15 – 16:20	<p>Looking at EU support to DDR holistically: recommendations for greater impact</p> <p>Possible issues to be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU support to DDR and security sector reform • EU support to DDR, peacebuilding and sustainable development (including mediation and transitional justice issues) • EU support to DDR and Preventing/Countering violent extremism (including the issue of terrorism labels and their impact on implementation) • How could the monitoring and evaluation of EU support to DDR be improved?
16:20 – 16:30	<p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brice de Schieter, Head of Division, Integrated Approach - Methodology and Implementation (ISP.1), EEAS • Olivier Luyckx, Head of Unit, Resilience, Peace, Security (INTPA G5), European Commission • European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)

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 fourth phase of the CSDN will last from 2020 to 2023. For more information, please visit the [EPLO website](#).