

Statement on the Commission proposal for a Global Europe regulation Ensuring the EU continues to fund conflict prevention and peacebuilding after 2027

The European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) welcomes the proposal of the European Commission to **increase investments in the EU's external action** and calls on the EU to ring-fence funding for **conflict prevention and peacebuilding (CP-PB)** in the Global Europe regulation. The EU must continue to invest in fostering global stability through its support to civil society and locally led initiatives to prevent violence and promote peace.

Preventing and addressing violent conflict is not only a moral imperative but also a strategic and economic necessity

Strategic: The EU's role as a leading donor and actor in conflict-affected regions is **vital for maintaining its influence internationally** amid rising challenges. Today's global landscape is marked by the highest levels of active conflicts since the end of the Second World War.¹ Insufficient peacebuilding efforts have left many conflicts unresolved, with reliance on military responses proving ineffective. Investing in CP-PB fosters **stability for all**. Even conflicts beyond the EU's borders have domestic repercussions, fuelling political polarisation and social tensions. These trends highlight the urgent **need for cooperative, comprehensive strategies to address interconnected global challenges**.

Economic: Preventing violent conflicts makes economic sense. The cost of violence was EUR 17 trillion in 2024, equivalent to 11,6% of the world's economic activity, or EUR 2 090 per person.² Today's conflicts are disrupting critical supply chains, forcing the displacement of over 123 million people at the end of 2024,³ exacerbating impacts of the climate crisis, and creating conditions for transnational crime and armed groups to thrive. One quarter of the world's population live in countries affected by violent conflict, with these countries the furthest behind in progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The UN and the World Bank have demonstrated that **investments in conflict prevention yields significant returns** in terms of avoiding conflict-related costs, with **every EUR 1 invested in peacebuilding saving EUR 16 in costs due to conflict**.⁴

Investing in CP-PB responds to strategic and economic necessities, in addition to fulfilling the EU's objectives for sustainable development and peace, through which it contributes to **saving lives and upholding rights**.

¹ Rustad, Siri Aas (2024), Conflict Trends: A Global Overview, 1946–2023. PRIO Paper. Oslo: PRIO.

² Converted from USD. Institute for Economics and Peace (2025), Global Peace Index 2025: Measuring Peace in a Complex World, Sydney.
<https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Global-Peace-Index-2025-web.pdf>

³ UNHCR (2025), Global Trends: Forced displacement in 2024. Copenhagen, Denmark: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.
<https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends-report-2024/>.

⁴ UN/World Bank (2018), Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict, World Bank, Washington, DC, <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/28337>.

Recommendations to co-legislators regarding the proposed Global Europe Regulation

1. **Invest in the EU's global role and global public goods through an accountable budgetary framework**
 - Support the Commission's proposal to **invest more** in external action
 - Ensure that Global Europe continues engaging in **fragile, conflict-affected** and complex settings
 - Balance flexibility with **targets⁵, earmarking** and **minimum amounts** to avoid deprioritising global public goods and to ensure an accountable and transparent governance of the Global Europe instrument
 - Ensure that EU **migration** policies comply with international law and human rights obligations, and that they do not undermine the Union's commitment to the SDGs and global public goods
2. **Ensure that all Global Europe is conflict-sensitive**
 - Restore and fully implement the requirement of **conflict and gender sensitivity** in the general programming approach **for all actions** under Global Europe, including Global Gateway projects
 - Restore conflict-analysis **screening tools** that have been successfully developed and expand the mandatory use and application of these tools to inform programming of all external actions
 - Maintain **gender-sensitive conflict analysis** and gender-sensitive screening tools
 - Ensure that these tools are **sufficiently resourced** throughout EU external action, to enable full and effective implementation
3. **Ring-fence funding dedicated to peacebuilding and conflict prevention in the global pillar of Global Europe**
 - Raise the allocation for the global pillar of Global Europe to **at least €15 billion**
 - Increase the significance of CP-PB under the “peace, security, stability and response to crises” objective to ensure that **50% of the objective's funds** are earmarked for conflict prevention and peacebuilding, and set a proportionate and clear ratio of programmable so that the EU remains in a position to act with impact
 - Reinstate support for CP-PB activities that enhance **gender and youth inclusion** in peacebuilding, **transitional justice** and reconciliation, and **peace education**. Expand on the types of CP-PB interventions foreseen under the global pillar to ensure a wide and

⁵ Gender action targets (with 20% for actions that have gender action as a principal objective and 85% for actions that have gender action as a principal or significant objective), a target for official development assistance (ODA) for human development at 20%, a DAC-ability target at 93% and a climate and environment target at 35%.

SDGs-aligned scope of activities are supported, covering at a minimum the activities described under the NDICI-GE

- Preserve — and where feasible, enhance — the **dedicated specialised staffing resources** and the multi-country, cross-regional approach embedded in the current NDICI-GE thematic programming on CP-PB
- Reinstate support for **disarmament initiatives** and for **arms control** as stated in the EU' strategic goals and needed to support the global disarmament agenda

4. Mainstream peacebuilding and conflict prevention across geographic pillars of Global Europe

- Ring-fence funding for CP-PB objectives, including by setting a clear and **proportionate minimum of programmable funding**
- Prioritise peace objectives under the geographic pillars based on **needs and funding gaps** according to objective criteria
- Enhance the **capacity of EU Delegations and geographic units at headquarters** to design and deliver relevant, locally owned and gender transformative CP-PB initiatives
- Ensure that **gender action** is effectively and explicitly mainstreamed in the peace objectives of the geographic pillars
- Continue addressing **societal and post-conflict CP-PB** through the geographic pillars
- Integrate CP-PB as an effective tool for other geographic objectives such as **climate mitigation and adaptation** and addressing the root causes of **displacement**
- Enhance the linkages between the humanitarian, development, and peace efforts, and between flexible crisis response mechanisms and **longer-term programming**.

5. Support, fund and engage with civil society

- **Increase** the overall budget allocations for civil society organisations (CSOs), including through adequate core funding, and ensure direct, flexible, and long-term funding is available specifically for locally led CSOs
- Restore a **stand-alone, dedicated global pillar objective** supporting the work of CSOs
- Support **women's rights organisations** specifically in the global and geographic pillars including through direct, core funding
- Ensure that **partnerships with local civil society actors** are more equitable, transparent, responsible and accountable
- Reinforce the requirement to **meaningfully engage** with locally led civil society in the design, implementation and monitoring of all external action programming including through **dialogue platforms** and structured dialogues with coordination mechanisms
- Ensure that the EU's **migration** policies do not lead to undue suspension of funds for CSOs
- Increase the **coherence** of the EU's support for civil society across geographies
- Restore support for CSOs **capacity building**
- Restore funding for **awareness-raising** on development issues such as in the NDICI-GE