

## **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.