

Civil Society Dialogue Network Meeting

The UN, the EU and the Responsibility to Protect: Challenges and Opportunities

Tuesday 10 March 2015

Greater Birmingham and West Midlands Brussels Office (Floor 6)

Avenue d'Auderghem 22-28 Oudergemselaan, Brussels

The aim of this meeting is to gather civil society's analysis of the impact of the Responsibility to Protect in order to inform UN and EU approaches. This meeting fits into a wider discussion on the most effective ways to ensure the protection of civilians in armed conflicts.

In the past decade, the concept of Responsibility to Protect has become an increasingly important part of the normative framework related to peace and conflict. As major unfolding crises are currently having an unprecedented impact on civilians (e.g. Syria, DRC, Ukraine, Israel/Palestine), the 2015 report of the UN Secretary General on the Responsibility to Protect will explore what can be done to "operationalize the Responsibility to Protect and reclaim the people-centred focus that made the endorsement of the principle possible in the first place".

During the meeting, the UN Secretary-General's Special Advisor on the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP), Dr Jennifer Welsh, will exchange views with civil society experts involved in conflict prevention and peacebuilding and EU policy-makers on the current challenges related to the implementation of the RtoP agenda in the face of the changing nature of conflict.

Objectives of the meeting:

- State of play of policies related to the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP);
- Identify challenges of upholding the principle of RtoP, in particular by international operations;
- Identify roles and options for the EU in improving the effectiveness of the UN and other actors in upholding the principle and in protecting civilians in armed conflict.

13h00	Registration & Informal Lunch
13h30	<p>The Responsibility to Protect: Challenges and Opportunities for the UN and the EU</p> <p>Moderation: Ben Moore, EPLO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jennifer Welsh, UN Secretary-General's Special Advisor on the Responsibility to Protect • Jonas Jonsson, Multilateral relations division, EEAS <p>Followed by an open discussion. The discussion will explore the following key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where do the UN and EU stand on the responsibility to protect? • What has been the impact of the policy framework for the responsibility to protect in protecting civilians? When is it most effective and what are its limits? • What are the key contemporary challenges faced by the UN, in particular UN peace operations, and other actors in upholding the responsibility to protect? • How can the EU and EU Member States, in their capacity of UN member states and, for some, UNSC members, effectively support and ensure the protection of civilians in contemporary conflicts? • What role can the EU play in improving the effectiveness of UN peace operations in protecting civilians? • How can the principle be further integrated and implemented by the EU?
15h00	End of the meeting

The Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN)

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 for Stability). 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 second phase of the CSDN will last from 2014 to 2016. For more information, please visit the [EPLO website](#).