

Civil Society Dialogue Network Policy Meeting:

‘Peacebuilding and Development’

Wednesday 17 October 2012, Brussels

Key Recommendations

This document presents the key recommendations which were made by participants in the Civil society Dialogue Network (CSDN) Policy Meeting on ‘Peacebuilding and Development’ which took place on Wednesday 17 October 2012 in Brussels.

The meeting was held under the Chatham House Rule; the following recommendations, which were recorded by meeting *rapporteur* Laura Davis, may not be attributed to any participating individual or institution, nor do they necessarily represent the views of EPLO or its member organisations.

A full report of the meeting will be available soon.

1. In light of the World Bank’s World Development Report 2011, the EU should:

- Link external relations with its Member States’ domestic experience
- Use all the instruments together to address reform in a comprehensive way
- Emphasise the political, not technocratic, nature of reform
- Support regional organisations
- Change the nature of relationships with developing countries towards a more equal partnership, drawing on domestic experience, and support strategic North-South and triangular relationships

2. Following the OECD’s policy guidance on statebuilding in contexts of conflict and fragility, the EU should:

- Revise its development policies and procedures in line with the OECD guidelines to ensure EU interventions address specific peace- and statebuilding challenges, especially in fragile and conflict-affected states (or states at risk of fragility)

Specifically:

- The EU’s programming cycle needs to be made more adaptable in fragile contexts
- Programming should be based on sound political economy and conflict analysis
- The EU should seek to work collectively with other donors through compacts with host governments
- The EU should seek to influence multilateral policies and procedures in the UN, the World Bank and other international organisations
- EU delegations should work with other donors to develop a collective approach to project delivery and management practice to do no harm

(European) civil society should:

- Monitor the EU's engagement in the Central African Republic in light of its own and multilateral commitments to reforming development aid, in order to identify good practice and areas for improvement

3. In operationalising peacebuilding in development, the EU should:

- Ensure that it conducts high-quality joint fragility assessments. This may include separate processes for different stakeholders (e.g. private sector actors, civil society organisations (CSOs), donors and the host government) culminating in joint analysis
- Model good practice in engaging civil society in a timely, predictable and transparent way, learn from this experience and use the experience to support inclusive processes in-country
- Integrate empowerment, particularly of young people, in order to foster resilience
- Convene, where appropriate, ongoing national multi-stakeholder dialogues in order to keep analysis up-to-date

Peacebuilding organisations should:

- Contribute creative thinking and good practice to making consultation work effectively

4. To put policy into practice, the EU should:

- Go beyond engaging governments to reaching people affected by conflict, which will bring out different voices and opinions from those of policy-makers
- Include civil society engagement integrally in all sectors of engagement as a condition for development aid
- Ensure that its institutions have the global picture of development programming and, within that, strive to join up the instruments as much as possible
- Include EU crisis management structures in joint fragility analysis, building on the example of Sudan
- Issue instructions through the hierarchy to services to implement policy commitments, including joint fragility analysis and other forms of civil society inclusion

The EU institutions and civil society should:

- Consider how to implement the recommendations in the European Commission's communication on engaging civil society, including how to replicate the strengths of the CSDN

5. To understand and counter resistance, peacebuilding NGOs should:

- Reach out to development NGOs and the European Parliament in order to encourage them to support linking peacebuilding and development

The EU and NGOs should:

- Identify and counter resistance based on issues of sovereignty presented as poverty-related
- Overcome resistance from security actors (especially those involved in the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy and Common Security and Defence Policy) to the inclusion of civil society

6. To develop indicators for complex problems, the EU should:

- Consult national stakeholders and civil society to develop indicators which
 - can show short-term progress towards long-term goals
 - are realistic and nationally-owned
 - reflect the complexity of security, fragility and justice
- Communicate indicators and signs of progress effectively internally, including to parliaments and taxpayers

7. For effective civil society inclusion, the EU should:

- Ensure basic logistical support to local CSOs, which may be key in enabling participation
- Hold focussed discussions with clear objectives which are more effective than general forums

Civil society should:

- Avoid issue competition in consultation, perhaps talking more about a normative approach, rather than specific issues
- Look at the Eighth Framework Programme for Research (FP8) for funding to deepen work on indicators and fragility

8. In developing policy, the EU should:

- Be more vocal in the post-2015 debate than it was on the aid effectiveness debate and use its influence within the multilateral/international organisations
- Discuss fragile *contexts* rather than states, to emphasise that issues such as good governance are key in all situations and play an important role in preventing fragility

The EU and NGOs should:

- Use the opportunity to reform the regulations to push for greater flexibility while retaining oversight. This will require engaging with the European Parliament and key Member States

Peacebuilding NGOs should:

- Generate options for officials and other decision-makers to consider
- Reach out to the development community, including development NGOs and the European Parliament, and engage in dialogue on including fragility and conflict sensitivity in the post-2015 debate, and in the EU's position on it

9. To improve practice, EU peacebuilding NGOs should:

- Help build the EU's narrative by identifying domestic experiences of reform from within the EU as a basis for dialogue with partners, and identify stories which show how long reform takes, and how progress/regression can be measured in the short-term as part of this process
- Engage more with the EU in Brussels, as an integral part of advocacy with Member States, and in EU delegations. They should also:
 - *Show specific examples* from experience: provide an evidence base of how peacebuilding contributes to development and to international norms and standards on human rights and corruption, and how best to integrate civil society consultation in all areas of programming
 - *Help delegations consult civil society* and overcome challenges of representation and participation and navigating the multiple voices of genuine consultation

- *Use positive examples*, e.g. CSDN, to further civil society engagement and to push back against resistance
- Monitor and push the EU, but also support it. Recognising that the EU faces internal as well as external resistance, NGOs have to help create a safe space for EU institutions to engage in good practice. NGOs want the EU institutions to take more risks, so NGOs have to contribute to a safer environment for officials to do this

Civil Society Dialogue Network

The Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) is a three-year project funded by the European Commission aimed at facilitating dialogue on peacebuilding issues between civil society and EU policy makers. It is managed by the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO). For more information please visit the [EPLO website](#).