

## Civil Society Dialogue Network Meeting

### Conflict-sensitive engagement in Uganda: Gathering civil society perspectives

23 March 2018  
Entebbe

#### Background:

Uganda is currently facing internal sources of tension around issues such as land rights, possible changes to the constitution and future elections. In addition, the continuing arrival of people seeking refuge in the country from neighbouring states (in particular from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi) means that Uganda now hosts the largest refugee population in Africa. Such a context highlights the importance of collecting civil society analysis on how local, national and international actors can engage in a conflict-sensitive manner to contribute to resilience and support peace in the country.

This meeting will bring together international and local civil society working in and on Uganda, to provide gender-inclusive assessments on the sources of tensions and instability, possible risks of conflict, and drivers of resilience and peace in the North-West and South-West of the country. Discussions will have a particular focus on the interface between local drivers of conflict and resilience (including those related to conflicts over land and to the national political context) and displacements. The participants will be invited to share their views on the dynamics, risk factors as well as sources of resilience to violent conflict at the state, societal and community levels.

#### Objectives:

The overall objective of the meeting is to gather civil society input on the situation in the North-West and South-West of Uganda and to consider possibilities for adjusting and deepening EU engagement. Specifically:

- To identify the root causes of tensions and risks for violence, the role(s) of different actors as well as the conflict and gender dynamics at play in the North-West and South-West of the country.
- To outline the links between sources of tension in these regions, in particular in relation to land issues and to the refugee situation.
- To identify the existing local, regional and international capacities for preventing and resisting violence and building sustainable peace, in order to explore how to support them.
- To gather recommendations on how to improve the conflict sensitivity of the EU's current approach.
- To assess possible options for further EU engagement to address the interplay between humanitarian and development issues in these regions and contribute to conflict prevention and resolution.

#### Structure:

- Informal workshop with facilitated interactive sessions under the Chatham House Rule.<sup>1</sup>
- The meeting will use adapted conflict analysis methodology that integrates gender analysis.

#### Participants:

- National and international civil society experts working on peacebuilding and conflict prevention in Uganda.
- Policymakers from the EEAS and the EU Delegation to Uganda.

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<sup>1</sup> Participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.

## Agenda

08.15 – 08.45	<b>Registration of participants and welcome coffee</b>
08:45 – 09.15	<b>Welcoming remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Petr Pribyla (EU Delegation to Uganda)</li> <li>● Jan Reinder Rosing (European External Action Service)</li> <li>● Laura Davis (EPLO)</li> </ul>
09.15 – 11.00	<p><b>Session 1: Analysis of current conflict dynamics: Working Group discussions (in parallel)</b></p> <p>This session will analyse the current conflict dynamics, including their gender dimensions, in the North-West and South-West of Uganda.</p> <p><b>A. Conflict dynamics in the North-West of Uganda</b></p> <p><i>Issues to be discussed will include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● What are the risks and tensions related to land issues in the region (including, if/when relevant, risks related to the tabled revision of the constitution on land acquisition)?</li> <li>● What are the risks related to the refugee situation, including with regards to a potential escalation of tensions between refugees and host communities?</li> <li>● What are the positive drivers of peace and resilience in the region, and what are some of the obstacles that they face in multiplying and broadening their impact?</li> <li>● What are the implications of these findings for EU engagement in the region?</li> </ul> <p>Facilitated by Laura Davis (EPLO)</p> <p><b>B. Conflict dynamics in the South-West of Uganda</b></p> <p><i>Issues to be discussed will include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● What are the risks and tensions related to land issues in the region (including, if/when relevant, risks related to the tabled revision of the constitution on land acquisition)?</li> <li>● What are the risks related to the refugee situation, including with regards to a potential escalation of tensions between refugees and host communities?</li> <li>● What are the positive drivers of peace and resilience in the region, and what are some of the obstacles that they face in multiplying and broadening their impact?</li> <li>● What are the implications of these findings for EU engagement in the region?</li> </ul> <p>Facilitated by Terri Beswick (EPLO)</p>
11.00 – 11.30	<b>Coffee Break</b>
11.30 – 13.00	<p><b>Session 2: Analysis of the impact and implications of local conflict dynamics</b></p> <p>This session will draw out similarities and differences from the two regions identified during the first session. It will reflect on the implications of the conflict dynamics, the</p>

	<p>gender dimensions and the conflict risks at central government level. It will also explore the (potential) implications for central government initiatives that are taking place in these regions.</p> <p><i>Issues to be discussed will include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Who are the key stakeholders to consider to analyse and address conflict dynamics in the North-West and South-West of the country?</li> <li>● What are the national and cross-regional implications of the local conflict dynamics identified in the first session?</li> <li>● What are the positive elements and the gaps in the responses of local, national and international actors (including of security forces) to local conflict dynamics, in particular those related to land issues and the needs of refugees?</li> <li>● What can be done to (further) mitigate tensions and foster dialogue and cooperation around land issues and between host communities and refugees?</li> <li>● What does this mean for EU engagement in Uganda?</li> </ul> <p>Facilitated by Laura Davis (EPLO)</p>
13.00 – 14.15	<p><b>Lunch</b></p>
14.15 – 15.45	<p><b>Session 3: Recommendations for EU responses to the evolving situation in Uganda</b></p> <p>This session will identify windows of opportunity for the EU, assessing the added value of its current engagement and possible steps ahead.</p> <p><i>Issues to be discussed will include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● What are some of the positive aspects and limitations of current EU engagement in Uganda, in particular in the North-West and South-West of the country?</li> <li>● Where does civil society see entry points and opportunities for the EU to strengthen its engagement on particular conflict dynamics and in support of existing resilience factors?</li> <li>● Are the needs and interests of (and power imbalances between) different population groups adequately taken into account in the design, management and monitoring of EU interventions?</li> <li>● How can the EU improve its current engagements? In particular, how should the EU enhance its support to local civil society initiatives?</li> <li>● What are some additional forms of engagement that the EU should pursue in Uganda?</li> <li>● What can the EU do to support peace through its dialogue with the Ugandan government?</li> </ul> <p><i>Additional key questions will be developed throughout the day.</i></p> <p>Facilitated by Terri Beswick (EPLO)</p>

15.45 – 16.00	<b>Closing Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Petr Pribyla (EU Delegation to Uganda)</li><li>● Jan Reinder Rosing (European External Action Service)</li><li>● Terri Beswick (EPLO)</li></ul>
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### **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 third phase of the CSDN will last from 2017 to 2020. For more information, please visit the [EPLO website](#).