



Civil Society Dialogue Network Policy Meeting

Climate change and violent conflict Challenges and opportunities for the EU and civil society

Friday 6 December 2019, 13:30 – 17:00

**Scotland House Conference Centre
Rond-Point Robert Schuman 6, 1040 Brussels**

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

There is widespread recognition that climate change poses a number of serious risks to peace. While global warming impacts everyone, it is mostly countries already affected by conflicts that suffer the most. Fostering their resilience and ability to peacefully resolve disputes is crucial.

In this context, the EU has been drawing attention to the already existing and future security threats which derive from climate change. The 2018 high-level event entitled '[Climate, Peace and Security: The Time for Action](#)' which was hosted by High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, brought together ministers from many of the EU's partner countries, United Nations (UN) officials and various leading experts on the topic.

Objective

The overall objective of this meeting is to launch a discussion between EU policy-makers and civil society actors on the impact of climate change in conflict-affected countries, and to highlight the contribution which civil society peacebuilding organisations can make to mitigate this impact.

The specific objectives are to give opportunities for:

- European-based international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) to highlight some of their work undertaken in the area of climate change and conflict
- EU policy-makers to present the EU approach to climate and conflict in its external action
- European-based INGOs to make recommendations to EU policy-makers on how the EU could increase and improve the effectiveness of its support towards addressing the security risks posed by climate change

Participants

The meeting will bring together 40-50 participants, including directors of European-based peacebuilding NGOs and officials from the EU institutions

AGENDA

13.30 – 13:40	<p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sonya Reines-Djivanides, European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)
13:40 – 14.40	<p>Exchange of views on climate change and violent conflict from a research perspective: what are the known and unknown links?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sigrún Rawet, Deputy Director, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) • Louise van Schaik, Head of the International Sustainability Centre, Clingendael Institute <p>EU perspectives on climate change and violent conflict: how is this issue addressed in the EU's external action?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pawel Herczyński, Managing Director for Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and Crisis Response, European External Action Service • Hilde Hardeman, Head of the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments, European Commission <p>Followed by Q&As</p> <p>Moderator: Michael Keating, Executive Director, European Institute of Peace</p>
14:40 – 15:10	<p>Coffee break</p>
15.10 – 16:45	<p>Exchange and recommendations on how EU policy-makers and civil society can more effectively address the security risks posed by climate change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lukas Rüttinger, Senior Project Manager, Adelphi <p>Followed by a roundtable discussion on how the various organisations participating are integrating climate concerns in their work.</p> <p>Moderator: Sonya Reines-Djivanides, Executive Director, EPLO</p>
16:45 – 17:00	<p>Concluding remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Keating, Executive Director, European Institute of Peace • Sonya Reines-Djivanides, Executive Director, EPLO • René van Nes, Head of Division for Conflict Prevention and Mediation Support (ISP.2), European External Action Service

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](#).