

Civil Society Dialogue Network Geographic Meeting

Conflict Dynamics and Peace Drivers in the Horn of Africa in the context of the Covid-19 crisis: Gathering Civil Society Input

Wednesday 3 June 2020 (15.30-17.00)

Concept Note

Background

The Horn of Africa is currently facing a series of multifaceted challenges, which are often interlinked. While some countries are undergoing delicate political transitions, serious security and developmental challenges (i.e. floods, locusts, non-state armed groups etc.) affect the region as a whole. The Covid-19 crisis can have a large impact on the stability of the region, overshadowing some issues and exacerbating conflict risks.

While in the process of assessing the impact of Covid-19 in the Horn of Africa, the European Union (EU) is currently looking at how to update its engagement in the region, especially on peace and security issues. This includes a new regional strategy which should be published in the coming months.

Objectives

The overall objective of this meeting is for EU officials and representatives of international non-governmental organisations (INGO) to reflect and exchange on the peace and security situation in the Horn of Africa in the context of the Covid-19 crisis. In particular, discussions will focus on: the implications of the issues overshadowed by the Covid-19 crisis, mid- and long-term risks and trends, regional and international actors, and local populations' perceptions.

Format

The meeting will last for a maximum of 90 minutes and will take the form of a facilitated online round-table discussion under the Chatham House Rule.¹ It will be held via the online platform Zoom.

Participants

The meeting will bring together approximately 15 participants, including INGO representatives and officials from the European Commission (EC) and the European External Action Service (EEAS).

¹ 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 (see: <https://www.chathamhouse.org/chatham-house-rule>)

Agenda

15.30 – 15.40	Introductory Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patrick Simonnet, Head of Division, Horn of Africa – East Africa, European External Action Service (EEAS)• Marc Fiedrich, Head of Unit – Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), Foreign Policy Instrument, European Commission• Sonya Reines-Djivanides, Executive Director, European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)
15.40– 16.50	Discussion on the peace and security impacts of the Covid-19 crisis <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impact of issues and conflict dynamics which are currently overshadowed by the Covid-19 crisis• Mid- and long-term conflict risks and trends which are likely to be exacerbated by a Covid-19 outbreak and/or measures intended to prevent an outbreak affecting the Horn of Africa• Role of regional (e.g. Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)) and international actors and the impact of the United Nations Secretary-General's (UNSG) call for a global ceasefire• Perception of Covid-19 by populations in the Horn of Africa and the role of social media <p><i>Moderator: Laura Davis (European Peacebuilding Liaison Office)</i></p>
16.50 – 17.00	Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patrick Simonnet, Head of Division, Horn of Africa – East Africa, EEAS• EPLO

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 fourth phase of the CSDN will last from 2020 to 2023. For more information, please visit the [EPLO website](#).