



Civil Society Dialogue Network Policy Meeting

The EU and Gender-Responsive Conflict Analysis: Gathering Civil Society Input

Tuesday 19 September 2023 (08.40-16.45 CEST)

Scotland House Brussels,
Rdpt Robert Schuman 6, 1040 Brussels

Concept note

Background

In recent years, the European Union (EU) has strengthened its approach and tools for conflict analysis. In 2020, the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Commission's (EC's) Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) finalised a new [guidance note](#) on the use of conflict analysis in support of EU external action. In June 2021, the [Regulation](#) establishing the Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI-GE) was adopted with a number of provisions referring explicitly to conflict sensitivity, gender equality and conflict analysis, stating that (inter alia):¹

- 'Programmes and actions under the Instrument shall mainstream [...] gender equality and [...] shall be based on a comprehensive multi-disciplinary analysis of context, capacities, risks and vulnerabilities, integrate a resilience approach and be conflict sensitive, taking into account conflict prevention and peacebuilding [...].' (art. 8, par. 8)
- '[...] when drawing up the programming documents for partner countries and regions in situations of crisis, post-crisis or fragility and vulnerability a conflict analysis shall be conducted to ensure conflict sensitivity [...].' (art. 12, par. 2(b))

Following the adoption of the Regulation, the EU developed the conflict analysis screening (CAS) tool to inform a conflict-sensitive programming under the NDICI-GE and to identify conflict prevention and peacebuilding actions in the countries where the CAS are carried out. The CAS process was adapted from the process outlined in the 2020 guidance note, following the same principles and including a conflict-sensitivity risk component focused on annual or multi-annual programming priorities.

In addition, in 2020 the EU adopted its third [Gender Action Plan](#) (GAP III), which states that the design of all EU-funded programmes must include 'conducting and using updated gender analyses to inform decision-making on future action and integrating these into all relevant dialogues, policies, strategies, programmes and operation' (p. 7) and that 'gender-sector analysis will be produced during the programming process to integrate the gender perspective into the overall programming and in each priority area. [...] In fragile and conflict-affected contexts, this should always form an integral part of the risk, vulnerability and conflict analysis' (p. 9).

Promoting Women, Peace and Security (WPS) is one of the key objectives of the GAP III, and the [Council conclusions on WPS](#) (2022) stress the need for "full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women and girls in conflict prevention and resolution throughout the conflict cycle." Furthermore, the [EU Strategic Compass](#) (2022) called for strengthened analysis capacities, including through gender-responsive conflict analyses with the UN, and the 'Joint Staff Working Document: A new Updated toolset for EU Conflict Analysis and Conflict Early Warning Objectives, processes and

¹ The preamble of the Regulation also states that 'The Union should also promote a conflict-sensitive and gender-sensitive approach in all actions and programmes under the Instrument' (par. 58).

guidance' (2023) emphasises that all conflict analyses should be gender-sensitive and relevant for the WPS agenda, and undertakes to design a specific methodology for gender-responsive conflict analysis, as called for by the Strategic Compass.

Acknowledging the need for timely conflict analysis and the persistence of gender inequalities, marginalising women and depriving them from participation in decision-making processes, the EU is currently aiming at further strengthening its conflict analysis and conflict sensitivity capacities.

As part of these efforts, this meeting will bring together civil society experts and EU officials to exchange on lessons learned, best practices and recommendations to enhance further how the EU's conflict analyses identify specific conflict drivers and conflict sensitivity issues related to gender norms, roles and experiences in situations of conflict and fragility, and support the development of gender-responsive actions.

This requires a discussion with civil society partners of questions such as: what does gender-responsive mean? What should a gender-responsive conflict analysis cover? How can conflict analyses systematically address that security, safety and drivers of conflict/peace are shaped and experienced differently by diverse men and women? How can the methodology and involved experts be gender-responsive? How can it be ensured that the recommendations of these analyses also touch upon strengthening gender-responsive conflict prevention and peacebuilding actions?

The meeting will therefore also serve as an opportunity to provide suggestions for reinforcing the demonstrable application of gender-responsive conflict analysis to inform and adapt EU policies, programming and actions.

Objectives

The overall objective of the meeting will be to gather input on how the EU could enhance the way its conflict analysis processes, and the policies, programming and actions they inform, are conflict-sensitive and responsive to gender and WPS.

Specifically, the meeting will seek to provide input for the EU to better (inter alia):

- understand the relationships between gender and conflict drivers and dynamics, and what gender responsiveness means vis-a-vis conflict analysis, conflict sensitivity risks and its recommendations.
- integrate gender analysis and gender equality systematically into conflict analysis by, inter alia, establishing methodologies that are themselves gender-responsive;
- ensure that all conflict analysis includes concrete recommendations to improve gender responsiveness in conflict prevention and peacebuilding actions, and address gender-related conflict-sensitivity risks, particularly as part of existing, planned or considered EU policies, programming and actions;
- develop and reinforce internal processes to ensure that conflict analyses are effectively used to inform and adapt existing and future engagements, particularly with regard to achieving gender equality.

Format

The meeting will be held over a full day. It will take the form of a facilitated round-table discussion under the Chatham House Rule.² Participants will be split into small discussion groups during different sessions.

Participants

The meeting will bring together about 35 participants, including about 15-20 civil society experts and officials from the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Commission (EC).

Language

The discussions will be held in English.

² 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

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| 08.40 – 09.00 | Registration and welcome coffee |
| 09.00 – 09.20 | Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guillem Riutord Sampol, Head of Division, PCM.2, EEAS • Sonya Reines-Djivanides, Executive Director, EPLO |
| 09.20 – 09.40 | Presentation on the EU’s conflict analysis toolset <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ana de Lara Ruiz, Policy Officer, PCM.2, EEAS |
| 09.40 – 10.45 | Session 1: Why is it essential to address gender equality in all conflict analysis? Following the initial presentation on the EU’s conflict analysis toolset , this session will serve to discuss the connections between gender, peace and conflict, and address why all conflict analysis must be responsive to gender and gender equality. The following questions (and others) may be discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why should conflict analysis systematically include a gender lens and address gender-related elements in conflict and peace? • How are the drivers and dynamics of conflict and peace shaped and experienced differently by diverse men and women? • What are the practical risks of not systematically including a gender lens in conflict analysis? • What does ‘gender-responsive’ mean for a conflict analysis? • What are the key considerations in addressing gender and gender equality in conflict analysis? |
| 10.45 – 11.00 | Coffee break |
| 11.00 – 12.30 | Session 2: What does gender-responsive conflict analysis look like in practice? (small groups) This session will serve to gather input on how to develop or strengthen gender-responsive conflict analysis frameworks, and how such analysis is carried out in practice. This will include considering conflict analysis focusing on different levels (e.g. local, national or regional), and targeting specific issues and thematic areas. The following questions (and others) may be discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are concrete examples of gender-responsive conflict analysis tools and methods that have been helpful for developing gender-responsive actions? What are examples of questions to be answered in any analysis? • What tools and methods have been helpful in ensuring conflict analysis is intersectional? |
| 12.30 – 13.30 | Lunch |

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| 13.30 – 15.00 | <p>Session 3: Challenges and best practices in carrying out gender-responsive conflict analysis (small groups and plenary)</p> <p>Building on the previous exchanges, this session will start with a 30-minute discussion in small groups on responding to the challenges that the EU and civil society actors may face in carrying out gender-responsive conflict analysis, and on moving from analysis to actions. Participants will then reconvene into plenary, report back on the key points raised in the groups and continue discussing these issues.</p> <p>The following questions (and others) may be discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the specific challenges that you have encountered, and/or that the EU may encounter, in completing gender-responsive conflict analysis – and how may these be addressed? • What are practical examples of gender-responsive actions that your organisations have pursued as a result of gender-responsive conflict analysis? |
| 15.00 – 15.15 | <p>Coffee break</p> |
| 15.15 – 16.30 | <p>Session 4: Recommendations for the EU: actionable analysis and ensuring analysis informs interventions (plenary)</p> <p>Building on the previous sessions, this session will serve to discuss in more detail concrete recommendations for the EU to ensure that its conflict analysis processes are gender-responsive, and that they are used to inform and adapt the EU's conflict-sensitive peace and conflict prevention engagements.</p> <p>The following questions (and others) may be discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How may the EU strengthen how its conflict analyses systematically include concrete recommendations for gender-responsive, conflict-sensitive programming and peace and conflict prevention actions? • How may the EU strengthen how its services and internal processes use conflict analysis to inform conflict-sensitive programming and peace and conflict prevention actions in a gender-responsive manner? How may co-operation between EU Delegations and Brussels be enhanced in this regard? • How may the EU strengthen the extent to which its conflict analysis processes are informed by civil society actors? • Are there any other points and recommendations to consider? |
| 16.30 – 16.45 | <p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ana de Lara Ruiz, PCM.2, EEAS • Zdenka Dobiasova, INTPA.G5, EC • Claire Bernhard, NEAR.A2, EC • Lorenzo Angelini, 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](#).