



Civil Society Dialogue Network Policy Meeting

The Green Transition and Peace: Good Practices and Opportunities for Sustainable Outcomes

Tuesday 12 March 2024 (08.30-16.45 CET)

Thon Hotel EU,
Rue de la Loi 75, 1040 Brussels

Concept note

Background

In recent years, the European Union (EU) has made clear that it is committed to addressing the interplay between climate change, environmental degradation, and peace and conflict dynamics. The [EU Global Strategy for Foreign and Security Policy](#) (2016), the [Climate Change and Defence Roadmap](#) (2020), the new [EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change](#) (2021) and the [Concept for an Integrated Approach on Climate Change and Security](#) (2021) all underline the importance of responding to how the climate crisis affects conflict, with the Concept also stating that “maladaptation [...] may even further exacerbate existing tensions and inequalities”.¹ The [European Green Deal](#) (EGD), adopted in 2019, identifies climate change as ‘a significant threat multiplier and a source of instability’. The [Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe](#) (NDICI-GE) includes several provisions and envelopes relating to these linkages, notably to address “threats having a potentially destabilising impact on peace and security, deriving from climate change.”²

In June 2023, the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Commission (EC) published a [Joint Communication \(JC\) on the Climate-Security Nexus](#), outlining how the EU seeks to address the growing impacts of climate change and environmental degradation in the fields of peace, security and defence. In the JC, the EU recognises that “while a lot is being done to advance green transition and manage its challenges, there is an increased risk of instability, insecurity and even conflict.” In line with the Concept adopted in 2021, the EU calls in the JC for “climate and environment-related policies and practices” to be “increasingly conflict-sensitive”, and states that its efforts against “climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss” may “also contribute to conflict prevention and peace”.

In developing its approach to these issues, the EU has engaged with civil society actors to broaden and deepen its understanding of, and its responses to, the effects of climate change and environmental degradation on peace and security. This meeting, organised under the Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN), will focus on the distinct but related issue of the effects of the EU’s *climate actions* on peace and conflict dynamics. It will serve to inform the EU’s efforts to strengthen how its climate actions, and its engagements with partners to pursue a green transition (including through the external dimension of the European Green Deal and the climate adaptation projects supported under the NDICI-GE), are conflict-sensitive and actively contribute to conflict prevention and peace. It will bring together EU officials and civil society experts from the peacebuilding, environmental protection and climate

¹ In the Concept, “maladaptation” is defined as climate adaptation initiatives with “unintended negative effects”.

² See Annex II, ‘Areas of cooperation for the geographic programmes’, paragraph 4(m); Annex III, ‘Areas of intervention for thematic programmes’, paragraph 3.2(b); and Annex IV, ‘Areas of intervention for rapid response actions’, paragraph 3(a).

adaptation fields to discuss best practices, lessons learned, initiatives to support, and recommendations for the EU.

Objectives

In the context of the EU's efforts to pursue and promote a green transition and to support climate adaptation as part of its external action and international partnerships, the overall aim of the meeting will be to gather input and recommendations on how the EU may ensure that these efforts are conflict-sensitive and that they actively contribute to peace.

Specifically, the meeting will seek to gather input on how the EU may:

- Strengthen how its climate actions are conflict-sensitive and informed by conflict analysis, to avoid negative unintended consequences and to identify and pursue opportunities to contribute to peace;
- Design and seize on green energy initiatives to promote dialogue and co-operation, including at the national, regional and international levels;
- Support the connections between environmental protection and restoration, inclusion and peacebuilding;
- Respond to the human security challenges arising from the mining and supply of critical raw materials, and ensure that these activities benefit local populations.

The discussions will explicitly address the gendered implications of these issues, how to support the roles that local populations and civil society actors can play in achieving these objectives, and good practices in pursuing interdisciplinary approaches.

Format

The meeting will take the form of a facilitated round-table discussion under the Chatham House Rule.³ It will be held as a one-day, in-person meeting. Participants will be split into small groups during some of the sessions.

Participants

The meeting will bring together 35-40 participants, including 20-25 civil society experts as well as officials from the EEAS and the EC.

Language

The discussions will be held in English.

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 (Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe). 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 fifth phase of the CSDN will last from 2023 to 2026. For more information, please visit the [EPLO website](#).

³ 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

Monday 11 March

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| 16.00 – 17.30 | Preparatory meeting <p>For the civil society participants who will already be in Brussels and available, we will hold a preparatory meeting at the same venue. We will provide additional information about the context of the discussions that will take place the following day, the EU processes that the meeting will feed into, and the EU officials who will participate. We will also answer any of the remaining questions that participants may have.</p> |
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Tuesday 12 March

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| 08.30 – 09.00 | Registration and welcome coffee |
| 09.00 – 09.20 | Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthony Agotha, EU Special Envoy for Climate and Environment Diplomacy, EEAS • Sonya Reines-Djivanides, Executive Director, EPLO |
| 09.20 – 10.45 | Session 1: Approaching the green transition and peace (plenary) <p>This session will serve to gather initial input on how to identify opportunities to achieve co-benefits across climate adaptation, environmental protection and peacebuilding efforts, and on how to pursue them.</p> <p>The following questions (and others) may be discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How may climate data and conflict analysis be combined to identify human security risks and opportunities for integrated action? • How should conflict analysis be <i>designed, carried out and employed</i> to ensure that climate actions and climate finance are conflict-sensitive? • How may the EU foster cross-sectoral cooperation in pursuing climate and environmental actions and peacebuilding, both within its institutions and in its partnerships with governments, international organisations and civil society? • What are good practices in meaningfully involving local communities, including indigenous peoples, women-led organisations, and marginalised groups, to determine how to address the interplay between climate action, environmental protection, gender equality, and peace in different types of engagements? |
| 10.45 – 11.00 | Coffee break |
| 11.00 – 12.30 | Session 2: How may climate adaptation and environmental protection contribute to peace? (small groups) <p>In this session, participants will be split into two breakout groups. The following questions (and others) may be discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How may climate adaptation and environmental protection efforts serve as entry points for dialogue and mediation? • What are examples of climate adaptation and environmental protection efforts that are peace-responsive? What are good practices in designing, funding and implementing such efforts? • How should the EU promote more inclusive and participatory governance, including of land, natural resources and the environment, as part of its engagements with partner countries for the green transition? • How should the EU incentivise and facilitate partnerships between climate adaptation, environmental protection and peacebuilding civil society organisations? |
| 12.30 – 13.30 | Lunch |

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| 13.30 – 15.00 | <p>Session 3: Green transition initiatives and resources (small groups)</p> <p>In this session, participants will be split into two parallel breakout groups to discuss the topics listed below.</p> <p>Parallel group 1: Green energy generation as a vector for peace</p> <p>The following questions (and others) may be discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How may the EU identify and support renewable energy projects that foster cooperation between (a) communities, (b) communities and authorities, and/or (c) national governments? • What are examples of renewable energy projects providing social, economic and peace dividends, particularly for diverse women and marginalised groups? • How should the EU support partner governments in pursuing decentralised and diversified renewable energy production, and in developing systems that enable scaling and ensure security of supply? • How may the EU promote and support a renewable energy transition in fragile and conflict-affected countries whose economies and state revenues rely to a significant extent on fossil fuels? <p>Parallel group 2: Critical raw materials, peace and human security</p> <p>The following questions (and others) may be discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are examples of mandatory human rights due diligence processes that can help reduce human security risks and human rights infringements arising from the mining of critical raw materials? • How may the EU strengthen its transparency and traceability requirements – and their verification – for critical raw materials? How should the proposed Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive be implemented? • How may the EU engage with local authorities, local private sector actors and local communities to identify and support opportunities for the mining of critical raw materials to benefit local populations and contribute to peace? |
| 15.00 – 15.15 | Coffee break |
| 15.15 – 16.30 | <p>Session 4: Recommendations for the EU: pursuing opportunities for peace through climate and environmental actions (plenary)</p> <p>Building on the previous sessions, this session will serve to gather in more detail concrete recommendations for the EU on the issues discussed.</p> <p>The following questions (and others) may be discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How may the EU support efforts to develop and share knowledge about ways to build peace through climate adaptation, environmental protection and green transition initiatives, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected countries? • How may the EU expand its partnerships with, and support to, civil society organisations for integrated engagements, including when providing funding to consortia? • How should the EU strengthen its frameworks to ensure that its partnerships with, and support to, private sector actors as part of the green transition are responsive to peace and environmental considerations? |
| 16.30 – 16.45 | <p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sari Kouvo, Policy Officer, Integrated Approach for Peace and Security Division, EEAS • Olivier François Schott, Principal Administrator, Multilateral Affairs Unit, DG CLIMA • Lorenzo Angelini, Senior Policy Officer, EPLO |