



## Civil Society Dialogue Network Funding Instruments Meeting

### Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument Thematic Programme on ‘Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention’

#### Informal consultation on strategic programming 2021-2027

24-25 November 2020, Online

## MINUTES

The [final agenda](#) of the meeting is available to download from the Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) section of the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) website.

### Day 1 (Tuesday 24 November 2020)

#### Session 1: Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention in the Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)

The European External Action Service (EEAS) gave presentations on the [overall structure and priorities of the NDICI](#), and the [NDICI Thematic Programme on ‘Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention’ \(TP on PS&CP\)](#), and the European Commission (EC) gave a presentation on the [evolution from the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace \(IcSP\) to the NDICI](#).

Participants asked the following questions / made the following comments (left column) and the EC and EEAS gave the following responses (right column):

	Question/Comment	Response
1.	Will you consider environmental degradation (in addition to climate change) as a global challenge in the NDICI TP on PS&CP?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issues such as environmental degradation and natural resource management should also be used to stress the relationship between climate change and conflict.</li> <li>• Environmental degradation (e.g. as caused by extractive industries or climate change) is considered explicitly in the proposed methodology (‘Technical User’s Guide’) for conflict analysis screenings aimed at ensuring conflict-sensitive programming.</li> </ul>
2.	What will be the differences in the programming of the NDICI geographic and thematic pillars?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As per the NDICI principles of ‘policy first’ and ‘geographisation’, the objective is to support as many actions as possible through the geographic pillar.</li> <li>• Thematic programmes (TPs), including in the areas of peacebuilding and conflict prevention, will mainly be focused on actions</li> </ul>

		<p>which have a global or transnational scope (or which are sensitive).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the TP on Civil Society Organisations (TP on CSOs) in particular, at least 75% of actions will be managed by EU delegations (EUDs).</li> <li>• Calls for proposals will be published on the EC website. The procedure for applying for funding from the two pillars will be almost identical.</li> </ul>
3.	<p>You have stated on several occasions that the IcSP should be used to fund activities which cannot be funded under the other EU external financing instruments (EFIs). Given that many of the current EFIs will be merged into the NDICI, will this logic also apply to the TP on PS&amp;CP? If so, what will be the relationship between the NDICI TP on PS&amp;CP and the NDICI Thematic Programme on 'Human Rights and Democracy' (TP on HR&amp;D)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NDICI TP on PS&amp;CP will be complementary to all of the other pillars. It will mainly support actions with a global or transregional nature or actions where it can give an added value (e.g. actions without the specific consent of the third countries).</li> <li>• There will be close coordination between the NDICI TP on PS&amp;CP and the NDICI TP on HR&amp;D in order to ensure complementarity and to avoid duplication.</li> </ul>
4.	<p>It is important that information on fighting organised crime and counterterrorism is shared through global law enforcement channels as the global nature of the threats means that sharing through EU channels alone will be insufficient.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The role of EUROPOL in the exchange of information with reliable third countries and international organisations, especially on suspected terrorism and violent extremism (VE) needs to be strengthened.</li> <li>• INTERPOL will be a key actor for strengthening the exchange of information worldwide.</li> <li>• There are successful examples of global co-operation on these issues. For example, INTERPOL's system of colour-coded notices is used by the EU and EU Member State (MS) agencies, and other countries, and some databases are shared.</li> <li>• The <a href="#">EU Global Facility on Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing</a> is a good example of working at different levels: the Global Facility acts worldwide in the promotion of <a href="#">United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2462 on preventing and combating the financing of terrorism</a> and the <a href="#">Financial Action Task Force (FATA)</a> recommendations, and it also provides technical assistance to individual countries.</li> </ul>
5.	<p>The recent <a href="#">External Evaluation of the EU's Support to Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding (2013-2018)</a> showed that there is a need for better learning from experiences and improved knowledge management. Will this be reflected in the NDICI TP on PS&amp;CP?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lessons learned from existing EU programmes will be taken into account in (multi-)annual action programmes ((M)AAPs).</li> <li>• Recently, knowledge management procedures on crisis response and conflict prevention have been developed in order to share and learn from best practices and lessons learnt.</li> <li>• It is important that there is a constant dialogue between implementing partners and the EU about the aims of IcSP-funded activities and progress made towards them.</li> <li>• A monitoring and evaluation (M&amp;E) process will monitor whether the findings of the conflict analysis screenings are recognised in</li> </ul>

		programming documents, and contribute to enhanced conflict sensitivity and risk reduction.
6.	Do you intend to apply the principle of 'inclusiveness' to the eligibility criteria and application guidelines for NDICI calls for proposals in order to allow for a wider range of grantees (e.g. youth-led organisations with small budgets)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This horizontal issue has implications for all NDICI programmes.</li> <li>• It is possible that the eligibility criteria may be reviewed in the future but it is not currently envisaged. The current criteria for the IcSP calls for proposals aim to involve local organisations as much as possible either as direct beneficiaries of grants or associated entities of more structured organisations. To date, this has allowed a good level of participation in calls for proposals by local actors, even small ones.</li> </ul>
7.	Will the NDICI programming process be based on the 'Theory of Change' methodology?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 'Theory of Change' methodology will be incorporated into the NDICI programming process.</li> <li>• It will be important to ensure that the 'Theory of Change' methodology is employed, not only in the programming process, but also in the implementation of NDICI programmes.</li> </ul>
8.	Will the environmental impact of conflict (e.g. oil spills, damage to forests, damage to farming areas etc. be considered as part of the approach to 'climate change and conflict' or will it be addressed separately?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The impact of climate change and the fact that conflict-affected societies are rarely able to address climate change mitigation effectively are arguments which should be used to build the case for better conflict prevention and peacebuilding, and increased resources.</li> </ul>
9.	Who proposes the thematic priorities for regional programmes? How do you intend to ensure that CSOs are consulted?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The programming process will be translated into multiannual indicative programmes (MIPs) which will include priorities for each pillar and details of how they will be implemented.</li> <li>• Country-based programming is being led by the EUDs and the thematic and regional programming is being led by Headquarters (HQ).</li> <li>• Stakeholder consultations (such as this one) will be held at all levels. Fora such as this CSDN event are good opportunities for CSOs to provide their recommendations on potential priorities.</li> <li>• MIPs will then go through the regular adoption procedure involving the Council of the EU's NDICI Committee and the European Parliament (EP).</li> </ul>
10	What is the timeline for the development and adoption of the NDICI TP on PS&CP?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft thematic and country-focused MIPs are expected by the end of February, and regional MIPs are expected by the end of March.</li> <li>• They will all go through interinstitutional consultations before adoption in the summer.</li> </ul>
11.	Will levels of resilience be evaluated in the NDICI programming process? Will systemic approaches to resilience be prioritised?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fostering resilience is a cross-cutting priority to be addressed horizontally in the TP on PS&amp;CP. In fragile contexts, resilience factors will be given particular attention in the programming process.</li> <li>• To that end, all relevant EU services (EEAS, the EC's Directorate-General for International</li> </ul>

		Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), the EC's Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), the EC's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) and the EC's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI), as well as Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operations, will be closely involved, where appropriate, in the preparation of programming documents.
12.	Will the NDICI Regulation include a section on safeguards, M&E or conditionality measures for the provision of security aid?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EU already carries out ex ante risk assessments for all activities involving military actors.</li> <li>• Current risk assessments cover a wide range of issues, including reputational risks for the EU, potential mismanagement of provided assets, and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law (IHL).</li> <li>• The NDICI will foresee that for some actions in the field of security (such as in the field of Capacity building of military actors in support of development or security for development (CBSD) a rigorous and systematic ex ante conflict analysis, integrating gender analysis, will be conducted.</li> <li>• The EU is developing a methodology to undertake conflict sensitivity analyses for its actions involving military actors.</li> </ul>
13.	To what extent will the strategic programming of the NDICI be aligned with the EU's wider gender equality objectives (e.g. the <a href="#">Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in External Action 2021–2025 (GAP III)</a> )?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GAP III objectives will be taken into account in NDICI programming. For example, 85% of NDICI-funded actions will have to be gender-sensitive and take into consideration gender equality.</li> </ul>
14.	Will the <a href="#">EU Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa (EUTF for Africa)</a> be continued under the NDICI? If so, in which pillar?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All EU trust funds (EUTFs) are due to expire at the end of 2021.</li> <li>• Discussions on EUTFs, including about spending targets and their role in addressing migration-related issues, are currently ongoing.</li> </ul>
15.	Have you taken into account the issue of localisation in your considerations of ownership and the subsidiarity principle?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Localisation is also relevant for peacebuilding and conflict prevention.</li> <li>• An area of improvement for conflict analysis is to focus more on providing recommendations for responding to local issues.</li> </ul>

Participants added the following questions and comments in writing after the meeting (left column) and the EC and EEAS gave the following responses (right column):

	Question/Comment	Response
a.	Will lessons learned from the recent <a href="#">External Evaluation of the EU's Support to Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding (2013-2018)</a> be applied to the programming of the NDICI TP on PS&CP? If so, how?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lessons learned from existing EU programmes will be taken into account in (M)AAPs).</li> <li>• Many of the findings are not new, and work on developing the capability of knowledge management in the area of conflict prevention and crises response is ongoing. This is focused on better alignment and synchronisation of different tools, as well as looking into how better to ensure joint objectives, clear intervention logic and adaptability of projects and activities in order to support delivering the results we are aiming for in an efficient and effective manner, all in line with the findings of the evaluation.</li> <li>• The inclusion of conflict analysis pre-programming is another concrete example on how lessons identified (as they are not yet learned) are being taken into consideration in NDICI.</li> </ul>
b.	How much funding will be allocated to peace education? Which types of activities and actors will be supported?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As the NDICI Regulation is still under negotiation, there are not indicative amounts (or ranges of amounts as was the case for the programmable components of the IcSP) for the different priorities. The types of activities and potential actors will be defined at a later stage of the programming phase, in particular during the design of the actions.</li> </ul>
c.	Will the NDICI Regulation include any references to the <a href="#">EU Strategic Approach to Women, Peace and Security</a> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, women, peace and security (WPS) is one of the cross-cutting priorities to be addressed horizontally by the TP on PS&amp;CP. The EU will continue to support WPS through the NDICI.</li> </ul>
d.	How will the EU ensure that diverse organisations, particularly local women's organisations, are able to participate meaningfully in the programming and implementation of the NDICI TP on PS&CP?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder consultations are key in the programming exercise and are being organised at all levels (i.e. country, regional and thematic), in HQ and in partner countries. Such consultations should ensure that CSOs' concerns and priorities are voiced and taken into account in the process.</li> <li>• For the implementation of actions, local organisations, in particular women's organisations, will be part of consultation processes held by the EUDs and the FPI regional teams.</li> </ul>
e.	A lack of flexibility in the application of the EU's financial rules often results in insufficient coverage of the direct costs of IcSP projects which may, in time, result in reluctance on the part of certain CSOs to be implementing partners.	

f.	The EC should assign staff members to oversee coordination between IcSP implementing partners.	
g.	Peacebuilding actors need to do more to connect local knowledge to global indicators.	
h.	The EU should prioritise the empowerment of women leaders of community-based organisations in order to enable them to lead mediation initiatives in their communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration of the role of women, men, girls and boys in peacebuilding, including mediation, is an explicit consideration in the conflict sensitivity exercise of the conflict analysis screenings which are aimed at informing programming.</li> </ul>
i.	How can CSOs engage with those EC and EEAS officials who are responsible for the NDICI TP on PS&CP in order to explore potential partnerships?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will continue to have consultations with CSOs at different levels. In the case of partner countries, broad consultations on the whole NDICI will continue to be organised by EUDs. We will also have regular consultations organised by the HQ in Brussels, including regular meetings of the CSDN. Important CSO contact points for the EC will be the FPI regional teams based in Bangkok, Beirut, Brasilia, Daka and Nairobi. As was the case with the IcSP, the usual way to co-operate with CSOs will be through calls for proposals which will be published on the EC website.</li> </ul>
j.	The EU should support the development of independent, reliable, accountable, transparent, and resilient institutions which are necessary for ensuring that dialogues can take place in peaceful spaces and be both structured and fact-based.	
k.	In the likely event that the adoption of the NDICI Regulation is delayed, will the EU provide any sort of IcSP 'bridge funding' in the spirit of the proposal to extend the four existing EUTFs until the end of 2021?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negotiations are ongoing and the utmost is being done to reach an agreement in time. Should the need arise, specific arrangements will be set up to avoid a gap in EU co-operation implementation, especially for urgent and sensitive actions.</li> </ul>
l.	The EU should continue to support activities which (i) address the challenges related to disinformation, (ii) focus on long-term capacity building for media actors, (iii) create common spaces for meaningful and critical exchanges between people, (iv) reduce polarisation, especially around elections, and (v) support peace and reconciliation, and transitional justice processes.	
m.	The priorities for the NDICI TP on PS&CP should include support for inclusive, responsive, effective, transparent and rule of law-based governance.	
n.	How will the EU ensure that the NDICI TP on PS&CP addresses peace and stability in all regions of the world and is not overly focused on the EU Neighbourhood countries?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The TP on PS&amp;CP will mainly focus on actions where there is a benefit to do it at a global or transregional level. This will allow it to complement the more regional and country focus of the geographic pillar. The actions under the NDICI will not have a predefined geographic priority but will respond to the</li> </ul>

		thematic objectives and priorities. This was the case for the IcSP in its long-term components (Article 4 and Article 5) which did not have geographic priorities. The actions have been implemented worldwide in all the five continents where needs of long-term interventions were identified.
o.	Apart from conflict analyses, are any other activities aimed at ensuring the conflict sensitivity of NDICI programmes and actions foreseen?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The (NDICI) conflict analysis screenings which are anticipated in approximately 60 countries in the coming three years will help to ensure the conflict sensitivity of NDICI programmes and actions. This is in itself already an unprecedented step forward. Beyond the conflict analyses, DG DEVCO and the EEAS will likely also disseminate relevant guidelines and training materials.</li> </ul>

**Day 2 (Wednesday 25 November 2020)**

**Session 2: Small group discussions on possible priority areas for NDICI Thematic Programme on ‘Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention’**

A civil society participant gave a summary of the issues which had been raised in the small group discussion on [‘Climate change and conflict’](#).

A civil society participant gave a summary of the issues which had been raised in the small group discussion on [‘Preventing violent extremism’](#).

A civil society participant gave a summary of the issues which had been raised in the small group discussion on [‘Culture of peace and nonviolence’](#).

A civil society participant gave a summary of the issues which had been raised in the small group discussion on [‘New trends and innovation’](#).

A civil society participant gave a summary of the issues which had been raised in the small group discussion on [‘Collaboration and combining initiatives to increase impact’](#).

**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](#).