



COMMUNICATION UPDATE

READY FOR REVIEW:

CSPPS project to support Civil Society engagement in FCAS-countries going for 2019 Voluntary National Review

May 2019



BACKGROUND

HLPF 2019 – The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) is the main United Nations platform on sustainable development and it has a central role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at global level. It takes place every year in New York in July.

VNR Process – The HPLF is an opportunity for member states to report on a voluntary basis on the progress achieved to implement the SDGs at the national and sub-national levels, through a government-led and inclusive review, called a Voluntary National Review (VNR). Regular reviews by the HPLF are to be voluntary, state-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and involve multiple stakeholders, including civil society. VNRs aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences , including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. VNRs also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs.

What is at stake in 2019 – The theme of the HPLF in 2019 is “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”. For the first time since the creation of the 2030 Agenda in 2015, SDG 16 is going for a detailed review in July 2019, among a group of other SDGs (namely Goals 4, 8, 10, 13 and 17). SDG 16 seeks to promote peaceful, just and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

*This Communication Update is a living document which will keep recipients informed on a monthly basis of the progress achieved by CSPPS and partners on the Ready for Review project.

COLLABORATION BETWEEN CSPPS, EU/DEVCO, AND MEAE

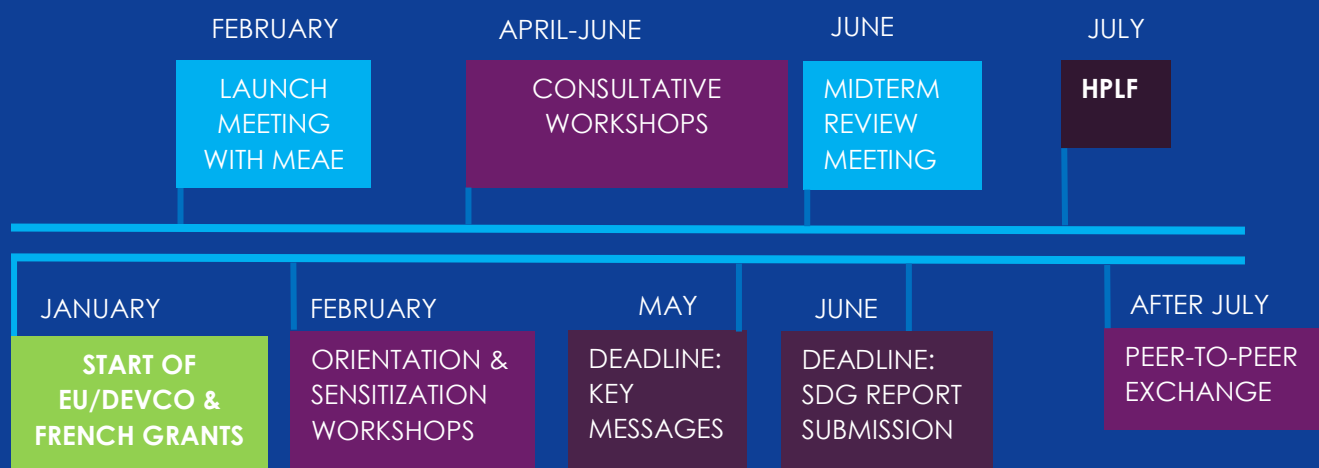
The Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (**CSPPS**) is a global network of civil society actors, experts and academics from the South and the North who work together to support peacebuilding and statebuilding projects in fragile situations. CSPPS enjoys the support of the EU Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (**DEVCO**) to implement its workplan in 2019-2020.

On 1 January 2019, CSPPS embarked on a one-year collaboration with the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (**MEAE**) to enable CSPPS to sustain and expand its work to amplify the voice of civil society within the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS), and to operationalise the Ministry's holistic approach to addressing crises and fragilities. More specifically, with the support of the MEAE and DEVCO, CSPPS will ensure the meaningful inclusion, participation and contribution of civil society during VNR processes – with a focus on SDG 16+ – within a group of selected countries, namely Côte d'Ivoire, the Central African Republic, Chad, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste and Rwanda.



ROADMAP

TIMELINE – 2019



OBJECTIVE AND ACTIVITIES

Since the submission of the first project proposal to the MEAE (in December 2018), and in accordance with the latest developments since January 2019, CSPPS has slightly adapted its proposed objectives and planned activities to ensure a more effective and tailored approach to the national contexts in which the CSOs it supports are operating. The general objective remains the same : *to strengthen the voice and capacity of civil society to effectively engage in, and influence, peacebuilding and statebuilding as a critical contribution to crisis prevention and sustainable peace and development for all.*

At the Secretariat level in Europe, the support provided will help the Platform implement its workplan and initiate contact with French NGOs (Coordination SUD and FORUS) and relevant sections of the MEAE (AFD, CIV, Expertise France) with a view to exploring collaboration opportunities. At the country level on the ground, the support provided will enable CSPPS to ensure – to the extent possible depending on the political context – with the help of the TAP Network the meaningful inclusion, participation and contribution of national and local CSOs (including through targeted outreach to involve youth- and women-led organisations) during the consultation and validation stages of the VNR process in Côte d’Ivoire, the Central African Republic, Chad, Sierra Leone, and Timor-Leste through nationally-held orientation and sensitization workshops and capacity development workshops. CSPPS is also planning to expand its collaboration with the TAP Network in Nigeria, Rwanda, and Ghana. Subsequently, both during and after the HPLF, CSPPS will organise a peer-to-peer exchange to reflect upon the VNR experiences of CSO representatives involved.

CURRENT STATE OF PLAY: COUNTRY UPDATES 1/3

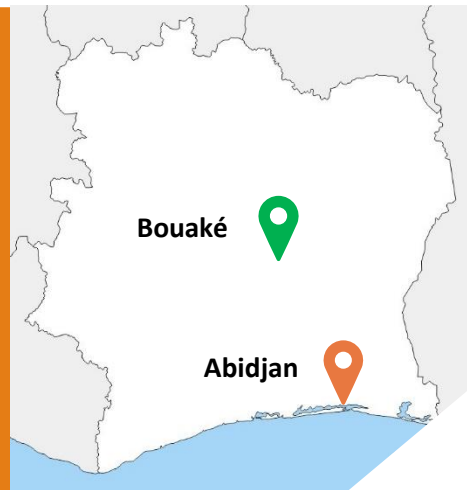
CÔTE D'IVOIRE



In coordination with its national focal point organisation (FNDP), local civil society partner ISC/ODD-CI and the UNDP office in Côte d'Ivoire, and with the support of an expert facilitator (ADIN/TAP Network), the CSPPS Secretariat held two workshops on the SDGs review and the VNR process in Abidjan (26-27 April) and Bouaké (30 April-1 May). In addition, the Secretariat met with government ministries (economy, sustainable development) and the French delegation.

Being the hub of the country's economy in addition to hosting a large number of national and local CSOs, the city of Abidjan was the first stop in the VNR consultation process.

The decision to hold the second workshop in Bouaké was strategic in that it brought the consultation process to CSOs based inland, and also symbolic because the town is still recovering from its past as a rebel stronghold at the time of the 2010-11 Ivorian crisis.



Abidjan workshop, 26-27 April



Bouaké workshop, 30 April-1 May



Official meeting with Ministry of Sustainable Dvpmt, 29 April

CURRENT STATE OF PLAY: COUNTRY UPDATES 2/3

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



Following the SDG and VNR orientation and sensitization workshop for CSOs the CSPPS Secretariat and Cordaid held in Bangui back in February, CSPPS joined forces with the Ministry of Economy, Planning and International Cooperation, Cordaid, World Vision, and TAP Network and held an SDG and VNR workshop for local CSOs on 7 May as a crucial final step towards collecting civil society's contribution for the VNR consultation process.



CHAD



The CSPPS Secretariat and its country team focal point organisation are in the final preparation stages of the SDG and VNR workshop planned to be held in N'Djamena in early June. CSPPS is working on securing the participation of a representative sample of civil society, as well as the support and participation of UNDP local office, government representatives, parliament delegates, and academia.

CURRENT STATE OF PLAY: COUNTRY UPDATES 3/3

SIERRA LEONE



CSPPS is partnering with the TAP Network to support ChildHelp Sierra Leone in organising a workshop around VNR and Goal 16 of the SDGs. CSPPS Secretariat has ensured in-country coordination linkages are in place between local networks, country teams and focal point organisations. Local partners are finalising the concept note of the workshop. The 2-day orientation and capacity building workshop for local and national CSOs is planned to take place in Freetown in May.

TIMOR-LESTE



CSPPS Focal Point organisation has been involved as a permanent member in the government-led SDG Working Group which is currently preparing the national report of SDGs. In addition, CSPPS, TAP Network, Asia Development Alliance (ADA) and local partners are planning to co-organise a 2-day SDG16-focused workshop in Timor-Leste on 6-7 June, shortly after the planned release of the government's national report on SDGs.

RWANDA



TAP Network and CSPPS are co-organising together a SDG16 and VNR process workshop in Kigali on the last week of May. Focal point organisation on the ground Human Rights First Rwanda Association is taking the necessary measures to ensure and optimise a large participation of local and national CSOs for the event in preparation.

VOICES OF SDG16+ VIDEO CAMPAIGN



The United Nations committed to achieving peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through Sustainable Development Goal 16+ (SDG16+), which is part of the 2030 Agenda’s call to achieve peace and sustainable development in every country around the world. To achieve this, we all have an important part to play.

CSPPS is happy to announce that we have partnered with the TAP Network, Saferworld and IPI in the ***Voices of SDG16+: Stories for Global Action*** video campaign. The campaign asks people and partners around the world to share how they are contributing to advancing SDG16+ in their own community or country. Voices of SDG16+: Stories for Global Action is asking people to do this through recording short videos of their work in action, which will be showcased on a dedicated web platform leading up to the 2019 HLPF, and also plan on showcasing these videos at the HLPF through a half-day or full-day event/festival.

The best videos will be showcased at an event during the United Nations High-Level Political Forum in July, with selected candidates sponsored to attend in person.

ORGANISATIONS WE ARE WORKING WITH

<p>The Transparency, Accountability and Participation Network (TAP Network)</p> <p>The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)</p> <p>The Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid (CORDAID)</p> <p>World Vision</p> <p>FriEnt</p>	<p>Search for Common Ground</p> <p>United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY)</p> <p>Partners for Review</p> <p>UNDP / The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies</p>
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THIS WORK IS SUPPORTED BY

