



Annual Report 2018:
Sustaining Peace in
Fragile Settings



CIVIL SOCIETY
PLATFORM
FOR PEACEBUILDING
AND STATEBUILDING



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FOREWORD

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2018 Annual Report of the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS). 2018 has seen many highlights and changes and this document brings to life a number of them, which are captured in the pages that follow. Strengthening the voice and capacity of society through coordinated civil society action is at CSPPS's core and is part of the Platform's engagement in the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS) and related policy processes.

In 2018, members of the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding have gathered their learnings, integrated these experiences and highlighted key achievements which are recorded to support the creation of this report. I am grateful for the valuable contributions received from our members and partners. CSPPS feels honoured to share these stories integrated within this report on the work and activities of the Platform in 2018.

2018 marked a special moment for CSPPS. We completed the 3-year long operational grant awarded by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (SDC). The activities of the Civil Society Platform in 2018 were made possible through the meaningful support and funding made available by the SDC and Cordaid (through its Strategic Partnership programme with Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Netherlands).

The above-mentioned support has contributed to achieve the milestones and

successes of the CSPPS and its members presented in this report. More than ever, their crucial assistance has further enabled CSPPS to identify new and effective ways to successfully address challenges faced in optimizing meaningful civil society engagement in various policy processes linked to the IDPS.

The Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding would like to express its sincere gratitude and appreciation for the generous support received and looks forward to continue collaboration with all CSPPS partners in context of the International Dialogue and beyond.

The Platform and its membership remain committed to its core mission and will continue to further strengthen the voice and capacity of civil society in relevant peacebuilding and statebuilding processes to contribute to crisis prevention and sustainable peace and development for all. We count on your support and partnership in the years ahead.

On behalf of the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter van Sluijs'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Peter van Sluijs

Coordinator of the CSPPS Secretariat and member of the CSPPS Executive Committee

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2018 was a pivotal one for CSPPS, as it marked the last year of the 3-year long operational grant kindly provided by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (SDC).

Accordingly, at the Platform level, the emphasis all throughout the year 2018 was not so much on expanding its membership, but instead on consolidating the existing ties and linkages made between Southern and Northern members. This drive to strengthen relationships culminated into the CSPPS Annual Core Group Meeting which took place in The Hague in April 2018. The purpose of the Annual Meeting was also to agree upon and reaffirm what the priorities of the Platform are, which led to the adoption of the CSPPS 2018-2021 Workplan and The Hague Declaration. Another internal network highlight of 2018 were the Executive Committee (EC) elections held in December.

By the end of 2018, the Platform comprised representatives from around the globe, and engaged with grassroots civil society organisations from over 20 fragile and conflict-affected countries, and 8 international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) based in the North.

The work of the Platform related to amplifying the voice of civil society was best illustrated in 2018 by the Freetown Fragile-to-Fragile workshop on the New Deal and the 2030 Agenda. Participating in such F2F workshops and exchanging with g7+ and financial and technical partners is one of the most effective ways civil society can have a meaningful and positive impact to make sure the IDPS and CSPPS visions materialise on the ground. In turn, an open and continuous dialogue process can be embarked upon.

The year 2018 was an eventful year in terms of lobbying efforts displayed by the Platform. Some of the main highlights include: participating in a flagship session at the World Bank's Fragility Forum, hosting a session at the Bonn SDG Festival, partnering in the 16+ Forum, International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS)-related meetings to lay the ground work for a new vision, and meetings with the EU and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs to secure donor financial support.

In terms of communications outreach and strategy, CSPPS launched a new brochure and a new website to help generate awareness, understanding and support for CSPPS' mission, work and role within the International Dialogue.

All throughout this Annual Report, Platform members deliver engaging testimonies of the kind of work they do in the context of CSPPS and the IDPS. Based on practical examples and initiatives, these 'Member Case Stories' shed a light on how the mission of the Platform materialises in the local, national and international realms of peacebuilding.

Finally, the final section of this report provides a glimpse of what awaits CSPPS in 2019 and beyond, namely the 'Ready for Review' project in the context of Voluntary National Reviews and HLPF 2019, and the development, consolidation and ownership of a new IDPS vision and strategy.

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CAR	—	Central African Republic
CGM	—	CSPPS Core Group Meeting
Cordaid	—	Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Assistance
CS	—	Civil Society
CSO	—	Civil Society Organisation
CSPPS	—	Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding
CT	—	CSPPS Country Team
DEVCO	—	The European Commission's DG International Cooperation & Development
DRC	—	Democratic Republic of Congo
EC	—	CSPPS Executive Committee
EDD	—	European Development Days
FCAS	—	Fragile and Conflict-Affected States
FPO	—	CSPPS Focal Point Organisation
F2F	—	Fragile-to-Fragile
HLPF	—	High-Level Political Forum
IDPS	—	International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding
INCAF	—	OECD International Network on Conflict and Fragility
INGO	—	International Non-Governmental Organisation
IWG	—	IDPS Implementation Working Group
MDGs	—	Millennium Development Goals
MEAE	—	French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs
MFA	—	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
ND	—	Dew Deal for Engagement in Fragile States
NGO	—	Non-Governmental Organisation
OECD	—	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PSG	—	Peacebuilding and Statebuilding
SDC	—	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDGs	—	Sustainable Development Goals
SGM	—	IDPS Steering Group Meeting
UN	—	United Nations
UNDP	—	United Nations Development Programme
UNGA	—	United Nations General Assembly
VNR	—	Voluntary National Review
WG	—	Working Group
YPS	—	Youth, Peace and Security

About CSPPS

WHO WE ARE

- **OUR IDENTITY:** The Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) is a member-led international network composed of civil society actors, practitioners, experts and academics from the Global South and Global North who work together on conflict and crisis prevention, peacebuilding and statebuilding in over 20 fragile and conflict-affected countries (FCAS).
- **OUR VISION:** At CSPPS, we strive for international collaboration that brings sustainable peace and inclusive development for all.

WHAT WE DO

- **OUR MISSION:** Our mission is to strengthen the voice and capacity of society to effectively engage in, and influence, peacebuilding and statebuilding as a critical contribution to crisis prevention and sustainable peace and development for all.
- **OUR THEORY OF CHANGE:** If we shape and influence global and national structures to address sources of destructive conflict and to build resilience, then countries and their citizens will be less likely to resort to violent conflict because they will have

the means to manage their grievances and build the quality of their lives.

▪ **OUR OBJECTIVES:**

- Strengthen and broaden civil society engagement and inclusion in peacebuilding, statebuilding and crisis prevention
- Influence prevention, peacebuilding, statebuilding and development policies with peacebuilding values
- Shape and infuse the International Dialogue, the SDGs and humanitarian processes with peacebuilding values

OUR STRATEGY

- **NETWORK:** We support local and national CSOs based in fragile settings who wish to work together on a common agenda and form a national team or platform to organise themselves under the CSPPS banner to gain in coordination, coherence, efficiency, and visibility.
- **AMPLIFY:** We work to amplify the voice of civil society – via our members and through CSPPS Country Teams (CT) – by giving them the means and resources necessary to build up their capacities to be able to identify, participate and contribute as fully-fledged actors to national strategic policy-making and implementation arenas.
- **LOBBY:** We provide opportunities for our members to attend key strategic international forums and events to represent the civil society perspective of the Platform and to voice the needs and aspirations of their national constituencies and local populations.

WHY WE STAND OUT

- **A FOCUS ON CIVIL SOCIETY’S:** Over the last few years, peacebuilding and statebuilding initiatives and programmes have increasingly given support to CSOs, thus echoing the growing importance of these groups in development cooperation, as well as recognising their role in both the domestic and international arenas. This is a trend particularly present in societies transitioning from war to peaceful, just and inclusive societies which we fully support and are part of.
- **LINKING THE SOUTH AND THE NORTH:** CSPPS is a network made up of civil society organisations (CSO), as well as individual practitioners, experts and academics from the Global South and the Global North, and hence strives to foster an ongoing dialogue between the two spheres on key and emerging trends and policy issues.
- **PART OF THE UNIQUE IDPS**
STRUCTURE: CSPPS is part of a larger architecture called the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS). What is unique about the International Dialogue in today’s peacebuilding environment is its exclusive tri-partite structure which gathers around the table government representatives from fragile states, international donors and civil society actors. The International Dialogue provides a formalised space within which civil society can voice its concerns on crucial aspects and burning issues of the peacebuilding agenda.
- **TAKING ACTION ON SDG16+ WORKING WITH NEW DEAL PRINCIPLES:** CSPPS tackles the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the prism of SDG16. SDG16 – or Goal 16 – refers to peace, justice and strong institutions. However, Goal 16 is closely interrelated with a number of other Goals, including for instance Goal 5 (gender equality), Goal 10 (reduced inequalities), and Goal 13 (climate action). The interdependence between these goals and the need to address them together is captured under the overarching term “SDG16+”. The New Deal principles (PSGs, FOCUS and TRUST) guide the actions of CSPPS members on SDG16+. It is worth noting that a number of European Ministries of Foreign Affairs (MFA) have either made reference to the New Deal principles in their guiding national policy documents (France) or incorporated the principles into their international development aid policy approach (Germany and Switzerland).

HOW THE PLATFORM WORKS

WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE

The Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS – also referred to in this report as “the Platform”) coordinates and supports civil society participation in the **International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS)**. The IDPS is an inclusive partnership that facilitates joint learning, action and mutual accountability for support to inclusive and effective peacebuilding between donors (INCAF), governments from fragile and conflict-affected countries (g7+), and civil society (CSPPS). The International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) is a unique network of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members and key multilateral agencies working in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. The g7+ is a voluntary association of countries that are or have been affected by conflict and are now in transition to the next stage of development.

This inclusive tri-partite partnership brokered the *New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States*. The New Deal (ND) aims to end piecemeal solutions by promoting a comprehensive framework for coherent action to help countries transition out of fragility and conflict. At the heart of the New Deal lie the New Deal principles (PSGs, FOCUS and TRUST) which guide the actions of the three IDPS constituencies to tackle the challenges and deliver on the goals related to SDG16+.

INTERNAL STRUCTURE

At its core, our network hosts coalitions of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) within (non-) g7+ countries, coordinated at country level by a **Focal Point Organization (FPO)**. As part of CSPPS, FPOs provide analysis, conduct advocacy work, coordinate activities (capacity building, awareness raising and media outreach) in their home countries, and help civil society actors participate in meetings convened by governmental and donor stakeholders.

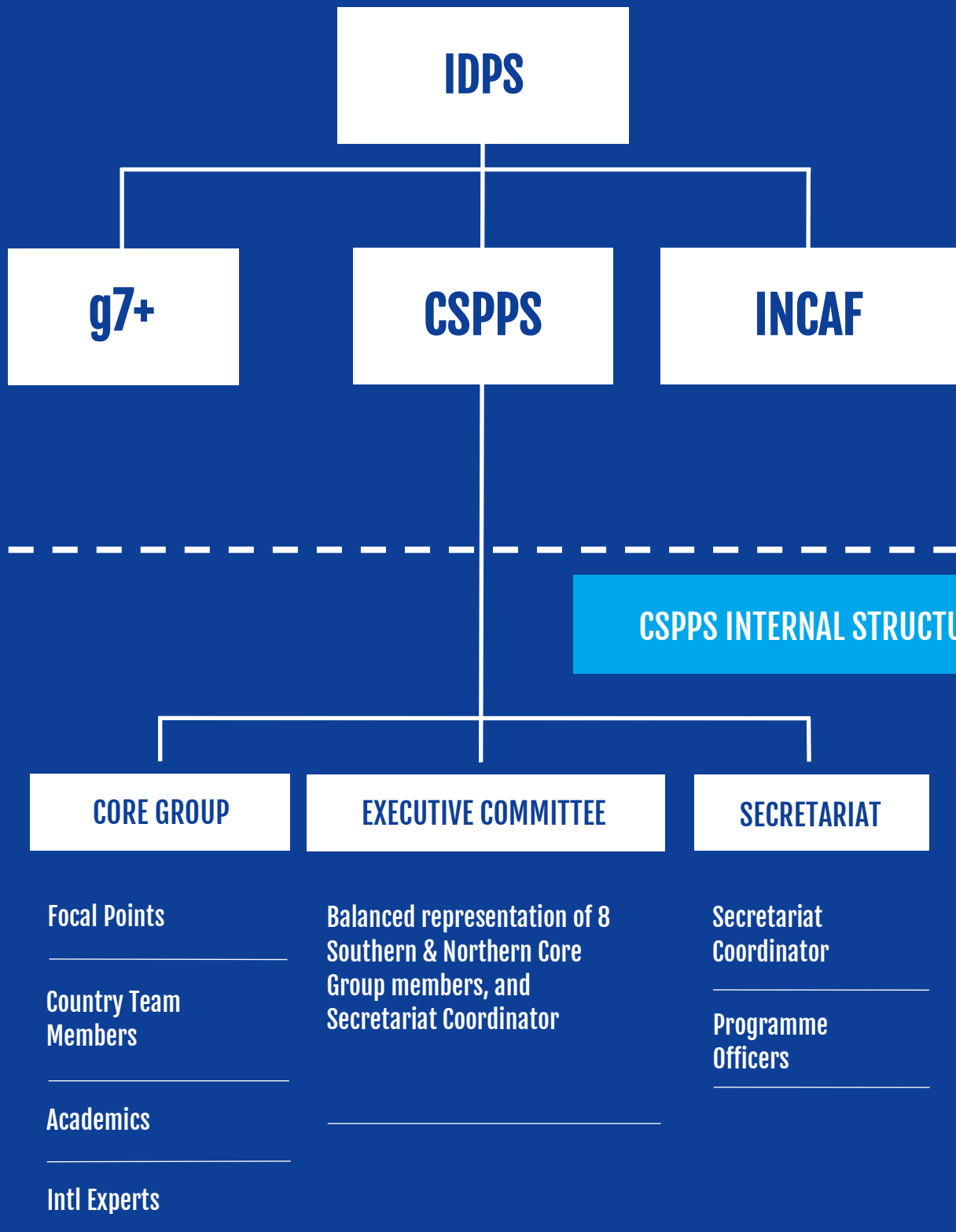
The **Core Group (CG)** is the main forum within the CSPPS where engagement and leadership in peacebuilding processes are discussed and decided. The CG is made up of designated representatives from FPOs, CSPPS members and international experts.

Functioning as a subset of the membership, the elected **Executive Committee (EC)**, among other responsibilities, assists the Secretariat in day-to-day decision-making and provides guidance and advice on the platform’s issues and priorities, and reviews the use of the CSPPS budget.

The **Secretariat** facilitates the functioning of the Core Group and the Executive Committee and the participation of civil society in IDPS events, and generates and disseminates information about our members’ activities.

Together the Core Group, the Executive Committee and the Secretariat work to amplify the voice of CS, to strengthen the network of CS working on peacebuilding, and to ensure that CS members and representatives are included and participate as actors and agents – rather than recipients or evaluators – within the IDPS and related peacebuilding policy-making arenas, and that civil society is broadly and meaningfully represented in nationally-owned processes.

CSPPS WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE



NETWORK

Network

Addressing the root causes of social and political unrest, crises and conflicts in deeply-divided societies or war torn countries is no one-man job. Nor can any public institution or organisation working on its own in such challenging contexts ever hope to make a lasting impact given the complexity of the peace-security-development nexus. The answer therefore lies in a whole-of-society approach, a comprehensive strategy which seeks to take into account local agency and dynamics and to include often left-out stakeholders. Civil society is one of those stakeholders. By working together, local civil society organisations (CSOs) who share a similar mandate around peacebuilding and statebuilding issues have a greater chance of making their voices heard and shifting the lines over the long-term at the national level.

Accordingly, CSPPS seeks to identify and support pockets of resilience within the local civil society of a given fragile context, initiate a dialogue with a local focal point organisation, help set up a vibrant civil society Country Team, and encourage the enlargement of the CSPPS network by engaging with new civil society partners.

Established Country Teams then organise themselves and develop a peacebuilding and statebuilding strategy to implement at the local, national and/or regional level, as well as set up communication channels to raise awareness and sensitize Country Team members, agree on a scope of action, foster partnership cohesion, and identify entry points opportunities to participate in national conflict prevention, peacebuilding and peace-sustaining initiatives.

Networking in 2018

We are a proud member-led South-North non-governmental coalition of peacebuilding organizations. Our Platform comprises representatives from around the globe, and engages with grassroots civil society organisations from over 20 countries affected by manifestations of fragility, conflict and violence, and 8 international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) based in the North. As a first step towards developing and strengthening the voice and capacity of our local partners, the Platform's key focus is to invest in further consolidating and expanding its membership.

The year 2018 was a pivotal one for CSPPS, as it marked the last year of the 3-year long operational grant kindly provided by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (SDC). Accordingly, at the Platform level, the emphasis all throughout the year 2018 was not so much on expanding its membership, but instead on consolidating the existing ties and linkages made between Southern and Northern members. This drive to strengthen relationships culminated into the CSPPS Annual Core Group Meeting which took place in The Hague in April 2018. The purpose of the Annual Meeting was also to agree upon and reaffirm what the priorities of the Platform are, which led to the adoption of the CSPPS 2018-2021 Workplan and The Hague Declaration. Another internal network

highlight of 2018 were the Executive Committee (EC) elections held in December.

CSPPS Annual Core Group Meeting, April 2018

The CSPPS organised its annual Executive Committee meeting (ECM+) from 10 until 11 April, followed back to back by its CSPPS Core Group meeting (CGM) from 12 until 13 April, both at Cordaid headquarters in The Hague, The Netherlands. The meetings resulted in a renewed workplan for the CSPPS for the period 2018 – 2021, and a re-engagement by all members to continue to use the New Deal principles as the prism through which to pursue the localisation and implementation of the 2030 Agenda, therein giving prominent attention to the role of SDG 16+.

Civil society emphasized the need for inclusion and recognition of civil society as a fully-fledged actor rather than just an implementor, also specially the continuing trend of shrinking civic space and the need to build on existing mechanisms such as the New Deal to prevent conflict and sustain peace, CSPPS members seized the window of opportunity offered in its annual Core Group meeting to review and actualize priorities for the CSPPS in the context of conflict prevention and sustaining peace agendas. The meeting also took stock of

civil society's role in the localization of the 2030 Agenda using SDG 16 as an entry point and the New Deal principles as a lens. Core Group members shared contextual experiences of the restrictions imposed to prevent civil society to freely conduct its work.

The CSPPS annual Core Group meeting aimed to strengthen working relationships across all platform members around the IDPS partnership and related policy processes and focused on reviewing and solidifying current workplan priorities. The meeting in The Hague included strategic outreach to the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), thus providing an opportunity for CSPPS members to interact and have a dialogue with the MFA in the wider context of relevant policy discussion happening (sustaining peace and conflict prevention) and to discuss how best to amplify the role of civil society in the face of shrinking civic space. Other IDPS constituencies and key donors were invited to join the discussions (with INCAF, IDPS Secretariat, SDC, UNDP and Dutch MFA participating).

At the end of the meeting, the CSPPS Work Plan 2018-21 priorities at national, regional and global levels were developed. Participants also crystallised their vision and commitments into The Hague Declaration – which you can read and download [here](#).





Close Up: CSPPS Work Plan 2018–21 What are the main takeaways?

The CSPPS 2018-2021 work plan priorities at the national, regional and global levels were developed at the CSPPS Core Group meeting in April 2018 in The Hague. The work plan includes, inter alia, the following aspects:

- Contribute to the realization of priorities set in the IDPS Stockholm Declaration, including the positioning of the New Deal principles as critical for realization of the 2030 Agenda
- Consolidate and where possible further strengthen the CSPPS' strategic orientation towards various SDG16+ initiatives and work in partnership towards High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2019 review
- Strengthen, diversify and solidify CSPPS Country Teams and, together with representatives from the other IDPS constituencies, embark on ongoing dialogue processes to prevent conflicts and sustain peace
- Work with other IDPS constituencies to strategically position the partnership in context of relevant policy arenas for peacebuilding, statebuilding, conflict prevention and sustaining peace
- Broaden and deepen the CSPPS membership, both in g7+ countries and in Northern capitals

CSPPS Executive Committee Elections, December 2018

Between 5 – 14 December, the CSPPS Secretariat held online elections for the Executive Committee. Six candidates ran for the seats of the five EC members stepping down. The Secretariat conveys its warmest congratulations to the new EC members elected for the period 2019-2020: **Udé Fati, Musa Ansumana Soko, Charlotte Bazira, Theophilus Ekpon, and Eloi Kouzoundji!** They will be joining the EC members staying on board: **Lisette Mavungu, Mouldjide Ngarygam, Marc Baxmann and Peter van Sluijs.** Furthermore, the Secretariat would like to thank the EC members stepping down – **Guy Aho Tete Benissan, Pascasie Barampama, Foday Sesay and Luslegged**

Abebe – for all the time, work and effort they invested into guiding the platform over the past two years and a half. Finally, we wish to express our sincere gratitude to all the Core Group members who voted and supported this democratic process!

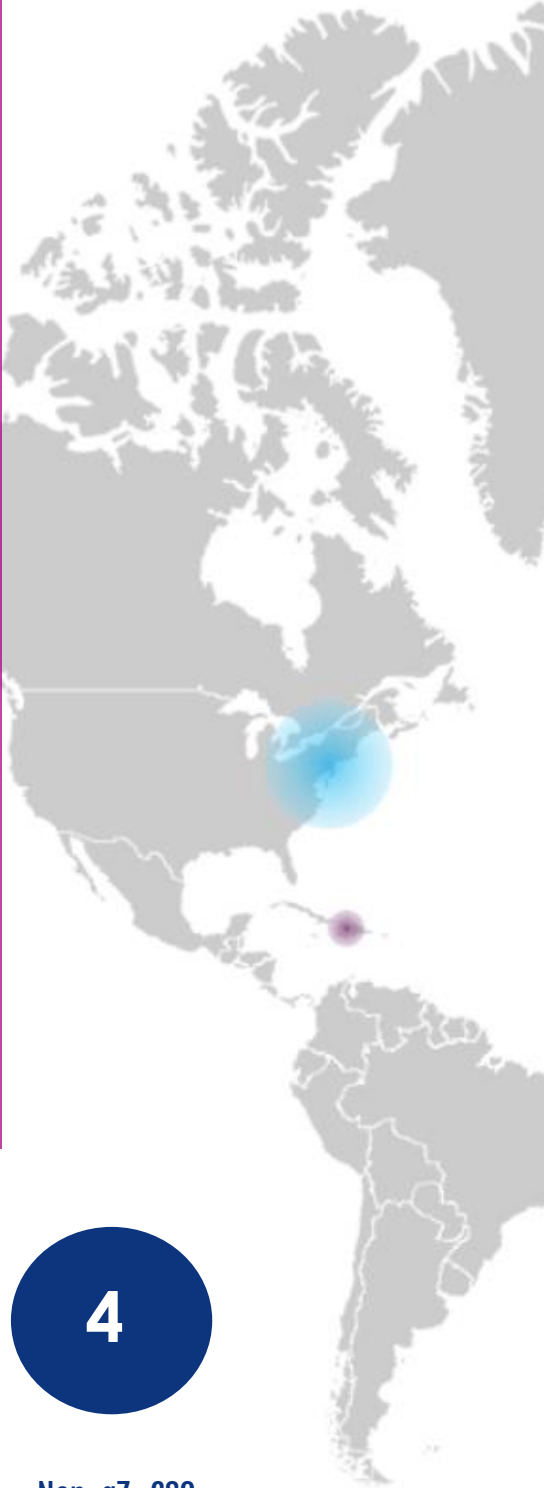


CSPPS IN THE WORLD IN 2018

By the end of 2018, CSPPS had established a presence in 16 out of 20 g7+ countries (which are officially recognised as fragile) either in the form of Country Teams (CT), Focal Point Organisations (FPO) or contact persons. These countries are: Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea-Conakry, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Sao Tome & Principe, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Somalia and Yemen.

In addition, CSPPS is present in four non-g7+ countries which present similar fragility dimensions: Nepal, Nigeria, Senegal and Zimbabwe.

Finally, the Platform comprises INGO members from 8 Northern countries, namely Australia (Peacifica), Belgium (SFCG), Denmark (RIKO), Germany (FriEnt and World Vision Intl), the United Kingdom (Integrity Action, Conciliation Resources, Saferworld, Intl Alert), the United States (Alliance for Peacebuilding, CDA, Intl Budget Partnership, SFCG, Interpeace), Switzerland (Swisspeace), and the Netherlands (Cordaid, GPPAC, Oxfam Novib, UNOY).



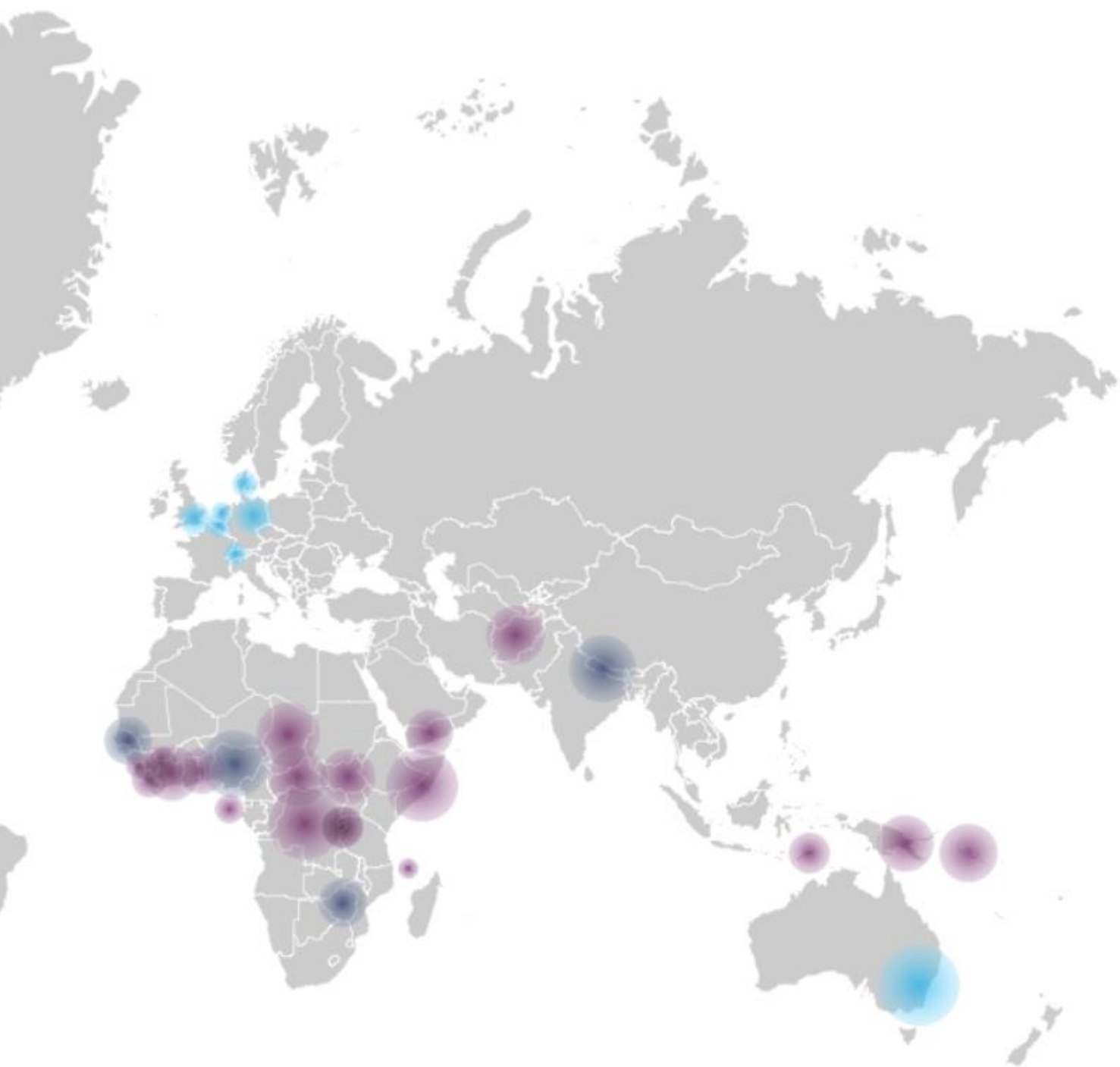
g7+ CSO Country Teams and Individual Contacts



Northern INGO members and partner countries



Non-g7+ CSO Country Teams and Individual Contacts



AMPLIFY

Amplify

Once Focal Point organisations have been designated, and/or Country Teams have been established and a national strategy has been adopted, CSPPS strives to build up the capacities of local civil society members based in FCAS. The aim behind strengthening the capacities of local and national CSOs is to improve their effectiveness in participating in decision-making circles and public processes, as well as in implementing local and national policies related to conflict prevention, peacebuilding and statebuilding.

This can be achieved in a number of ways. For instance, by providing access to experts and trainers that have the skills needed by an organisation or a team to meet its goals, maximising and disseminating knowledge sharing, identifying and initiating peer learning trajectories, and supporting resource acquisition and mobilisation. Capacity-building activities can be carried out either by an external source (expert, consultant, etc.) or a Northern member to support a national Country Team, or by a Country Team member towards the rest of its members, or by a Country Team member who wishes to reach out to other local CSOs outside of the CSPPS team.

Amplifying in 2018

One of the most prominent critiques of international peace building efforts is that its focus on governmental bodies produces superficial institutions that float above society while excluding the populations of war-torn states from the peace-building process. By amplifying the voice of civil society, CSPPS intends to address this issue in the fragile and conflict-affect countries where it is present.

There is an increasing acknowledgement among governments and development practitioners that civil society active involvement is critical to the elaboration of appropriate, relevant and sustainable development policies. CSOs have the opportunity to not only influence the creation

of policies, but also to assist in implementation and improve the functioning of governments alongside public institutions. The work of the Platform related to amplifying the voice of civil society was best illustrated in 2018 by the Freetown Fragile-to-Fragile workshop on the New Deal and the 2030 Agenda.

Freetown Fragile-to-Fragile workshop on the New Deal and the 2030 Agenda

Fragile-to-Fragile (or F2F) is a cooperation mechanism established between countries experiencing conflict or emerging from crisis to provide support to one another, including

through peer learning, capacity building, mobilization of third-party support, financial assistance or knowledge generation and dissemination. A flagship program of the g7+ group of countries, F2F cooperation emerged from the sharing of experiences between and among its member countries. The members of the g7+ realized that despite their differences, they shared important commonalities that made it possible to learn from each other's experiences and trajectories. Having faced similar challenges, they understood each other's difficulties better.

The key driving principles of g7+ F2F cooperation are voluntarism, cooperation and solidarity. It is nonconditional and free from vested interests, whether political or economic. It also refrains from advancing or promoting any specific ideology or approach to development, or one-size-fits-all solutions. Rather, it emphasizes context specificity and country ownership, and believes in supporting the organic evolution of local responses in order to meet local challenges.

CSPPS strives to capacitate local civil society to be an equal member and recognized partner of the IDPS, the New Deal and related policy processes as they happen at country and the international level. The F2F events and workshops organised by g7+ partners provide a much needed peer-to-peer learning, dialogue and political space for CSPPS local members to participate in and to contribute to. Indeed, not only can civil society members learn from and interact with their government representatives and those from other fragile countries in such F2F settings, but also contribute to the substance of the topics discussed. That way, civil society is able to ensure that the key concerns and priorities linked to the implementation of SDG 16+ through the New Deal principles (inclusiveness, legitimate politics) are raised and addressed. Participating in such F2F workshops and exchanging with g7+ and financial and technical partners is one of the most effective ways civil society can have a

meaningful and positive impact to make sure the IDPS and CSPPS visions materialise on the ground. In turn, an open and continuous dialogue process can be embarked upon.

Such an opportunity arose in Freetown, Sierra Leone in October 2018. The primary objective of the Freetown F2F workshop was to exchange experiences on New Deal tools – Covenants, Mutual Accountability Frameworks and Fragility Assessments – and to examine how they had contributed to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a few years before the advent of the New Deal. This exchange on lessons learned and best practices represented a capacity building opportunity for all participants. In addition, it provided useful lessons to be applied in the process of actualisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in FCAS, using the New Deal principles as a lens through which this process is embarked upon.

Four Platform members were invited to attend and/or give a presentation: **Erin McCandless** (IWG co-chair), **Lisette Mavungu** (DRC CSPPS FP) **Luis da Costa Ximenes** (Timor-Leste CSPPS CT), and **Ahmed Yousouf** (Comoros CSPPS FP). Overall, CSPPS delegates agreed to say they were able to draw some valuable insights from the presentations and discussions as to how to design quality fragility assessments. Another takeaway was the very friendly and constructive atmosphere throughout the workshop feeding from the constructive relationship between government and civil society representatives. Ahmed valued how much participants were open about problems (and their causes) affecting their respective country teams, in particular the lack of means that contributes to the dysfunction of the activities of the country teams. Erin for one was particularly impressed how much effort was deployed to tackle SDG 16 through the New Deal principles, in ways that are often not reported.



MEMBER CASE STORY



UNDP Fragile-to-Fragile workshop on the New Deal supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

15-16 October, Freetown

By Luis da Costa Ximenes (Belun)

Event Description

After the WFUNA 16+ Forum (7-10 October) and the Pathfinders' Second Task Force on Justice Meeting (11-12 October), the UNDP Facility for the Implementation of the SDGs in FCAS, UNDP Sierra Leone, UNDP DRC, and Sierra Leone and DRC Ministries of Planning hosted a Fragile-to-Fragile workshop (15-16 October) to look at how New Deal Tools such as Compacts, Mutual Accountability Frameworks, and Fragility Assessments have supported the implementation of the SDGs/MDGs and the Prevention Agenda. Among other Platform members, CSPPS Core Group member and Director of NGO Belun (Timor Leste), Luis da Costa Ximenes, attended the workshop in question. You can read his account of and contribution to the workshop below.



Testimony

It was an excellent opportunity to learn and share experiences with civil society colleagues and members of g7+, especially with the community service organisations (CSOs) representatives in Sierra Leone who had supported the government to implement their fragility assessment report.

There were good lessons learned about strengthening of partnerships and coordination with the government of Timor-Leste and CSOs in Timor-Leste. The workshop was a valuable experience and opportunity for me to reflect on Timor-Leste's fragility assessments and on how to best carry out their recommendations and to integrate them into the ministerial programs and the government's national strategic plan for the 2030 Agenda.

The importance of engaging the private sector to invest in peace in society and collaborate with state was also discussed. Finally, we discussed Timor-Leste's development and how it can strengthen collaboration with the International community and development partners to support and respond to country priorities such as human resource development, reducing unemployment, education and the development of other sectors.

A lot of work still needs to be done in Timor-Leste to bring sectors together. Timor-Leste's SDG working group was formed to engage all sectors in a deep consultation, measure Timor-Leste's development across a number of the SDGs and to track down progress and identify challenges.

Currently a voluntary, national SDG assessment is being conducted. This SDG assessment is the responsibility of the Secretariat of SDGs led by the Prime Ministry Office and MFAT in partnership with UN resident Timor-Leste. The assessment process will engage all sectors, including Government entities, and will be both a resource and a forum to gather data as well as ideas from different perspectives across society.

“The workshop was a valuable experience and opportunity for me to reflect on Timor-Leste’s fragility assessments and on how to best carry out their recommendations and to integrate them into (...) the government’s national strategic plan for the 2030 Agenda”

The assessment is voluntary and a report will be provided to UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) in July 2019. There is an expectation that an outcome of the assessment will be an acknowledgement of the challenges and a commitment by the government to respond to these challenges in the future.

The g7+ is using Timor-Leste's experience in peacebuilding and development as an experience to show the world that fragile states can help other fragile states. But the Timor-Leste government should be doing more internally to meet their state-building and peace-building goals and the SDGs they have committed to. Supporting internal peace-building systems like the Belun's Early Warning Early Response system is a tangible step forward.



CSPPS in Timor-Leste

CSPPS in Timor-Leste includes the Forum NGO Timor-Leste (FONGTIL), Belun, Fundacion Mahein and Luta Hamutuk. They share regular updates on the country's situation and work together to develop good and effective government policy to address peace and security issues. Being part of CSPPS has enabled them to maintain and to actively contribute to strong peacebuilding networks at the national and regional level.

LOBBY

Lobby

Lobbying and policy outreach are the third essential aspect of CSPPS' work. In addition to networking, capacity-building and peer-to-peer learning support, CSPPS also provides its members with formidable lobbying and advocacy platforms both within and outside of the IDPS policy realm.

Indeed, inside the International Dialogue CSPPS is in regular contact with and invited to meetings, events and conferences by the g7+, INCAF and the IDPS Secretariat. CSPPS engages with its IDPS partners and supports when required its civil society members to attend key strategic events to make sure the voice and perspective of local CSOs is always heard and represented in IDPS and related policy processes.

Outside of the IDPS realm, CSPPS is often brought to explore and foster new partnerships with civil society platforms, INGOS, governments, and technical and financial partners. Platform members are often solicited, encouraged and given the opportunity to participate and engage in a meaningful way in dialogue processes and to influence policy arenas through coordinated advocacy.

Lobbying in 2018

Until the 1990s, conflict management approaches focused on the top leaders of conflict parties, based on the assumption that a limited number of actors involved in peace negotiations facilitate negotiated settlements. There is now a general consensus that national actors should take the lead in peacebuilding, and that outside intervention should be limited to their support. The subsequent shift to conflict transformation approaches focused attention on the key role played by civil society. Cooperation between I-NGOs and domestic CSOs can help give voice to actors from conflict-affected countries on the international stage. At the country level, civil society can serve to link the wider public with official mediation processes through

information campaigns and by transmitting popular sentiments to negotiating parties. Civil society can thus play a pivotal role in expanding traditional conceptions of peacebuilding and in infusing peace and public policy processes with inclusive peacebuilding values, as set in the New Deal principles.

The year 2018 was an eventful year in terms of lobbying efforts displayed by the Platform. Some of the main highlights include: intervening at the World Bank's Fragility Forum, hosting a session at the Bonn SDG Festival, attending the 16+ Forum, IDPS-related meetings to lay the ground work for a new vision, and meetings with the EU and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs to secure donor financial support.

MEMBER CASE STORY



The Fragility Forum 2018 – CSPPS on ‘Implementing Prevention’

6 March, Washington D.C.

By Guy Aho Tete Benissan (REPAOC)

Event Description

On Tuesday 6 March 2018, the International Dialogue hosted a High Level Panel on “Implementing Prevention: Operational Responses to the Pathways for Peace Report” at the World Bank Fragility Forum 2018, in Washington D.C. This panel brought together Ministers and senior officials from the g7+ group of countries affected by conflict and fragility, OECD-DAC-INCAF countries, civil society (CSPPS), UN system and World Bank, to discuss how bilateral and multilateral actors can work better together to prevent violent conflict. Panellists shared their perspectives on the World Bank-UN report Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict. Guy Aho Tete Benissan, CSPPS Regional Focal Point at REPAOC, was part of the panel session and spoke on behalf of CSPPS and West-African civil society.

Testimony

During this event, I was part of a panel session with HE Deqa Yasin Hagi Yusuf, Minister of Women and Human Rights (Somalia), Ambassador Joran Bjällerstedth, INCAF Representative (Sweden), Mrs Teresa Whitfield, Mediation Division (United Nations), and Franck Bousquet, Senior Director of the Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group (World Bank Group).

Drawing on panellists’ experience of piloting the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States in g7+ countries, the discussion focused on the challenges of operationalizing the report’s recommendations and sought to identify what was required to ensure they were effectively translated into practice.

I was asked by the panel chair what this report meant to me, what lessons from my experience of the New Deal, as part of a multi-stakeholder inclusive partnership, I could share with them, and finally what advice I would give to a World Bank or UN colleague looking to operationalise this ambitious agenda.

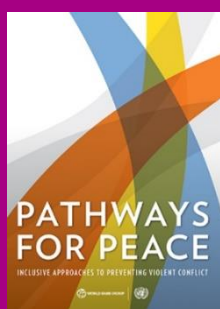
I told them that having a representative of civil society on this panel to discuss the findings and recommendations of the report epitomises what we, civil society working on peacebuilding, have been advocating for decades: the need for inclusion.

We are pleased to see that the concept of inclusive approaches to prevent violent conflict lies at the very heart of the Pathways for Peace report. At CSPPS, we think this report shows great potential to fill the gap between policy frameworks and practical implementation for building peace in fragile and conflict-affected situations (FCAS). In that regard, we salute the work accomplished by the World Bank and the United Nations to deliver this report because not only is it in line with the Agenda 2030, but it also explains in a clear fashion how development approaches can better interact with other existing tools to prevent conflicts and crises. For instance, the need to build and mobilise inclusive coalitions such as with local and national gender- and youth-oriented CSO coalitions, the private sector and regional organisations.

However, we also feel that the report falls short on a number of issues. For example, we do not see in the report a critical review of past prevention efforts and lessons learned, nor a critical self-reflection of UN and World Bank approaches. The report could have also touched upon the qualities and functions for a state and its institutions to sustain peace. Not enough emphasis is placed on early response mechanisms that might help prevent conflicts from intensifying. The key role played by civil society in conflict prevention is not well recognised.

Finally, in addition to the issues listed above, one must understand how critical it is to contextualise and localise the report's findings and recommendations into a given fragile setting, which is what we at CSPPS – and more generally the International Dialogue – aim to do. Only by doing so can the Pathways for Peace report provide a relevant framework for understanding for the IDPS partnership and its member constituencies.

“Civil society is in direct contact with the community, its needs and its grievances. Civil society plays an important role in collecting evidence-based stories. We are a fully-fledged actor, not merely an implementer.”



You can read and download the World Bank-UN report *Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict* (2018) [here](#).

First Semester of 2018

The table on the next page provides a detailed overview of all the events CSPPS either attended or (co-)hosted in 2018. The beginning of the year was marked by a number of key events. The first Member Case Story of this chapter offers an engaging account by CSPPS regional focal point in West Africa Guy Aho Tete Benissan on his participation in an IDPS panel session to share civil society's perspective on the 2018 World Bank – UN Pathways for Peace report. Later that same month, the CSPPS Secretariat and CSPPS member FriEnt together hosted a panel session at the SDG Festival of Action in Bonn which brought together various IDPS constituency representatives to discuss why inclusivity matters for the implementation of the SDGs in FCAS (see next Member Case Story for a full account of the event).

In April, after the CSPPS Executive Committee and Core Group Annual Meetings, CSPPS Coordinator **Peter van Sluijs** was invited to speak on behalf of civil society at the UN High Level High Meeting on Sustaining during the Interactive Dialogue on Partnership session. You can watch the CSPPS Coordinator's full speech [here](#).

In May, the CSPPS Coordinator attended the 2018 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development and participated in an IDPS panel session together with Habib Mayar (g7+ Secretariat) and representatives from Sweden and Canada. Next to this, CSPPS sponsored two local partners, CSDEA and Fambul Tok, to attend the Forum and showcase their initiatives.

Second Semester of 2018

In September, CSPPS Secretariat Coordinator Peter van Sluijs attended a number of strategic meetings and events. In Paris, the new IDPS co-chairs organised a meeting to meet with the three IDPS constituencies on 17 September. The next day, CSPPS met with the Fragility and Democratic Governance Unit of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) to discuss and sketch out the outlines of a common project which would fall under a grant agreement for the year 2019. The following week, CSPPS attended the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York (23 September – 5 October).

The World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) is a global non-profit organization representing and coordinating a membership of over 100 national United Nations Associations (UNAs) and their thousands of constituents. Its mission is to strengthen and improve the United Nations.

Hosted by WFUNA, the 16+ Forum Annual Showcase is a platform that brings together every year governments, local and international civil society organizations (CSOs), members of the UN system, the private sector and academia to discuss and share best practices on efforts to implement SDG 16+ at the national and sub-national.

The 2018 16+ Forum Annual Showcase took place on 7-10 October in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The CSPPS Secretariat together with a broad representation of our membership including **Shellac Davies**, **Foday Sesay**, **John Caulker**, **Musa Ansumana Soko**, **John Peter Amara**, **Valnora Edwin** (CSPPS Country Team in Sierra Leone) and international representatives from various countries such as **Sofia Ramyar** (Afghans for Progressive Thinking, Afghanistan), **Marc Baxmann** (FriEnt, Germany), **Pascal Richard** (GPPAC), **Luslegged Abebe** (UK/Ethiopia), **Peter van Sluijs**, **Nikki de Zwaan** and **Michael Warren** (Cordaid,

Netherlands) actively took part in a number of the conference's plenary and break-out sessions, both as panellists and moderators. **Peter van Sluijs** and **Matthew Wojcik** (CSPPS Secretariat) and the Sierra Leone Country

team met ahead of, during and after the conference to discuss the strategy of the Country Team and agree upon follow-up actions. The next 16+ Forum is set to take place in November 2019 in Dili, Timor-Leste.



MEMBER CASE STORY



CSPPS and FriEnt host a session
at the 2018 SDG Global Festival of Action

21 March, Bonn

By Marc Baxmann (FriEnt)

Event Description

Taking place in Bonn every year, the Festival provides a dynamic and interactive space to showcase the latest innovations, tools and approaches to SDG advocacy and SDG action. It brings together leaders from governments, local authorities, international organizations, civil society, activists, young advocates, the creative industry and the private sector. CSPPS Secretariat Coordinator Peter van Sluijs, and CSPPS EC member Marc Baxmann (FriEnt) attended and hosted a session at the 2018 edition of the Festival.



Testimony

CSPPS and its member organization FriEnt organised a session during the Festival which brought together representatives from various IDPS constituencies. It reflected on why inclusivity matters for SDGs implementation in conflict and fragile affected states. Session panellists shared lessons learned from the New Deal implementation in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States (FCAS). The session also reviewed new evidence why decisive action is needed for anchoring inclusive processes as part of the localization of the 2030 Agenda in FCAS.

Tension arises when country-owned and country-led process used to identify and decide on peacebuilding strategies is not inclusive nor transparent – leaving certain communities or segments of the population to feel that their interests are not being taken into consideration. There is strong evidence that locally owned peacebuilding processes in Fragile and Conflict Affected States (FCAS) have the best chance to succeed.

The discussants in the session analysed the challenges and opportunities faced by civil society in SDG-related policy-making and implementation in conflict-affected countries. Panellist provided recommendations on how international peacebuilding actors can improve the chances of supporting inclusive processes in the implementation of SDGs using experiences of the New Deal implementation.

During the discussion, which was moderated by Peter van Sluijs, inclusivity's crucial contribution to SDG implementation in FCAS was debated by Oliver Meinecke (BMZ), Gwendolyn Myers (Messengers of Peace, Liberia), Habib Ur Rehman Mayar, (g7+), Eckhard Volkmann (Inclusive Peace and Transition Initiative) and Christine Chan (UNDP). It was stressed by Eckhard Volkmann, that only inclusive societies can implement political reforms in a way that will last. Participation means increasing the degree to which decisions can be influenced. Young people's inclusion in these processes is central. And, according to Gwendolyn Myers, if we want them to make a meaningful contribution, young people have to be given far more encouragement.

“If we want to make a meaningful contribution [to peacebuilding efforts], young people have to be given far more encouragement”

Gwendoline Myers,
CSPPS focal point
on youth issues, Liberia

“Many interventions carried out by the EU or UN resulted – often unintentionally – in greater societal fragmentation and that dependency on aid funds should not undermine local social initiatives”, stressed Habib Mayar. He also added that “‘fragile-to-fragile’ initiatives were an especially good option for generating ownership at society level”.

Read more about the event [here](#).

GLOBAL FESTIVAL
OF ACTION
#SDGGLOB



IDPS-related Meetings

The end of 2018 was marked by two critical IDPS-related meetings, both of which took place in Lisbon during the same week.

The IDPS Steering Group Meeting (12-13 December) provided members with the opportunity to discuss the co-chairs' vision and plans to re-invigorate the IDPS as a platform with a bold and focused agenda, owned and driven by members. The purpose of the meeting was to review progress since the last Steering Group meeting, to agree on shared priorities and the focus of a Ministerial Agenda scheduled for in 2019, key dates, milestones and targets for members' collective action for the forthcoming biennium.

As the member constituency that coordinates and supports civil society participation in the IDPS, the Platform participated in the IDPS' Steering Group meeting to give its input on the IDPS Vision Paper and discuss the operationalization of the priority thematic

areas of focus put forward by the IDPS co-chairs, namely national cohesion, gender equality, and peace-promoting private sector. The CSPPS delegation comprised of **Udé Fati** (Guinea-Bissau CSPPS FP), **Eloi Kouzoundji** (CAR CSPPS FP), **Guy Aho Tete Benissan** (Togo/Senegal CSPPS FP), **Erin McCandless** (IWG co-chair), **Peter van Sluijs** (Secretariat) and **Matthew Wojcik** (Secretariat [observer]).

On 14-15 December, the g7+ hosted a two-day Technical Meeting at the g7+ Hub in Lisbon, during which member participants reviewed progress over the year, identified and agreed upon strategic priorities of the year to come (including preparation for collective discourse at global events such as the High Level Political Forum 2019), and prepared for the Ministerial level forum in 2019. Considering the importance of infusing the civil society perspective in the g7+ agenda, **Peter van Sluijs** (CSPPS Secretariat Coordinator) participated in the event as an observer.



2018 EVENTS TIMELINE



JANUARY

Meeting “From Rhetoric to Resilience: building locally-owned inclusive peace and development”, Fambul Tok, Freetown, 21-27 January.

MARCH

IDPS session “Perspectives on Pathways for Peace”, World Bank FCV Forum, Washington D.C., 6 March.

CSPPS/FriEnt session on “Why Inclusivity Matters for Implementation of SDGs in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Countries”, SDG Festival of Action, Bonn, 21 March.

APRIL

CSPPS Executive Committee and Core Group Annual Meetings, The Hague, 10-13 April.

UN High Level Meeting on Sustaining Peace, New York, 24-25 April.

MAY

Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development, Stockholm, 7-9 May.

JUNE

FriEnt Peacebuilding Forum, Berlin, 13-14 June.

Retreat “The Path to HLPF 2019: from ambition to results for SDG16+”, New York, 22 June.

Session “Peace, Security and Development – Partnership for Peace” at European Partnership Forum, Brussels, 25-26 June.

SEPTEMBER

Inequality Annual Conference of the Knowledge Platform for Security & Rule of Law, The Hague, 13 September.

IDPS Co-chairs and Constituency Secretariats meetings, Paris, 17 September.

Meeting with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MEAE), Paris, 18 September.

73rd Session of the UN General Assembly, New York, 23 September – 5 October.

OCTOBER

16+ Forum Annual Showcase, WFUNA, Freetown, 7-10 October.

One Young World, The Hague, 17-20 October.

NOVEMBER

OECD-DAC Meeting, Paris, 19 November.

DECEMBER

IDPS Steering Group Meeting, Lisbon, 12-13 December.

g7+ Technical Meeting, Lisbon, 14-15 December.

MEMBER CASE STORY



CSPPS at the WFUNA 16+ Forum Annual Showcase, Sierra Leone

7-10 October, Freetown

By Valnora Edwin (Sierra Leone War Trust for Children)

Event Description

The 16+ Forum Annual Showcase is a collective undertaking to demonstrate SDG 16+ in action - what implementation looks like, how to go about it, and what the best practices are going forward. Overarching themes around the importance of inclusion and national ownership, coordination and collaboration, civil society partnerships, data and the practice of prevention, sustaining peace and access to justice played a prominent role in the Sierra Leone discussions.



Testimony

The deliberations were timely as it infused energy especially non-state actors hearing experiences of other countries but most importantly Sierra Leone's position within the global stage to achieve SDG16+. It triggered extensive discussions more especially with Sierra Leone serving as the co-chair of the IDPS, and chair of the g7+ group of Fragile and Conflict-affected countries opting to participate in the Voluntary National Review Process.

Creating a peaceful, just and inclusive society needs to serve as the mantra for Sierra Leone's economic, political social, and cultural development. Our democratic consolidation becomes threatened by high level of political intolerance, winner takes all mindset and corruption. It was therefore important that political players, development partners and non-state actors have a continued dialogue around measures/ strategies that will address the increasing political divide through building bridges around those issues that bind us together as a nation, building peace and social cohesion.



Over the years party politics and political identity have overshadowed nationalism and patriotism. There is more allegiance to political parties than to the state. This breeds marginalization, encourages cronyism, patronage, sycophancy. It becomes a situation of 'them against us' with a good number of the citizenry holding a strong perception of being neglected and abandoned as a result of differences in political ideology. Our economic plans, justice system civil and public service are challenged with remaining professional and providing the required services to the public at the level of efficiency and standard required. The violence associated with our electoral processes raises fundamental questions on how successful democracy has been in protecting rights and freedoms, improving the economy and more importantly ensuring equitable distribution of resources through participation and inclusion through accountable systems and processes.

The current IDPS-facilitated country dialogue process requires expansion to include sectors around the justice and security sector, the extractives, land rights, children's rights (especially around labour in mining areas), promoting accountability and transparency in the public sector, women's rights being the most critical of all governance issues.

The 2018 electoral process itself did not unify the country and social cohesion remains a gap in our peacebuilding engagements. Social cohesion needs to be addressed from a holistic perspective; working at the community level through civil society organisations and the media, holding dialogue sessions/round table discussions with various sectors; religious bodies, the private sector, traditional leaders and political parties; state commitment involving all arms of state in the day to day delivery of their services. From the executive and legislature- the policies regulations and laws that will reflect the needs and aspirations of the diverse groups that will positively impact the wider society. The judiciary as another arm of state –administration and dispensation of justice and for the legislature; strengthening their oversight role through following up on recommendations of the Audit service and on government's proposed laws and contract.

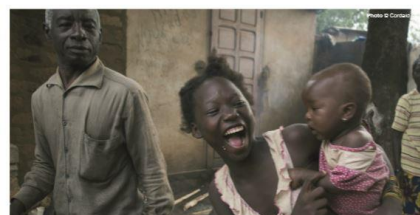
Communications and Outreach Strategy

New Brochure

Communication – both internal and external – is critical in generating awareness, understanding and support for one’s work. As such, it makes for a powerful lobbying tool within the hands of the Platform.

Launched in January 2018, the new version of the CSPPS brochure which holds on merely two pages is a step towards raising awareness about CSPPS’ mission and work in a clear, simple and effective way. It complements the work done to strengthen the internal communication of the Platform (Weekly Updates, Newsletters, etc.) and allows for any outsider to gain a basic understanding of what CSPPS is.

To view or download the brochure, click [here](#) .



Working towards Peaceful and Inclusive Societies in Fragile & Conflict Affected States

Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS)

Who We Are and What We Do

The Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) is the official forum for coordinated civil society participation in the International Dialogue for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS). It brings together a diverse representation of civil society globally, both from giv- and non-giv- countries and from civil society organizations working on issues of Peacebuilding, Statebuilding, Conflict & Fragility and Development at regional and global levels.

Since 2011, we have engaged in the shaping of the IDPS process and its outcomes and in country implementation of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States. The New Deal is a key agreement between fragile and conflict-affected states, development partners, and civil society to improve the current development policy and practice in fragile and conflict-affected states.

The goals of CSPPS are to strengthen the voice and capacity of societies to effectively engage in, and influence, peacebuilding and statebuilding as a critical contribution to crisis prevention and sustainable peace and development for all.

Our Mission:
Strengthening the voice and capacity of society to effectively engage in, and influence, peacebuilding and statebuilding as a critical contribution to crisis prevention and sustainable peace and development for all.

Our Core Strategies:
1. Shaping and influencing the international Dialogue for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding. Sustainable Development Goals and humanitarian processes with peacebuilding values.
2. Strengthening and broadening civil society engagement in peacebuilding, statebuilding and crisis prevention.
3. Influencing prevention, peacebuilding and statebuilding and development policies at all levels.



New Website

There are numerous factors that lead to a successful online presence. Image is certainly one of them. Particularly in today’s digital age. The Secretariat came to the realisation that the CSPPS website – originally created in 2012 – suffered from an outdated image which poorly reflected the quality and reach of its work.

That is why from September – December 2018, and with the technical support of CSPPS-member GPPAC, the Secretariat embarked on a website renewal trajectory. By taking into consideration factors such as navigation, content and visual elements, brand uniformity, engagement, organisation and search engine optimisation, the Secretariat was able to soft-launch a more straightforward, visually appealing and user-friendly website by the end of December 2018. Content related to Platform members and Country Teams will be updated throughout the year 2019.

To view the new website, please visit cspps.org .



News & Views Publications Stories Contact Member login EN | FR



Who we are What we do Where we work Become a member

SEARCH

**Civil Society
Platform for
Peacebuilding
and Statebuilding**





Strategic Outreach to Donors

CSPPS is regularly in search for donors to contribute funds in a fashion that matches their giving capacity. Prospect research guides CSPPS's donor outreach and puts the Platform's priorities into focus. It enables us to align donor background and interest with the scope of our organisation's work.

2018 marked the final year of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs ([SDC](#)) CSPPS operating grant. As the CSPPS Secretariat was drawing to a close the support it had been providing to its local CSO partners for the past three years under the SDC operating grant, its attention naturally turned

to securing financial support for the future plans and activities of the Platform.

The CSPPS Core Group members gathered in The Hague in April 2018 to review the work and strategy of the Platform and set new goals and objectives for 2019 and beyond. Taking into account inputs from its Southern and Northern CG members, the CSPPS Secretariat developed the final version of the CSPPS Work Plan 2019-2021. Equipped with its new Work Plan, the CSPPS Secretariat approached the European Commission's DG International Cooperation & Development (DEVCO) and the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE).

What made the EU decide to provide financial/strategic support to CSPPS and why is it important to support a Platform like CSPPS?

"The Consensus, the EU Global Strategy, and the recently-adopted EU Resilience Communication all provide evidence of the enhanced attention of the EU and its institutions to strengthening and supporting state and societal resilience, peacebuilding and statebuilding, investing in conflict prevention and sustaining peace, investing in combating root causes of migration, and offering opportunities for youth and women, as a precondition to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

It is important for the EU to support a platform like CSPPS in order 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. For this the CSPPS strives to infuse the International Dialogue on Peace building and state building, the 2030 Agenda and humanitarian processes with peacebuilding values, globally.

In the context of the agreement between the EU and CSPPS the platform will channel this support to make progress (i) in the coordination of concerted Civil Society Action on International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS) and related policy; (ii) in the capacity building to amplify the voice of Civil Society; (iii) in the Policy influencing to consolidate Civil Society inclusion in dialogues at all levels."

Mrs Rosario Bento Pais
European Commission
DG International Cooperation & Development (DEVCO)
Unit A5 – Civil Society, Foundations

The European Commission's DG International Cooperation & Development (DEVCO)

The operating grant CSPPS signed with DEVCO at the end of 2018 is a positive product of the fruitful relationship CSPPS enjoys with the EU focal point within the International Dialogue. Indeed through steady engagement with the DEVCO Fragility Unit (B2), CSPPS was able to sensitize the EU on the key role the Platform plays – and seeks to play in the future – within the IDPS. The DEVCO Fragility Unit subsequently came to realise the potential of the Platform in amplifying the voice of civil society within the IDPS in addition to the relevance of CSPPS's mandate to the EU's development aid policy.



2-year Operating Grant
(Jan 2019 – Dec 2020)



€ 2 million

Following regular exchanges between CSPPS and DEVCO's Fragility Unit, discussions later opened up to and included DEVCO's Civil Society Unit (A5). Efforts to better coordinate activities and link mandates between CSPPS, DEVCO's Fragility and Civil Society Units materialised in a three-step approach : (1) holding a CSPPS-oriented session on Central African Republic and the EU Bêkou Trust Fund at EDD, Brussels; (2) establishing a partnership between the EU and CSPPS country representatives; and (3) and work with DEVCO's Civil Society Unit on opportunities to support CSPPS' work. This eventually lead to the development and signing of 2-year operating grant between DEVCO and CSPPS, to support the latter in implementing its 2018-2021 Workplan.

The French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE)

The 2018-2019 project grant marks a positive turn in the relationship between CSPPS and the French government, as it is the first time CSPPS directly signs a contract with a French Ministry.

Peter van Sluijs first established contact with the Democratic Governance Mission of the French MEAE through Mrs Joëlle Silberstein at an INCAF Director Level Meeting in Paris in November 2017. Discussions over collaboration opportunities took place over the course of the year 2018, amounted to a first draft project proposal submitted in October, and a final consolidated project proposal signed in December.

The grant reflects the alignment of CSPPS and MEAE mandates identified in three target countries, namely Côte d'Ivoire, the Central African Republic, and Chad.

The 1-year Project Grant aims at supporting the inclusion, participation and contribution of local CSOs in government-led Voluntary National Review consultations to track progress on SDG16+.



1-year Project Grant
(Dec 2018 – Dec 2019)



€ 30,000



2019 AND BEYOND

A LOOK AT WHAT AWAITS CSPPS IN 2019 AND BEYOND

The support provided by the EU/DEVCO operating grant and the MEAE project grant will enable CSPPS to sustain and expand its work ensuring that civil society contributes meaningfully to relevant national and international policy processes on peacebuilding, statebuilding, conflict prevention and sustaining peace.

Voluntary National Reviews

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. The HLPF 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 HLPF 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.

The theme of the HLPF 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.

For the reasons mentioned above, CSPPS identified VNRs and the HLPF in 2019 as strategic opportunities to support and amplify the voice of civil society in the countries in which the Platform is present and which are going for review in 2019. The support provided by DEVCO and MEAE to carry out the ‘Ready for Review’ project will enable CSPPS to ensure – to the extent possible depending on the political context – 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, CAR, Chad, Sierra Leone, and Timor-Leste through nationally-held orientation and sensitization workshops and capacity development workshops.

IDPS Vision and Strategy

As developed in the ‘Lobby’ section of this report, the IDPS held a Steering Group Meeting in Lisbon (12-13 December) to set out the foundations and agree upon the basic premises of a reinvigorated, bold and focus vision and agenda for the International Dialogue for the years to come. IDPS member constituencies will share their comments and provide inputs to consolidate the IDPS vision and strategy working document. Following its official launch, the operationalisation of its thematic priorities – namely national cohesion, gender equality, and peace-promoting private sector – will require more strategic reflexion, positioning and planning from IDPS constituencies. CSPPS will consult its Platform members to identify and delineate civil society’s potential role and contribution in implementing the IDPS’ vision.

ANNEXES

Budget 2018

Project: Support to IDPS CSO Activities - Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding

Period: 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018

Project Activity	Amount in EUR
IDPS CSO Secretariat function + CSPPS Core Group meetings	
<i>Personal Costs (incl Meetings and Website maintenance)</i>	236,654
<i>Knowledge Management, Information Sharing & Communication Cost</i>	36,131
<i>Operating Expenses (incl capacity strengthening) + Admin costs</i>	8,986
CSPPS Participation in Global Events	
<i>Total travel costs</i>	41,362
CSPPS In-country capacity development support and implementation	
<i>In-country mobilisation and strategy support</i>	0
Grand Total 2018	323,042

Overview of donor contributions received / grant agreements year 2018

Donor	Timeframe	Financial expenditure recorded in 2018 (EUR)
Switzerland (SDC)	January 2017 – July 2018	99,940
Cordaid	January 2018 – December 2018	223,101
Total		323,042

Thank you for making our work possible.

We would like to end the report by conveying our sincere thanks to the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (SDC) for their support over the last three years. We also wish to thank our host, Cordaid, for continued support in context of the Strategic Partnership on Lobby and Advocacy implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

What made the Swiss Government/SDC decide to provide financial/strategic support to CSPPS and why is it for SDC important to support a Platform like CSPPS?

Civil society has a crucial role to play in peacebuilding and sustainable development efforts. For this reason, Switzerland supported the CSPPS to ensure that the International Dialogue (IDPS) would be truly inclusive and balanced. As co-chair of the INCAF, at the time, Switzerland deemed crucial to support civil society in facilitating its representation at the table and in fostering national coalitions supporting the New Deal on engagement in fragile contexts. After five years, we can be proud of the fact that the Platform has provided significant visibility to an emerging networks of local actors and carried a strong voice in key international fora. Switzerland welcomes the interest expressed by further donors as a sign of success and a confirmation that we need to continue supporting civil society's voice to be heard loud and clear.

Martin Roch



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

**Federal Department of
Foreign Affairs FDFA**

CONTACT INFORMATION



**CIVIL SOCIETY
PLATFORM**
FOR PEACEBUILDING
AND STATEBUILDING

Cordaid, as part of its commitment to addressing fragility, hosts the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS). The Secretariat is managed and coordinated by Peter van Sluijs, Senior Strategist at Cordaid.

Please find attached relevant contact information for the Secretariat and please do not hesitate to contact us with any question you might have.

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