



BUILDING RESILIENCE IN A TIME OF HEIGHTENED TENSIONS

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

**CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORM FOR PEACEBUILDING AND
STATEBUILDING**



**CIVIL SOCIETY
PLATFORM**
FOR PEACEBUILDING
AND STATEBUILDING

CONTENTS

01.

FOREWORD

02.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

03.

ABOUT CSPPS

04.

CSPPS IN THE WORLD

05.

NETWORKING

06.

AMPLIFYING

07.

LOBBYING

08.

2022 MAIN OUTREACH
ACTIVITIES

09.

MEMBER UPDATES

10.

STRATEGIC OUTLOOK FOR
2023

FOREWORD

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2022 Annual Report of the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS).

The title of this report was chosen as a reflection on the past year. The world is going through turbulent times with tectonic geopolitical developments posing serious threats to multilateralism and international law. Now, more than ever, building resilience and promoting peace are key goals directing our work while being confronted with persevering challenges.

This 2022 Annual Report is issued while we as a Platform are discussing responses to the various challenges posed by the impact of these geopolitical developments. Looking back at the Platform's work in 2022 is useful in that context.

Recognising the persistent impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic including its impact on peace and security, the compounding impact of climate change, conflict and the ongoing risks of dis- and misinformation and cybersecurity, we are also witnessing the increasing global trend of attacks on civil society, including delegitimisation, human rights abuses, and imprisonment that is greatly reducing their ability to operate.

In this context, CSPPS has continued to speak against the shrinking of civic space, while providing a platform for our partners to express their voice and through continuous and consistent engagement with policy-makers and donors.

Representing the civil society constituency, CSPPS has been at the forefront of the renewal process of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, working closely with partner constituencies and in collaboration with UNDP in its role as new host of the IDPS-Secretariat.

2022 marked the end of our grant agreement with GIZ, with whom a partnership was started in December 2020. Whilst exploring new funding partnerships, CSPPS has continued its work within the Just Future Alliance. In this strategic partnership, supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, CSPPS will continue to act as a networking partner until 2025.

Activities as reported on in the Annual Report 2022 clearly point at the importance of collaborative efforts towards the realisation of peaceful, just, and inclusive societies. It is with this in mind that the Platform remains committed to our core mission to strengthen the voice and agency of local civil society in peacebuilding and statebuilding processes, and to work in polyilateral partnerships towards crisis prevention and truly sustainable peace and development across the globe.

We express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the support received, and for the continued collaboration with all CSPPS partners in the context of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS) and beyond.

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

Peter van Sluijs
Coordinator CSPPS
Member of the CSPPS Executive Committee

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2022 was a challenging year for CSPPS. Not only did it mark the end of the 1.5-year long operational grant kindly provided by GIZ, but the resumption of war on the European continent through Russia's war on Ukraine deeply impacted CSPPS' work and caused a shift of strategic priorities of many policy-makers. These changes enhanced the already-existing challenges of funding opportunities for CSOs.

This Annual Report presents the activities of the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) as executed in 2022. Despite an overall adaptation to the pandemic, COVID-19 continued to impact the peace-security realm, exacerbating existing tensions and increasing the poverty gap. Next to that, tectonic geopolitical developments have been distracting the international community's attention from other critical issues, including human security, water and food scarcity.

After having published two reports on the impacts of the pandemic on peacebuilding (["Fighting COVID-19, Building Peace – What Local Peacebuilders say about COVID-19, Civic Space, Fragility and Drivers of Conflict"](#) ; ["Persistent Impact: An Urgent Call for a Conflict-Sensitive Approach to the COVID-19 Pandemic"](#)), CSPPS addressed its persisting effects through the 2022 Berlin Statement ("Safeguarding Peace, Shifting Priority") as well as through a call on donors to stop reporting donated excess Covid-19 vaccine doses as ODA.

In order to amplify the voice and agency of civil society, the Platform spearheaded, co-hosted, and participated in key sessions, roundtable meetings, and side-event debates in the context of FriEnt's 20th Anniversary Panel, the Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development, the Rome SDG16 Conference, multiple High-Level Political Forum side-events, and discussions with IDPS constituencies to name a few.

CSPPS hosted in 2022 its Annual Conference in Berlin, with a delegation of members present to discuss the implementation of the 2030 Agenda – most notably the backsliding of progress on SDG16+ - as well as the new vision document for the IDPS and the impact of recent tectonic geopolitical developments. Discussions focused on the importance of safeguarding civic space to allow for an active and constructive role for civil society actors in responding to current local, regional and global challenges.

ACRONYMS

CAR	Central African Republic
CG	CSPPS Core Group
Cordaid	Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Assistance
CS	Civil Society
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CSPPS	Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) Country Team
CT	Development Assistance Committee
DAC	Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration
DDR	The European Commission's DG International Cooperation & Development
DEVCO	Democratic Republic of Congo
DRC	(CSPPS) Executive Committee
EC	European Union
EU	Fragile and Conflict-Affected States
FCAS	(CSPPS) Focal Point Organisation
FPO	The Working Group on Peace and Development
FriEnt	German Agency for International Cooperation
GIZ	Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict
GPPAC	Governments from fragile and conflict-affected countries
g7+	High-Level Political Forum
HLPF	Institute for Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding
IDPS	International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding
INCAF	OECD International Network on Conflict and Fragility
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
JF	Just Future
KPSRL	Knowledge Platform Security & Law
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
ND	New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
ODDI	Organisation pour le Développement Durable et Intégrée de la Guinée
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OHCHR	United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PBF	FriEnt Peacebuilding Forum
PSG	Peacebuilding and Statebuilding

ACRONYMS

SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDG16+	Sustainable Development Goal 16+
SIPRI	Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
SFCG	Search for Common Ground
TAP	Transparency, Accountability and Participation Network
TWM	Tamazight Women's Movement
TRUST	TRUST Principles : Commitment for results
UN	United Nations
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDESA/DSDG	UNDESA/Division for Sustainable Development Goals
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNOY	United Network of Young Peacebuilders
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
UNSCR1325	United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325
VNR	Voluntary National Review
YPS	Youth, Peace and Security

ABOUT CSPPS



01. 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 27 fragile and conflict-affected States (FCAS).*

OUR VISION: *At CSPPS, we strive for international collaboration that brings sustainable peace and inclusive development for all.*



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

OUR OBJECTIVES:

- *Strengthening and broadening civil society engagement and inclusion in peacebuilding, statebuilding and crisis prevention.*
- *Influencing conflict prevention, peacebuilding, statebuilding and development policies at all levels.*
- *Shaping and contributing to the IDPS, the SDGs and humanitarian processes with peacebuilding values.*

ABOUT CSPPS



03. OUR STRATEGY

NETWORKING: *Direct engagement, monitoring and advocacy towards the implementation of the New Deal and policy in line with the Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goal. Enlargement of the CSPPS Network by engaging with potential new civil society partners and provision of support to establish vibrant civil society focal points and country teams in g7+ countries.*

AMPLIFYING: *Consolidation and strengthening of civil society coalitions through capacity strengthening and technical support. Funding activities and projects that meet the critical needs of the Platform's diverse constituency and ensuring civil society engagement at all levels of the IDPS process and the 2030 Agenda.*

LOBBYING: *Continued advocacy at the global level for the respect and acknowledgement of peacebuilding values and principles, promotion of inclusive processes at all levels. Focus on addressing the root drivers of conflict and fragility through the development of fragility assessments, and in the inclusive and integrated design and implementation of New Deal Compacts.*



04. WHY WE STAND OUT

A FOCUS ON CIVIL SOCIETY: *Over the last few years, peacebuilding and statebuilding initiatives and programmes have increasingly given support to Civil Society Organisations, echoing the growing importance of these groups in development cooperation, and recognising their role in both the domestic and international arenas.*

LINKING THE SOUTH AND THE NORTH: *CSPPS is a global network of civil society organisations, as well as individual practitioners, experts and academics from both the Global South and the Global North. We strive to foster ongoing dialogue, joint learning and cross-fertilisation between the two spheres on emerging trends and key policy issues.*

A CORE CONSTITUENCY OF THE IDPS STRUCTURE: *CSPPS is part of a larger architecture called the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS). Through its tripartite structure, the IDPS brings together government representatives from fragile states, international donors and civil society. It provides a formalised space within which civil society can voice its concerns on crucial aspects and topical issues of the peacebuilding agenda.*

ABOUT CSPPS



04. WHY WE STAND OUT

TAKING ACTION ON SDG16+: CSPPS tackles the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the prism of SDG16+. Specifically, on grounding the SDG16+ into local context through meaningful consultations with civil society and authorities to determine priority areas for action, and localising SDG16+ with governments to catalyse more inclusive, national development processes and programming aligned with SDG16+ targets and enable continuous dialogues with multiple stakeholders. The New Deal principles (Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals, FOCUS and TRUST) guide the actions of CSPPS members on SDG16+. It is worth noting that a number of European Ministries of Foreign Affairs have referred to the New Deal principles in their guiding national policy documents (e.g. France) or have incorporated the principles into their international development aid policy approaches (e.g. Germany and Switzerland).



ABOUT CSPPS



05. HOW THE PLATFORM WORKS

WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE

The Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS – or “the Platform”) coordinates and supports civil society participation in the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS). The IDPS is a unique tripartite partnership that facilitates joint learning, action and mutual accountability for 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 network of OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members and key multilateral agencies working in fragile and conflict-affected situations. The g7+ is a voluntary association of countries that are, or have been, affected by conflict and are now transitioning to the next stage of development.

This inclusive tripartite 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 (PSG, FOCUS and TRUST), which guide the actions of the three IDPS constituencies to tackle the challenges and deliver on the goals related to SDG16+.

A new phase of the IDPS was initiated in 2022 with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) assuming Secretariat functions until 2024. An IDPS 2022-24 Peace Vision was defined to articulate how the partnership and its constituencies will strengthen collective action on international, regional and local peacebuilding.

INTERNAL STRUCTURE

At its core, our network hosts coalitions of CSOs within g7+ countries and beyond that are impacted by manifested fragility, conflict and violence. At the country-level, these coalitions are coordinated by a Focal Point Organisation (FPO). As part of CSPPS, FPOs convene local civil society coalitions into CSPPS Country Teams (CTs), and thereby provide analysis, conduct advocacy work, coordinate activities (e.g. capacity building, awareness raising and media outreach) in their home countries, and help civil society actors participate in meetings with both governmental as well as donor stakeholders.

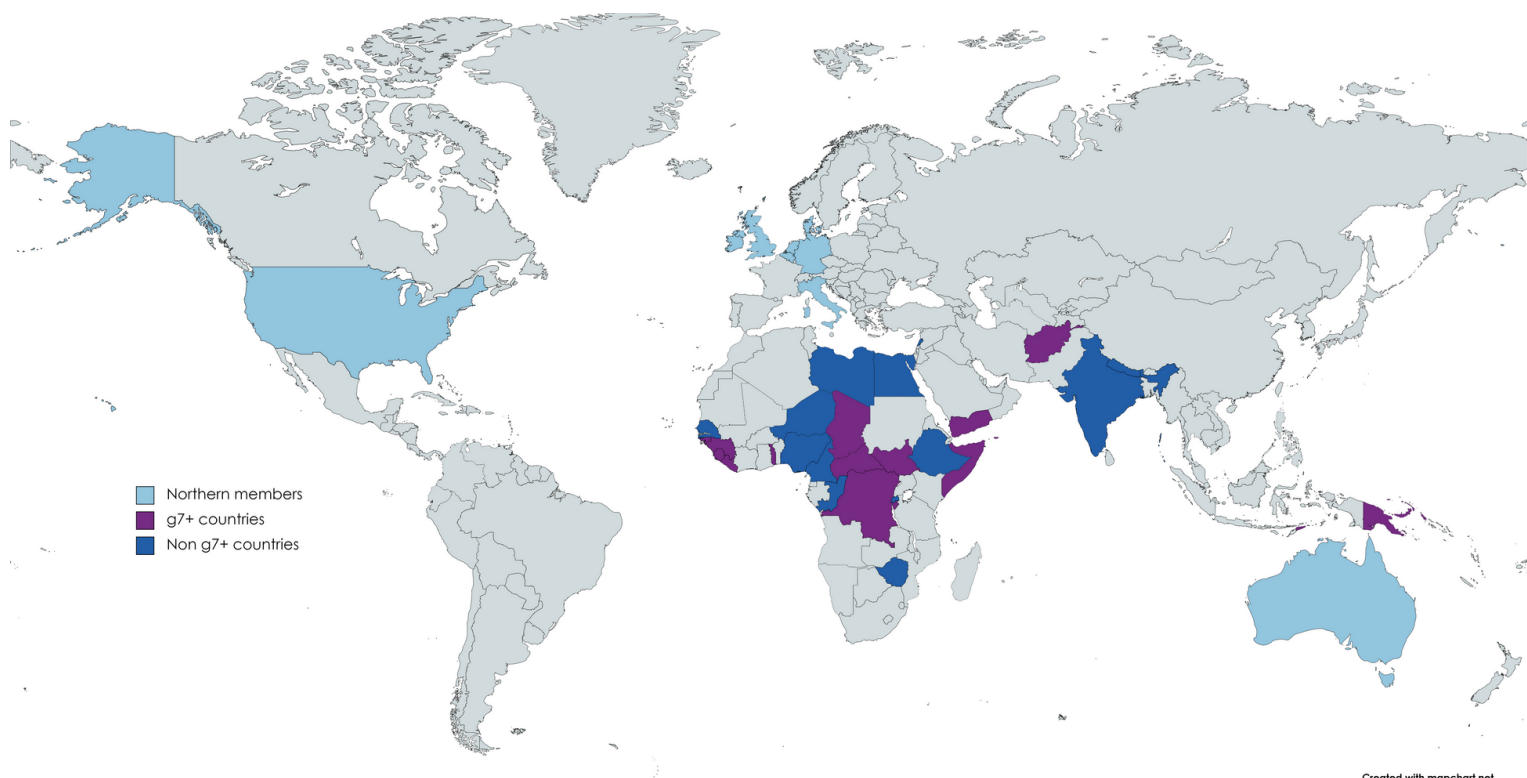
The Core Group (CG) is the main membership forum within the CSPPS where engagement and leadership in peacebuilding processes are discussed and decided. The CG is made up of designated representatives from FPOs, CSPPS members and international experts.

Functioning as a subset of the membership, the elected Executive Committee (EC) assists the Secretariat in day-to-day decision-making and provides guidance and advice on the Platform's issues and priorities, as well as reviews the use of the CSPPS budget.

The Secretariat ensures the functioning of the CG and the EC and the participation of civil society participation in IDPS events. It facilitates dialogue between members and disseminates information about their activities.

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

CSPPS IN THE WORLD IN 2022



19 CSO Member alliances in G7+ Countries

CSO Members in 17 Non G7+ Countries

International Member Organisations in 10 countries

INTRODUCTION

During the first half of 2022, CSPPS has benefitted from the kind support of GIZ. Next to this the Platform also continued its role as a networking partner in the context of the Just Future Consortium. These grants have enabled the Platform to continue to both broaden and deepen its global presence, pursuing greater inclusiveness and scale to achieve the Platform's goals. This report encompasses some of the key activities and highlights across CSPPS in 2022, as well as a look forward to its work in 2023.

The past year was shaken by many geopolitical challenges, impacting both the Global North and the Global South in a context of persisting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In February 2022, Russia launched an illegitimate war against Ukraine whose impacts have largely gone beyond the military realm and disrupted food and energy systems, facilitated the spread of misinformation, and exacerbated tensions. Multiple countries have experienced military coups - especially in the West African region - and authoritarian regimes have managed to maintain their control of power (Afghanistan, Myanmar...). Fueled by misinformation and resentment, these undemocratic behaviours have spread around the world and seeped in regions that are usually perceived as bastions of stability (Germany). CSPPS spoke to this during many of its lobby and advocacy activities throughout 2022, as it continued to push for better integrated, and more conflict-sensitive responses to these worrying trends of shrinking civic space, rises in gender-based violence,, and combating the spread of misinformation, to name a few.

The donor support provided has enabled CSPPS to sustain and expand upon its work, ensuring that civil society contributes meaningfully to relevant national and international peacebuilding and statebuilding policy processes, to partner with the fellow constituency partners of the IDPS and wider stakeholders to ensure the perspectives of civil society infuse global policy processes around SDG16 and the 2030 Agenda more broadly. CSPPS extends its gratitude to both GIZ and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs for supporting the Platform in doing so.

NETWORKING

DURING 2022

LOOKING BACK TO 2022

Despite an overall decrease of Covid-19 cases, starting in March 2022, the pandemic has continued to have an impact on the way peacebuilders work around the world. Most meetings were held in a virtual - sometimes hybrid - format. Having adapted from the past two years, the Platform has continued its work to foster a broad network of CSOs representatives from around the world, and to connect these with relevant stakeholders on the global level - all with a distinct focus of supporting local civil society and local peacebuilders in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

Consolidating and expanding the Platform's membership is thus an important task and we are happy to announce that we have extended our presence to new countries in 2022, namely Ethiopia and Lebanon.

CSPPS, as a South-North coalition of peacebuilding organisations, aims to strengthen civil society at the national and international levels, by promoting coordination and peer-to-peer learning among CSOs, whether in-country through the Country Teams system or between-countries through frequent meetings. Our emphasis on cross-fertilization of knowledge and experience is the cornerstone of the two other items of our strategy - amplifying and lobbying - as we believe that coordination is the key to efficient advocacy at the global level.

THE JUST FUTURE PROGRAMME

Throughout the year, CSPPS pursued its role of network partner within the ***Just Future Consortium***. As a reminder, the Platform began in 2021 with partner organisations the implementation of a five-year partnership funded by the **Dutch MFA** within the “**Power of Voices**” framework. This programme focuses on security, justice and inclusive politics in decision-making processes, through coordinated lobbying, advocacy and support networks for CSOs in **Afghanistan, Burundi, DRC, South Sudan, Niger** and **Mali**. It also aims at consolidating and expanding the collaboration between local CSOs and Dutch governmental representatives. You can learn more about it [here](#).

In 2022, the Platform continued to host and moderate its ***monthly Just Future Networking Meetings***, bringing together local CSOs partners to share their stories and experiences as well as INGO activists and policy-maker representatives to engage in a dialogue. These highly successful meetings helped to dive deeper into the contexts of the 6 countries and to promote cross-fertilisation among the members. This year's meetings featured various presentations from partners - *Cordaid, SIPRI, SFCG, ASSN, EVE Organization for Women Development* to name a few - on a large panel of topics such as gender activism, the evolving situation in the Sahel or informal and customary justice.

In addition, CSPPS ensured a constant presence within the regular *Just Future Consortium internal meetings*, providing expertise and counsel on the way ahead for the programme, facing the rise of tensions in many of the 6 countries.

In September 2022, CSPPS participated in the **International Just Future planning workshop in Accra** (Ghana), which brought together members of the JF Consortium to reflect on current activities and plan ahead in terms of international lobby events and capacity strengthening opportunities for 2023. During this workshop, CSPPS defined 3 key objectives for 2023: pursue its coordination work with CSOs on the SDG16+ agenda, influence relevant policy-makers through lobby and advocacy, and strengthen CSOs' capacity through peer-to-peer learning.

NEW MEMBERS – WELCOME!

In 2022, we expanded our network with new members joining the Platform! We would like to extend a warm welcome to:

- **Global Participe** (Congo Brazzaville)
- **Positive Peace for Ethiopia** (Ethiopia)
- **Peace First Ethiopia** (Ethiopia)
- **Justice for Prosperity** (The Netherlands)
- **Tiro Association for Arts** (Lebanon)

Next to that, **Sustainable Cooperation for Peace & Security** (Italy) joined the CSPPS Platform in January 2023

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN

In collaboration with the **University of Groningen**, CSPPS signed a cooperation agreement in January 2022 for a joint research trajectory with the International Research by Students Programme. Within this framework, the Secretariat collaborates with a team of students that are conducting academic research with and on behalf of the Platform on a topic related to inclusive peacebuilding processes as part of the Just Future programme.

This year's research project was analysing traditionally marginalised groups and political participation in South Sudan. The final research paper, entitled "The inclusion of localized peacebuilding and decision-making into national governmental policy in South Sudan", provided an overall overview of South Sudan's recent history, advocated for a larger recognition of top-down policies and established a list of recommendations for CSPPS and the JF Consortium.

PARTNERSHIP WITH AVANS UNIVERSITY

This year, CSPPS conducted another series of its partnership with **Avans University** (Tilburg, The Netherlands) on the conflict-climate nexus issue. Students from the University module "*Systems Thinking in Disaster Resilience*" partnered with CSPPS to conduct research on selected CSPPS Country Teams (Chad, Sierra Leone, Liberia) to explore the nexus between climate change and conflict in their contexts.

This research ultimately aimed to highlight and document the ways in which climate change is already impacting the contexts in which our Country Teams operate, and to identify ways our members can best address the challenges. Interviews were conducted by students with CSPPS members sharing their experiences and knowledge. In early November, members of the CSPPS Secretariat were present in Tilburg for the presentation of the final reports.

BILATERAL MEETING BELUN-GLOBAL PARTICIPE

In the efforts of promoting dialogue and information sharing between its members, on November 8, 2022, CSPPS' Secretariat hosted a virtual meeting between **Global Participe** (Congo Brazzaville) and **Belun** (Timor Leste). This meeting was organised by CSPPS upon request of Mr. Ivan Ngoy Kibangou (Global Participe) to acquire more details on information shared in one of CSPPS' Weekly Updates. The information in question related to Belun's update on their regular review of the security situation in Timor Leste, gathered in a document entitled the Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) system.

This meeting, hosted and live-translated by the Secretariat enabled partners to directly engage with each other and showed the values of peer-to-peer learning, a key motive of CSPPS.

CLOSE UP: CSPPS NETWORKING IN 2022 - MAIN TAKEAWAYS

CSPPS ensured regular meetings and interactions between our Core Group members through multilateral meetings, bilateral discussions, and invitations to various workshops.

Throughout 2022, the CSPPS Coordinator continued to function as the Co-chair of the TAP Steering Committee. TAP is a broad international coalition of civil society organisations working together to advance SDG16 and to enhance accountability for the 2030 Agenda. In joining the TAP Network Steering Committee, CSPPS aims to support efforts to bring about greater interaction between individual TAP Network members and proactively seek new strategic coalitions to be built at the regional and international levels, in order to enhance policy influencing impact and to catalyse new innovative programming ideas.

In 2022 CSPPS continued its close collaboration with other Steering Committee members of the Global SDG16+ Coalition. The Coalition brings together major networks, initiatives and organisations active in the SDG16+ domain, to identify and plan for joint advocacy and action at both the national and the international levels.

On the bilateral note, CSPPS has maintained strong and regular dialogue with like-minded organisations - UNOY, GPPAC, or FriEnt to name a few - with the larger goal of ensuring efficient cooperation and efficient action towards the implementation of SDG16.

AMPLIFYING

DURING 2022

AMPLIFYING IN 2022

“Amplifying”, the second element of the Platform’s strategy, refers to the goal of promoting and elevating the voices of those working in contexts affected by conflict and fragility on both the national and the international levels. It stems from the observation that local stakeholders, despite having a considerable knowledge of the reality on the ground, are too often excluded from the public space. CSPPS believes that including them in decision-making processes, in addition to being a democratic necessity, would ensure more lasting and compromise-driven policies.

In accordance with these beliefs, CSPPS has continued in 2022 its work of giving its members a larger platform to express their experience and knowledge, inviting them to participate in key events or including them in research projects.

FriEnt 20th ANNIVERSARY

In May 2022, CSPPS was invited to participate in a panel hosted by **FriEnt** to discuss the perspectives of peacebuilding and conflict prevention in a context of violence rising and democratic backsliding. This panel, entitled *“New frontiers or new horizons? Alliances and prospects for peace in challenging times”*, was an opportunity for Peter van Sluijs (CSPPS Coordinator) and Rhea Mahanta (CSPPS member, “The Peacebuilding Project” Founder) to discuss with Niels Annen (Parliamentary State Secretary to BMZ) how both the peacebuilding community as well as the international political community should proactively respond to the multiple challenges that are arising.

This meeting offered CSPPS a platform to present its views on the salience of safeguarding civic space and promoting a more collective approach to diplomacy.

.

2022 STOCKHOLM FORUM ON PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

“In the context of the ninth annual Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development, CSPPS, together with CSP and CPPF, hosted a session on the climate-conflict nexus entitled “Rising tensions in a changing climate: Innovating practices and partnerships to support locally-led environmental peacebuilding”.

Participants shared good practices and lessons learned from simultaneously addressing climate change crises and peacebuilding issues. CSPPS was represented by its members Jimmy Shilue (Platform for Dialogue and Peace) and Valnora Edwin (African Women Leaders Network), who advocated that working with the innovative structures and mechanisms already in place at the community level is essential to respond effectively to both crises.

DCAF CASE STUDY

In the context of CSO’s engagement with the **VNR process** in the implementation of the SDGs, DCAF has issued a series of case studies highlighting the interlinkages between good security sector governance and SDG16. In this context, CSPPS has been invited to contribute to these series by submitting one case study on the role of CSOs in linking SSG/R and SDG16. Taking inspiration from the organisation of workshops related to the VNR processes in CAR, Chad, and Côte d’Ivoire, the Platform emphasised the recommendations drafted by CSOs partners and shared them in its research.

Following this, the Secretariat has been actively engaged in the reviewing process of the case study, with the purpose of advocating for rendering participation of civil society in the HLPF more accessible. CSPPS was also tasked to review another case study drafted by *Open Society Justice Initiative* (OSJI) on the salience of access to pre-trial justice.

JOURNAL FOR PEACEBUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT

"In October 2022, the Secretariat published an article on "Triple-Nexus and Climate Change in Conflict-Affected Settings" in the Journal for Peacebuilding and Development. This policy briefing, written by Peter Van Sluijs and Caitlin Masoliver, explores the intersectional impacts of climate change on the fields of peacebuilding and conflict prevention. It presents concrete and innovative activities that are already being implemented by civil society organisations to ameliorate the negative impact of the climate crisis.

This paper was written in close collaboration with members from Liberia (*Platform for Dialogue and Peace*) and Somalia (*IIDA Women's Development Organization*), allowing it to share concrete and local experiences.

LOCAL VOICES AT A CROSSROADS

Hosted by CSPPS, "*Local Voices at a Crossroads*" is an article series in which local peacebuilders share their insights into the fragilities and resilience of their societies in the face of conflict. This initiative is the result of a collaboration with the *Evidence Platform for Peace and Conflict Resolution* at the University of Edinburgh and aims to accelerate action at the local level by strengthening the voices of civil society at the political level.

In 2022, the initiative focused its attention on the work of P4DP in Liberia, and the work of SEMA, CSPPS representative in Uganda and Kenya. These case studies respectively analysed the issues of gender-based violence in war and the salience of accountability in the implementation of SDG16.

VOICES OF SDG16+ – 2022 CAMPAIGN

“In 2022, CSPPS (alongside TAP Network, Peace Direct, World Vision, Namati and Article 19) launched the 4th Edition of the Voices of SDG16+: Story for Global Action, an initiative aiming at giving a voice to the local experiences of peacebuilders across the globe to share their best practices being undertaken towards SDG16+. Within this framework, individuals and partner organisations from around the world are invited to submit video stories demonstrating compelling examples of how SDG16+ is being implemented throughout the globe and how it is helping to positively impact people’s lives. This year’s theme was: “Civil Society leading the charge for SDG16+”, and an emphasis was placed on the interlinkages between SDG16+ and other goals.

This year, 5 finalists were selected: World Vision, Voz di Paz, Rotary International, LRC KJHAM, and *Foundation for Studies and Research on Women*. In addition to having their videos uploaded to the Voices of SDG16+ Campaign website, the finalists had the opportunity to present their work during a virtual 2022 UN HLPF side-event in July 2022.

PEACE CORNER PODCAST – SIXTH SEASON

LOBBYING

DURING 2022

2022 CSPPS BERLIN STATEMENT

"In May 2022, CSPPS held its two-day Annual Conference entitled *"Safeguarding Peace, Shifting Priorities"*. Thanks to the gradual reduction of COVID-19-related restrictions, the conference took place both in online and in-person formats. Acknowledging the backsliding of progress on SDG16+ and the worrying trends in shrinking civic space, the participants discussed how to preserve peace in a world of growing conflict and fragility with rising military expenditures. In addition, CSPPS members and country team representatives who attended shared updates on their work and activities in response to their evolving context enabling knowledge exchanges among the worldwide membership.

Following the conference, the [Berlin Statement](#) was issued, in which CSPPS members reflected on recent tectonic geopolitical developments and how these impact the work done on conflict prevention and peacebuilding. The statement stresses the Platform's attachment to the values of multilateralism, inclusiveness, accountability and localisation in fostering sustainable peace and development. It offers a set of critical recommendations to achieve it, advocating for the taking into consideration of the climate change-conflict nexus or the larger inclusion of youth and women approaches to peacebuilding, to name a few.

Based on the Berlin Statement, CSPPS also delivered a [written statement](#) in context of the 2022 ECOSOC High-level Segment ministerial meeting providing inputs on the HLPF theme of "Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" – inter alia calling upon Member States to lift restrictions on fundamental freedoms of association, peaceful assembly, and expression and to support increased democratic governance programming.

RENEWAL OF THE IDPS

Amid a sharp decline in global peacefulness and increasingly complex and multidimensional challenges, the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding embarked on a new chapter in 2022. This new phase of the IDPS was initiated with the United Nations Development Programme assuming Secretariat functions. Together with the other IDPS-constituencies [INCAF and g7+], CSPPS has engaged in discussions that have led to the agreement on a new workplan and governance structure for this partnership to move forward. Key priority areas for engagement in the next coming years have been identified and agreed upon – for which a detailed plan with expected outputs and results have been identified. Continuous engagement of CSPPS and its members in the activities planned is expected to contribute to improved relations between state and civil society – while also ensuring inclusion and responsiveness of the state actors in said processes

UNBOXING LOCALISATION TRAJECTORY

The third session of the *Unboxing Localisation Learning Trajectory* was held in October 2022. This edition, organised by CSPPS and the Dutch MFA and supported by KPSRL, was hosted this time by CSP. Discussions were centred on three goals (1) to offer a framework for understanding the institutional conditions of localisation and local leadership, (2) to identify the enabling conditions for practice change and (3) to create an environment to stimulate a multistakeholder collaboration between the various actors. The session provided concrete examples of local leadership and examined how funding and influence are running through the system of peacebuilding and the humanitarian sector.

Following the success of this session, a fourth edition is foreseen to be held in early 2023. This learning trajectory represents a key opportunity to advocate for a more localised approach to peacebuilding, coinciding with CSPPS' values of inclusiveness and decentralised-thinking.

IDPS 2022-2024 VISION

In the context of the reinvigoration of the IDPS and the new workplan, IDPS constituencies identified the following priority areas for 2022-2024 against the backdrop of today's pressing challenges.

Firstly, and building on critical reflections and learning from the New Deal, the Stockholm Declaration, Peace Vision, and successful lobbying for the inclusion of SDG 16 in the 2030 Agenda, IDPS will support efforts to develop a fresh perspective on the interconnections between conflict, development and the future of peacebuilding to promote a renewed vision for multilateral engagement in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

The second focus area lies in the engagement on global policy frameworks relating to peacebuilding and statebuilding is strengthened at country-level. As a unique tripartite partnership representing fragile and conflict-affected countries, civil society and development partners and building on the field presence of UNDP as IDPS Secretariat, IDPS can play a key role in ensuring the effective implementation and operationalization of policy frameworks on the ground, building up in particular on the New Deal and lessons learned through its implementation.

Financing for peacebuilding has been identified as the third priority area within the workplan. While country-specific trust funds and the UN peacebuilding architecture have a critical role to play in supporting statebuilding and peacebuilding efforts, investments in and resourcing for sustainable peace and development solutions fail to match the growing complexity of fragility and conflict.

Building on the new resolution on Financing for Peacebuilding and the legacy of the New Deal Principles, IDPS can lead advocacy for the effective, flexible and inclusive utilisation and distribution of funding, financing, human resources and partnerships for conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts and promoting the operating space for peacebuilding actors.

HLPF SIDE-EVENTS

Side Event: An Interactive Dialogue on Reinvigorating Action towards an Agenda in Peril (Global SDG16+ Coalition event)

In the context of the 2022 HLPF, CSPPS participated in the **Global SDG16+ Coalition side even** on Tuesday 12 July. The purpose of the event was to explore the current state of SDG16+, along with a discussion on concrete actions and commitments that must be made to improve progress towards SDG16+, while approaching the halfway point to 2030. The event will also highlight recent efforts within the Global SDG16+ Coalition to further this call-to-action, including the [2022 Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+](#).

In an effort to expand the conversation, the event featured interactive opportunities for participation from the audience, including through Mentimeter, which provided an opportunity for participants to share their own views on the topics discussed, along with concrete and actionable recommendations for the global SDG16+ community to take forward in this critical year ahead leading up to the next SDGs Summit in 2023.

SDG16+ In Peril: "A call-to-action for safeguarding commitments to Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies"

On July 14, CSPPS, together with TAP Network, Namati, GPPAC, CIVICUS and IDLO hosted a virtual and interactive side event to explore the issues and recommendations outlined through the **2022 Rome SDG16 Conference**, as well as the **2022 Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+**. Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015, progress towards SDG16+ has been slow and uneven – and in many cases backsliding. In this context, this event featured opportunities for direct engagement from participants, and served as a key moment in civil society's collective mobilisation around the Rome Declaration going forward.

During this event speakers were provided with the opportunity to reflect on the current challenges and their work around SDG16+, with an objective of grounding the Rome Declaration in "reality" at the local level. Additionally, it showcased the practical experiences of local civil society partners and their leadership role in advancing SDG16+.

2022 ROME CIVIL SOCIETY DECLARATION ON SDG16+

Following the two iterations of the **Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+**, produced jointly by CSPPS, the TAP Network, GPPAC, and Namati, a third revision was published in 2022. Facing new geopolitical challenges and the persistence of others, conjointly engendering a backsliding of progress on SDG16+ and of the civic space, it calls for inclusive respect and acknowledgement of peacebuilding values and principles as articulated under SDG16+. It advocates for a more open and transparent international decision-making process which would include CSOs, adopt localised perspectives and show accountability.

This Declaration, written in anticipation of the holding of multiple international summits planned for 2023-24, was presented during the Annual Rome SDG16 Conference in April 2022, organised by UNDESA, IDLO and the Government of Italy.

GPEDC FRAGILITY PANEL

On December 12, the 2022 the Effective Development Co-operation Summit took place. The Summit emphasised the need for effective development co-operation which is country-led, results-oriented, transparent, and accountable. In this context, CSPPS had been proposed as a panellist for Session 7, aiming to take into account the specificity of fragile contexts for implementing the principles of development effectiveness and to recall that the fight against fragility represents a major global challenge. Secondly, the session's objective was to propose solutions, in the implementation of the principles of development effectiveness, for the promotion of peace, crisis prevention and the exit from situations of fragility and conflict. Following three days of high-level Plenary and Spotlight Sessions as well as Regional Dialogues convening key development co-operation stakeholders from all over the world, the Summit closed with the adoption of the Geneva Summit Declaration, aimed to anchor future decision-making around the four effectiveness principles and strengthen progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2022 MAIN OUTREACH EVENTS

JANUARY

- Launch of the research trajectory with **Groningen University**
- Participation in the **High-Level Global Conference on Youth-Inclusive Peace Processes**

MARCH

- **World Bank Fragility Forum: Development and Peace in Fragility times**

APRIL

- Launch of the **2022 Rome Civil Society Declaration** at the **Rome SDG16 Conference**
- Organisation of the **SDG16+ in Peril workshop: A call-to-action for safeguarding commitments to Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies"**

MAY

- **CSPPS Annual Conference** in Berlin
- **FES** in-person event on **"Entitled to a peaceful future: Youth in Violent Conflict"**
- 9th Annual **Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development**

JUNE

- Launch of the 2022 edition of the **Voices of SDG16+: Stories for Global Action** video campaign (VSDG16+)
- Organisation of the first **Global SDG16+ Coalition Workshop "SDG16+: Understanding Interlinkages for Greater Impact"**

JULY

- **2022 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)**

SEPTEMBER

- **IDPS Meetings during UNGA High Level Week**
- Collaboration with **Avans University**

OCTOBER

- Third session of the **Unboxing Localisation learning trajectory**
- 10th edition of the **The Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law Annual Conference**

DECEMBER

- Participation in a panel discussion during the **2022 Effective Development Co-operation Summit**

NOVEMBER

- via the belated award ceremony, recognition was given to CSPPS-member **Rhea Mahanta** as the 2021 recipient of the **Carnegie Waterler Peace Prize**



GLOBAL PARTICIPE

In 2022, CSPPS expanded its network by welcoming Global Participe, a civil society organisation based in the Republic of Congo. Since 1993, the Republic of Congo has been plunged into a cycle of violence, characterised by internal armed conflicts, which have found a lull thanks to the signing of an agreement between the government and the rebel party on 23 December 2017. The principal mission of Global Participe lies in the contribution to the dialogue for conflict prevention and resolution.

In the context of the reinvigoration of the National Dialogue Council, whose functioning has been in difficulties, Global Participe is directing its efforts towards this issue. Since July 2022, several working meetings have been organised with the permanent secretariat of the Council to set up a programme on "conflict prevention and management techniques" and "the role of women and young people in conflict management" in the Republic of Congo.

Another key area in which Global Participe focuses is related to strengthening the right of access to information and protection of the media.

Faced with the arbitrary censorship practised by the Superior Council for the Freedom of Communication (CSLC), which the Congolese media is facing, Global Participe has issued a position paper that recalls the legal limits of this Council. This enables lawyers and journalists to protect their rights against the excesses of the CSLC. In addition, with the support of the Centre for Law and Democracy, a Canadian organisation, Global Participe has set up the Réseau Congolais des Juristes Spécialistes des Médias (RCJSM).

The fight against violence in schools and youth is another priority on which Global Practice directs its efforts. Since 2022, Global Participe has been developing a programme to create School Peace Units (CSP). In 2022, five Célules were created in five high schools (2 in Brazzaville at the Lycée Chaminad and the Lycée Technique du Premier mai, two at the Lycée Victore Augagneurs and the Lycée Poaty Bernard in Pointe-Noire and one at the Lycée Nestor MaKOUNZI WOLO in Madingou)



JUSTICE FOR PROSPERITY

As a human rights and social advocacy NGO, we are constantly looking for other civil society groups and initiatives who share the same heart and mission: to counter conflict and work towards inclusivity and sustainable peace. We feel proud of being a part of CSPPS so we can tie our work and its positive effects on vulnerable communities and societal resilience, to building peaceful societies and preventing conflict.

2022 was a pivotal year for Justice for Prosperity (JfP). With our open societies, young and upcoming democracies, and their people globally under increased threat from targeted undermining by anti-democratic actors and activities, JfP worked specifically to put knowledge and tools for protection back in the hands of the people. As tools for protection, in response to the war in Ukraine, JfP established a secure online platform that helped over 140 Ukrainian LGBTIQ+ refugees find safety with dedicated partners all over the EU, including Belgium, the Netherlands, Poland, and Hungary. This platform called rainbow.whodis.org is still actively helping refugees and JfP is hoping to expand locations and include other vulnerable intersectional groups.

Last year also saw JfP security training of over 75 SRHR workers from Bangladesh, Colombia, Ethiopia, Jordan, and Yemen, as they face fierce opposition and threats while working in hostile environments. In close relation to this, in the knowledge space JfP delivered intelligence products to groups under siege, including in the peace building and women's rights domain, on anti-democratic actors and their activities. In this space, for one of the largest vocational institutes in the Netherlands, JfP provided training to students on how to serve in the public safety domain without bias and support a safe, inclusive, and just public space. Their training curriculum continues until summer 2023 focused on strengthening human rights protection.

Lastly, JfP's investigations into anti-democratic actors and activities have resulted in a research report to be published early spring 2023. which was built with the support of 11 UN SDG House trainees that JfP hosted as part of an international network of UN SDG dedicated organisations. Part of this report is dedicated to new insights into polarisation and extremism, which will be a focus area for JfP in 2023 to build awareness, knowledge, and resilience with the public

MEMBER CASE STORY

APT - AFGHANISTAN

The return of the Taliban has brought severe challenges for the youth in Afghanistan, with girls banned from acquiring knowledge, unemployment at unprecedented levels, and a new wave of violence sweeping the country. At APT, we have had to adapt our activities, including moving our debates and educational programs online and stopping activities in some provinces. However, we remain committed to supporting youth-led peacebuilding initiatives because I firmly believe their resilience and determination to achieve peace and stability in their communities will pave the way for a brighter future. As we navigate the ongoing situation, we must continue to support youth-led peacebuilding initiatives and provide them with the necessary resources and opportunities to participate in peacebuilding activities. We must also work to amplify the voices of Afghan youth on the global stage and advocate for their inclusion and participation in all aspects of the peace process. My vision for the future is one where the youth in Afghanistan can thrive and fulfill their potential, where they can live in peace, and where their contributions to building a better future are recognized and valued. Together, we can work towards this future by supporting the youth and their efforts to create a more peaceful and just society.



MESSAGE FROM MUSA ASUMANA SOKO, CHAIR OF CSPPS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

//

2022 has been a remarkably progressive period in our work as the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding. This work could not have been more impactful without our dedicated and committed member institutions and partners. Indeed, we are still grappling with the aftermath of the COVID-19 outbreak, but what is more important is our resilience as a Platform to deliver beyond the everyday realities of people and their struggles for a just, peaceful, and inclusive society.

As Chair of the Executive Committee, I had the opportunity to participate in the IDPS Constituency meeting during the UNGA High Level Week in New York, bringing the voices of civil society to the forefront of discussions. In light of shrinking civic space globally, IDPS has to critically reflect on how it will ensure inclusiveness in its internal and external engagement and advocacy. Together with the CSPPS delegation we have underlined the role that civil society can play in supporting inclusive and participatory approaches to country-level dialogues.

I would also like to take this opportunity to give my gratitude to the CSPPS Secretariat for steering the process of the Platform. This could not have been without some challenges, and I am sure with a sustained interest in addressing the real issues, we will continue to work with our members to embolden impacts and engagements at the levels that they operate.

We very much look forward to a more engaging and impactful 2023 and beyond.
Thank you!

//

STRATEGIC OUTLOOK FOR 2023

2023 is a pivotal year, as we approach the midpoint to accomplish the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and one issue is clear: progress towards realising the 2030 ambitions and especially SDG16 has been slow, uneven, and in many contexts backsliding. Next to this, the lack of effective, predictable and sustainable financing to local peacebuilders and civil society organisations, in particular women peacebuilders and young people, continues to undermine conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts in contexts where they are most needed.

In this context, the Platform's work during 2023 will be centred around persistent lobby and advocacy efforts for the promotion of SDG16+. A key priority for CSPPS will be to spearhead development of the 2023 Rome Civil Society Declaration SDG16+ and identify areas where amplified actions are needed to safeguard commitments for implementation and accountability of SDG16+. As a part of the SDG16+ Community, the CSPPS Secretariat intends to work closely with partner networks in the months leading up to the HLPF 2023 and SDG Summit also to highlight the central role of civil society in shaping this process.

Another point of prevalence emerging amongst our 2023 activities lies in ensuring the meaningful inclusion of civic actors, activists and local peacebuilders to peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts. In line with the three thematic priorities of the IDPS 2022-24 Peace Vision, the Platform aims to leverage its role within the IDPS tripartite partnership to proactively advocate for the generation of a fresh perspective on the interconnections between conflict, development and the future of peacebuilding, country-level engagement on Global Policy Agendas and the effective, flexible and inclusive utilisation and distribution of financing for conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts. Next to that, as defined in the key elements of the New Agenda for Peace and our Common Agenda, a multi-stakeholder approach is key to tackle the complex issues of today and tomorrow. Especially now, the need to adopt a multidimensional approach, by promoting South-South and Triangular cooperation is more relevant than ever.

Adhering to our long-standing collaboration with UNDP, in the context of the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process, we will continue to support our local civil society partners in their engagement in VNR processes and in holding their governments accountable on the progress made related to SDGs.

Alongside these specific and targeted plans for 2023, a key part of our efforts is directed to the securing longer-term core financing for the Platform needed to ensure the continuation of the Platform's activities,

On behalf of the entire membership, we would like to thank key partners for supporting the work of CSPPS and for joining forces with us on the global journey towards building a more resilient and peaceful future.



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.

info@cspps.org

CSPPS

c/o Cordaid

Grote Marktstraat 45, 2511 BH

The Hague, Netherlands

CSPPS SECRETARIAT STAFF

Peter van Sluijs

Expert Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention and Coordinator CSPPS

Peter.van.Sluijs@cordaid.org

PREVIOUS TRAINEES

Charis Apostolopoulou
CSPPS Trainee

charis.apostolopoulou@cordaid.org

Noé Montel
CSPPS Trainee

noe.montel@cordaid.org

CURRENT TRAINEES

Elise Granlie
CSPPS Trainee

elise.granlie@cordaid.org

Victor Hounkponou
CSPPS Trainee

victor.hounkponou@cordaid.org



[Website](#)



[Twitter](#)



[Instagram](#)



[Facebook](#)



[LinkedIn](#)