

2025 Annual Report



# Keeping Peace on the Agenda: Civil Society in Times of Global Instability

*"Because we know that peace doesn't happen by accident. It is forged – through courage, compromise, and above all, action. We must act – to silence the guns and amplify diplomacy. [...] We must act – to tackle the root causes of conflict – from inequality and exclusion, to hate speech, and climate chaos. We must act – to invest in prevention, dialogue and trust. And we must act to support the peacebuilders – especially women and young people – who are on the frontlines of hope."*

**- António Guterres, UN Secretary-General 12 Septembre 2025**

# Table of CONTENTS

01	Foreword	01
02	Message from the Co-Chairs	02
03	Executive Summary	04
04	Acronyms	05
05	Introduction	07
06	About CSPPS	09
07	Coordinating the Network	12
08	Amplifying	22
09	Policy Influencing	30
10	Strategic Outlook for 2026	42
11	Annexes	44
	<i>Publications</i>	45
	<i>CSPPS Structure</i>	46

# FOREWORD

I am very happy to present the 2025 Annual Report of the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS).

2025 was a troubling and heavy year for the peacebuilding community as well as for the global population. We have seen impactful geopolitical changes, increased restrictions on the rights and freedoms of citizens in many countries, reduced funding for peace, and innumerable lives lost around the world due to a record number of violent conflicts..

While we must never forget the level of human suffering in the world and the immense challenges we face as a population, it is also more important than ever to look to the bright spots, that encourage us in our continued work to build and sustain peace in our communities. The community of CSPPS members and partners is one such bright spot - in 2025, we came together for different partnerships, projects and events to further our collective goals for peace, justice, inclusion and better governance.

To zoom in on some of these bright spots: one key achievement of the Platform in 2025 was its role in facilitating the YPS Consultations for Big Impact project, where seven organisations in seven different countries were selected to lead inclusive consultations to gather inputs of young people on how to best progress towards durable peace and security. We also commemorated the end of the 5-year Just Future Alliance, a strategic partnership programme with enormous wide-reaching impact in empowering civil society voices in 6 fragile and conflict-affected settings. Finally, we were happy to be present at the Peace Connect in Nairobi. This gathering provided a chance to bring together 500 peacebuilding practitioners, many of whom included CSPPS members and partners, to

reinforce our connections with one another and our commitment to our shared work on pursuing peace.

Going into 2026, I remain grateful for the collaboration and cooperation between members of our network. As CSPPS we will continue our efforts to share information and expertise between members, to participate in advocacy initiatives as a platform and to pursue new opportunities for collective and impactful action. The power of networks, in allowing organisations to combine their forces, is even more important in a world where civil society actors are facing constraints on their freedom of expression and are restricted in securing scarce funding opportunities.

We express our sincere gratitude to our donors and supporters for making our work possible in 2025. We are grateful for our partnership with BMZ, the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, which enables us to continue these efforts through 2026 and 2027.

I wish you all a safe and fulfilling year. Let us continue to hope and strive for a more peaceful world.

**Peter van Sluijs**  
**CSPPS Coordinator**



## MESSAGE FROM MR. CHALACHEW WORKU - CO-CHAIR OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### POSITIVE PEACE ETHIOPIA [Ethiopia]

Dear CSPPS Global Network Members, Partners, and Fellow Peace Practitioners Around the World,

As we reflect on another year of shared struggles and successes in our pursuit of peace, I am reminded of the profound strength we draw from one another. Here in Ethiopia, leading Positive Peace Ethiopia, I've seen how the threads of human connection can weave resilience into the fabric of even the most fractured communities. In a world where division often feels overwhelming, it's our collective resolve that lights the way forward.



This year, as we face rising tides of radicalism and non-democratic practices that threaten to erode the foundations of harmony, I call on all of us; peace practitioners everywhere, to stand united. Let's rise together against these forces, championing dialogue over discord and empathy over exclusion. In building peaceful societies, we must focus on the outcasted communities enduring severe conflict, particularly in the Global South, where voices are too often silenced by violence, displacement, and neglect. Their stories are our stories; their pain, a call to action that demands we listen, learn, and lift them up.

Let us commit to fostering democratic processes that truly include young women and men in every decision-making space; from local councils to global forums. Their fresh perspectives and unyielding energy are essential to crafting solutions that endure. Together, we can strive against the deep-rooted challenges of poverty, poor health, and inadequate education, which fuel cycles of unrest. And let's embrace transformative economic practices that empower youths, involving them as leaders and innovators, supported by resources and opportunities to drive change from the ground up.

In these efforts, we are not alone. Our network, rich with diverse experiences and unwavering dedication, proves that when we collaborate with open hearts and mutual respect, real transformation is possible. The CSPPS Secretariat and all our members inspire me daily with their tireless work to amplify local voices on the international stage.

As we step into the year ahead, let's carry this spirit of solidarity with us. Every small act of courage, every bridge we build, brings us closer to a world where peace is woven into the everyday lives of all people.

With deep gratitude and unshakeable resolve,

**Chalachew Worku**



## MESSAGE FROM MS. ELIZABETH (LIZ) HUME - CO-CHAIR OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### ALLIANCE FOR PEACEBUILDING [United States]

Last year was an extremely difficult year for peacebuilding, with violent conflict continuing to increase at record-breaking speed globally.

At the same time, military spending is at an all-time high, and development assistance, including peacebuilding and prevention programs were drastically cut by major donors, most notably

the United States. It is easy to become cynical and hopeless. But CSPPS and its membership are resilient and continue to work tirelessly to make the case for why prevention and peacebuilding are essential to meet the moment. AfP is a proud member of CSPPS, and I am confident that CSPPS and its membership will continue to step up to build the collective action and advocacy needed to turn the tide on violent conflict. I am honored and grateful for the opportunity to serve as Co-Chair of the Executive Committee, where I work with extraordinary people committed to addressing some of the greatest challenges of our time.

### Elizabeth (Liz) Hume

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2025 marked one of the most challenging years for peacebuilding in recent history. Armed conflicts intensified and expanded across multiple regions, while protracted crises deepened and new theatres of violence emerged. At the same time, civic space continued to shrink globally, with civil society actors increasingly facing restrictions, securitisations, and political pressure. Those dynamics were further compounded by rising militarisation and a sustained decline in financial resources allocated to development cooperation and peacebuilding, particularly for locally-led and community-based organisations.

Against this backdrop, multilateral cooperation and preventive diplomacy were increasingly sidelined in favour of short-term security responses. Funding cuts, shifting donor priorities, and growing geopolitical polarisation weakened long-term investments in peacebuilding and social cohesion. For civil society organisations operating in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, 2025 was characterised by heightened operational risks, reduced access to decision-making spaces, and growing uncertainty regarding the sustainability of peace-supporting initiatives.

In response to these global challenges, CSPPS and its members were compelled to adapt rapidly and strategically to reinforce collective action. The Platform continued on advocacy efforts to defend civic space, promote inclusive peacebuilding, and strengthen engagement with national, regional, and international decision-makers to ensure that peacebuilding priorities remained visible amid competing global crises. This is done by facilitating South-South and South-North collaboration, peer support, knowledge exchange, and cross-fertilisation among relevant stakeholders. At the same time, CSPPS and its members sought to diversify and secure resources by identifying new and creative funding

opportunities in an increasingly constrained financial environment.

This annual report presents an overview of the Platform's work throughout 2025, reflecting CSPPS mission and strategy. It documents CSPPS's activities across its three core focus areas: Coordinating – strengthening connections among civil society peacebuilding actors across regions and thematic areas –, Amplifying – elevating the voices, expertise, and priorities of local peacebuilders in policy spaces and public debates –, and Policy Influencing – engaging decision-makers to influence policies and frameworks related to peacebuilding, prevention, and civic space.

Despite an increasingly constrained global environment for peacebuilding, CSPPS achieved significant progress in strengthening collective action, amplifying local voices, and advancing policy influence throughout 2025. CSPPS played a central role in major collective initiatives, including the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Consultations for Big Impact, enabling youth-led organisations across multiple contexts to feed local priorities into global policy processes. Through sustained engagement in the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS), the SDG16+ Coalition, and key UN and multilateral fora, CSPPS elevated civil society perspectives on conflict prevention, civic space, and inclusive governance. The Platform also strengthened its advocacy footprint through joint policy statements, global events, and coordinated campaigning, while supporting members through knowledge production, storytelling initiatives, and targeted capacity strengthening. Together, these achievements reaffirmed CSPPS's role as a vital convenor, advocate, and amplifier for locally led peacebuilding in times of global crisis.

# ACRONYMS

<b>AEF</b>	Africa-Europe Foundation
<b>AfP</b>	Alliance for Peacebuilding
<b>AJCAD</b>	Association des Jeunes pour la Citoyenneté Active et la Démocratie
<b>APT</b>	Afghans for Progressive Thinking
<b>ASG</b>	Assistant Secretary-General
<b>AYR-UN</b>	Afghan Youth Representative to the United Nations
<b>BMZ</b>	German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development
<b>CFI</b>	Canal France International / French Media Institute
<b>CG</b>	CSPPS Core Group
<b>COP</b>	Conference of the Parties
<b>CSO(s)</b>	Civil Society Organisation(s)
<b>CSPPS</b>	Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding
<b>DPPA</b>	United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
<b>EC</b>	CSPPS Executive Committee
<b>EPLO</b>	European Peacebuilding Liaison Office
<b>FCAS</b>	Fragile and conflict-affected settings
<b>FfD4</b>	International Conference on Financing for Development
<b>FNDP</b>	Forum National sur la Dette et la Pauvreté
<b>FPD</b>	Focal Point Deputy
<b>FPO</b>	Focal Point Organisation
<b>FPR</b>	Focal Point Representative
<b>g7+</b>	Group of Seven Plus
<b>HDP</b>	Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus
<b>HDRI</b>	The Human Development and Rights Initiative
<b>HLPF</b>	High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
<b>IDLO</b>	International Development Law Organization
<b>IDPS</b>	International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding
<b>INCAF</b>	International Network on Conflict and Fragility
<b>ISEPS</b>	Initiative Sougourounoma pour l'Éducation, la Paix et la Santé
<b>NAP</b>	National Action Plan
<b>NDI</b>	Nepal Dialogue Initiatives
<b>OECD</b>	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
<b>PBAR</b>	United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture
<b>PBC</b>	Peacebuilding Commission
<b>PPE</b>	Positive Peace Ethiopia
<b>Search</b>	Search for Common Ground
<b>SCPS</b>	Sustainable Cooperation for Peace and Security
<b>SDG5</b>	Sustainable Development Goal on Gender Equality
<b>SDG16</b>	Sustainable Development Goal on Peace, Just and Inclusive Societies
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SKC</b>	Sigaw ng Kabataan Coalition
<b>SPAI</b>	Strategic Partnership Agreement
<b>SSTC</b>	South-South and Triangular Cooperation

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# ACRONYMS

<b>TAA</b>	Tiro Association for Arts
<b>TAP</b>	Transparency, Accountability and Participation
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNDESA</b>	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNOY</b>	United Network of Young Peacebuilders
<b>VNR</b>	Voluntary National Review
<b>WPS</b>	Women, Peace and Security
<b>YPPD</b>	Youth Partnership for Peace and Development
<b>YPS</b>	Youth, Peace and Security
<b>YWBOD</b>	Youth Without Borders Organization for Development

# INTRODUCTION

The year 2025 marked one of the most challenging periods for peacebuilding in recent history. Against a backdrop of heightened geopolitical instability and converging global crises, the need for sustained and inclusive peacebuilding efforts became more evident than ever. At the same time, the year reaffirmed the critical role of civil society as a cornerstone of conflict prevention, social cohesion, and locally led peacebuilding initiatives.

The year was marked by great change and instability, with many global challenges coming to a head – large-scale conflicts with devastating civilian impacts continued in Palestine, Ukraine and Sudan, alongside numerous protracted and often underreported crises, including situations in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar, and Haiti. These dynamics were compounded by the escalating climate crisis, which reached a new and alarming threshold as global warming surpassed 1.5 degrees Celsius. As increasingly recognised through the Climate, Peace and Security nexus, climate-related shocks and environmental degradation are significant risk multipliers for insecurity, fragility, and violent conflict, particularly in already vulnerable contexts.

Peacebuilding actors also faced mounting structural challenges. Civic space continued to shrink across many regions, with democratic backsliding and increasing restrictions on fundamental rights and freedoms affecting civil society's ability to operate safely and effectively. At the same time, funding for peacebuilding and prevention further declined. The closure of USAID at the beginning of 2025, a major donor in the peace and development landscape, created substantial funding gaps that were felt acutely by civil society organisations worldwide. In parallel, many governments significantly increased military and defence spending, further constraining resources available for development, prevention, and peacebuilding efforts.

In this context, strengthening collective action and community-based approaches has become more urgent than ever. It's crucial to prioritise peace, even in a world where it has been sidelined. Sustainable peace cannot be achieved without prioritising locally led initiatives, reinforcing networks of solidarity, and ensuring the meaningful inclusion of civil society actors – particularly from the Global South – in international and national decision-making processes. Peacebuilding remains essential to addressing the root causes of conflict and building resilient, inclusive societies.

Against this backdrop, the role of the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) in 2025 centred on strengthening connections across its global membership, supporting civil society actors to sustain their peacebuilding engagement

despite a constrained operating environment, and advocating for greater recognition of civil society's contributions across policy spaces. In a year marked by uncertainty and shrinking resources, the Platform prioritised collective action, solidarity, and strategic positioning to ensure that locally grounded perspectives remained present in international discussions on peace, fragility, and sustainable development. The three core focus areas of CSPPS – Coordinating, Amplifying, and Policy Influencing – are mutually reinforcing pillars that together define the Platform's added value within the peacebuilding and conflict prevention ecosystem. **Coordinating** efforts focused on strengthening and amplifying Country Teams and internal cohesion across regional and thematic networks, facilitating exchange among members, and creating spaces for joint reflection, peer learning, and collaboration. This included expanding our membership to new countries, reinforcing Country Team engagements, supporting member-led initiatives, and fostering partnerships that enhance civil society's collective capacity to respond to emerging challenges. **Amplifying** centered on elevating the voices, expertise, and priorities of local peacebuilders, particularly from conflict-affected and fragile contexts, through global advocacy moments, communications outputs, and strategic participation in international forums. The Platform worked to ensure that civil society narratives reflected lived realities and contributed substantively to policy debates. **Policy Influencing** involved engaging decision-makers and institutional stakeholders to shape policies, frameworks, and funding priorities in the realm of SDG16, for peaceful, just, and inclusive societies. CSPPS continued to position itself as a credible interlocutor between civil society and multilateral actors, promoting locally led approaches and inclusive governance as central components of sustainable peace.

Throughout 2025, the Platform worked to identify opportunities for collective engagement, facilitate access to emerging funding modalities, and strengthen civil society participation in global dialogue on peace and development. Key milestones across these three areas reinforced engagement with international policy processes, expanded visibility of member initiatives and perspectives, and strengthened internal coordination mechanisms that enabled more coherent collective positioning. Together, these efforts contributed to consolidating CSPPS's role as both a connector within civil society and an influential actor in the broader peacebuilding architecture — demonstrating how coordinated networks, amplified local voices, and strategic advocacy can mutually reinforce one another to advance more inclusive and effective peacebuilding outcomes.

## WHO WE ARE

The Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) is a global network of over 800 civil society organisations operating across over 50 countries to advance peacebuilding and conflict prevention in fragile and conflict-affected settings (FCAS). CSPPS works to strengthen the voice, leadership, and agency of local civil society in shaping national, regional, and global policy processes related to peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and sustainable development.

CSPPS is the official forum for coordinated civil society participation in the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS), and thereby facilitates inclusive engagement between civil society, governments, and international partners. The Platform actively contributes to key global policy agendas, including the United Nation's 2030 Agenda, the New Agenda for Peace and other relevant policy processes, advocating for locally-led approaches to conflict prevention and governance reform.

Supported by a Secretariat hosted by Cordaid in the Netherlands, CSPPS promotes coordinated advocacy to advance peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, placing SDG16 at the heart of its mandate.

**OUR IDENTITY:** CSPPS brings together a diverse representation of civil society actors globally, both from countries affected by fragility, conflict and violence, and international civil society organisations working on issues related to peacebuilding, conflict prevention and development at national, regional and global levels. CSPPS supports in-country interventions to amplify and strengthen the voice of civil society in political dialogues and related policy processes. At the global level, CSPPS is representing civil society in the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS), a strategic tripartite partnership for political dialogue gathering civil society actors, governments from the g7+, and donors represented by the International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF).

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

## WHAT WE DO

CSPPS is committed to empowering local civil society as a full and equal partner in preventing conflict, sustaining peace, and shaping inclusive policies. We foster South-South and South-North collaboration, strengthen local, national, and global advocacy, and ensure that grounded expertise from fragile contexts informs high-level decision-making. Together with our members, we work to open doors, build partnerships, and secure meaningful civil society participation in peacebuilding and conflict prevention processes worldwide.

**OUR MISSION:** CSPPS' 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 the means to manage their grievances and build the quality of their lives.

**OUR OBJECTIVES:**

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

## OUR STRATEGY

**COORDINATING:** Coordinating civil society engagement within the context of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS), and policy dialogue with relevant stakeholder partners in adjacent domains. Enlarging CSPPS' network by engaging with new potential civil society partners and providing support to establish vibrant civil society country teams in g7+ countries and worldwide.

**AMPLIFYING:** Consolidating and strengthening civil society coalitions through capacity strengthening, peer-to-peer learning, and technical support, enabling more coherent and impactful collective action. Ensuring coordinated civil society engagement within the IDPS process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ensuring that locally grounded perspectives from fragile and conflict-affected settings are meaningfully represented and amplified in international decision-making spaces.

**POLICY INFLUENCING:** Continuing advocacy at the global, regional and national level for the respect and acknowledgement of peacebuilding values and principles, and the promotion of inclusive processes at all levels. Advocacy efforts focus on addressing the root drivers of conflict and fragility while also seeking support for preventive actions and peace-supporting initiatives.

## OUR ADDED VALUE

**A FOCUS ON CIVIL SOCIETY:** We put civil society organisations and actors at the forefront of discussions in peacebuilding and conflict prevention. Their role is pivotal in both domestic and international arenas for sustainable development cooperation in the realm of SDG16.

**FOSTERING THE SOUTH AND THE NORTH:** CSPPS is a global network of civil society organisations 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.

**LINKING SOUTH-SOUTH OPPORTUNITIES:** CSPPS stands for a shift of power dynamics in the promotion and implementation of conflict prevention and peacebuilding activities. In this regard, exploring South-South cross-linkages and peer learning cooperation are key elements CSPPS relies on. Such cooperation is possible through the engagement of CSPPS members through the organisation of IDPS regional dialogues, the bi-monthly CSPPS Core Group meetings, and related programmes (e.g. the Just Future programme or the YPS Consultations for Big Impact).

**A CORE CONSTITUENCY OF THE IDPS STRUCTURE:** CSPPS is part of a unique partnership called the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS). Through its tripartite structure, the IDPS brings together government representatives from fragile and conflict affected state through the g7+, international donors through INCAF and civil society, through CSPPS. It provides a formalised space in which civil society can voice its concerns on crucial aspects and topical issues of the peacebuilding agenda.

**TAKING ACTION ON SDG16+:** CSPPS tackles the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the prism of SDG16+. Specifically, on grounding SDG16+ into local contexts 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 that enable continuous dialogues with multiple stakeholders. The Secretariat plays an active role in promoting awareness and understanding of the contributions of civil society to the IDPS, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and related policy areas. In addition, the Secretariat organises side meetings and events alongside key civil society and government-led initiatives, engaging relevant stakeholders in discussions focused on SDG16, peacebuilding, and conflict prevention.

# COORDINATING THE NETWORK



## INTRODUCTION

In an increasingly complex and interconnected world, the ability to build and sustain strategic partnerships is vital for advancing peace, justice, and inclusive governance. For CSPPS, coordinating the network is not merely about connection, but it is about fostering purposeful collaboration that enables civil society actors to respond collectively to evolving challenges. In 2025, peacebuilding actors faced a further shrinking of civic space, funding constraints, and growing geopolitical uncertainty. With this, strengthening internal cohesion across the network became both a strategic and a practical necessity.

Through its coordinating role, CSPPS cultivates spaces for mutual learning, peer exchange, and joint reflection, enabling members to share experiences, identify common priorities, and develop collective responses. Coordination also serves as the foundation for the Platform's broader impact. Namely, strong relationships within the network enhance the credibility of civil society voices, support collective advocacy, and create opportunities for collaboration across regions and thematic areas. This section highlights the key mechanisms, milestones, and initiatives through which CSPPS strengthened and activated its network throughout the year, contributing to more connected, resilient, and locally grounded peacebuilding efforts. Expanding and nurturing the membership remains central to this approach, and the Platform continues to welcome new members from diverse contexts to reinforce its global reach and collective influence.

## MEMBERSHIP

### *Welcoming new members & expanding Country Teams*

As a global network of civil society organisations, CSPPS is always looking to welcoming new members that share our values and goals for stronger advocacy efforts. We strongly believe that our strength is in our membership. When all CSPPS members work together and share their own perspectives, we have the potential to have a significant impact at all levels on issues related to conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Below, we outline the organisations that joined CSPPS in 2025, expanding CSPPS's presence in new parts of the world. CSPPS Country Teams have also become larger, ultimately strengthening their membership in existing countries by bringing onboard new organisations.

#### Initiative Sougourounoma pour l'Éducation, la Paix et la Santé (ISEPS), Burkina Faso

The Initiative Sougourounoma pour l'Éducation, la Paix et la Santé (ISEPS) joined CSPPS in May 2025, becoming the first CSPPS member from Burkina Faso. Launched in 2018 in Ouagadougou, ISEPS is a youth-led organisation aiming at promoting education, positive peace and health for all for sustainable development in Burkina Faso. To fulfil this goal, ISEPS aims to connect young people across religions, races and cultures and provides capacity strengthening and training for youth leaders, allowing them to contribute to interfaith and intercultural dialogues. They work to provide a platform for young people to engage in peacebuilding and to promote traditional and religious conflict resolution mechanisms. ISEPS also provides mental health support to people affected by conflict and engages in advocacy for increased equity and inclusion in health, education and positive peace policy processes.





**Global Sunrise Project, Canada**

Global Sunrise Project, our first Canadian member, joined CSPPS in August 2025, and was previously featured in the 2019 edition of the Voices of SDG16+: Stories of Global Action video campaign. Global Sunrise Project is a youth-led social enterprise which works to make a positive impact through storytelling, impact campaigns and educational outreach and speaking engagements. Its work aims to educate people about pressing global issues and to share the creative and effective ways in which people are working to make a positive change. Its projects include documentary films, social media campaigns, exhibitions, workshops and panel discussions. Among its initiatives is the featured film project, 1,5 Degrees of Peace, which explores the intersection between militarisation and climate collapse. The initiative also outlined plans for community screenings and facilitated conversations delivered through partner networks, creating spaces for dialogue and collective reflection.

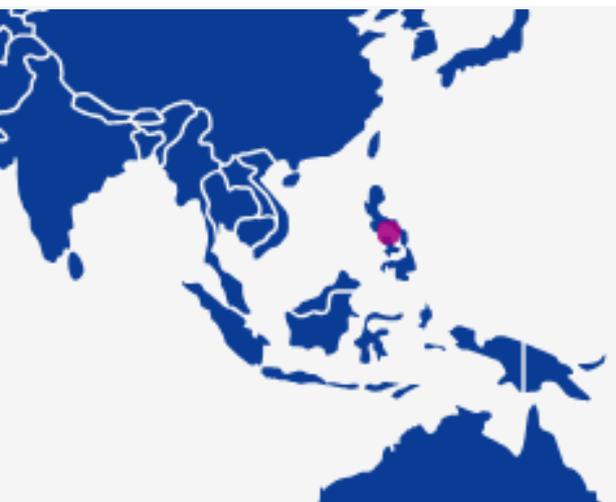
**The Human Development and Rights Initiative (HDRI), France**

CSPPS welcomed its first member from France, the Human Development and Rights Initiative (HDRI), in 2025. HDRI is a youth-led think tank founded in 2016 that works at the intersection of research, policy, and grassroots activism. HDRI aims to advance inclusive, just, and sustainable development through youth empowerment, civic engagement, and public dialogue. HDRI strives to engage young people in policymaking by connecting them with real-world challenges related to human rights, environmental justice, peacebuilding, and democratic participation. HDRI's work is guided by the principles of inclusivity, integrity, and innovation. In 2025, HDRI's activities included organising leadership and capacity strengthening programmes for young people, creating spaces for dialogue between young people, civil society actors and local authorities, coordinating youth awareness and engagement campaigns on climate justice, resilience and energy democracy, producing youth-led research on crucial global issues, and amplifying the voices of young minds and activists.



**Sigaw ng Kabataan Coalition (SKC), the Philippines**

Sigaw ng Kabataan Coalition became the first CSPPS member from the Philippines in August 2025. SKC is a national youth-led coalition representing over 52,000 young people across the Philippines. They work to amplify the voices of Filipino youth in peacebuilding, civic engagement, and policy advocacy, particularly in conflict-affected and marginalised communities. SKC engages in research, capacity-building, and collaborative initiatives to promote inclusive development, social cohesion, and sustainable peace.



## UPDATES FROM OUR MEMBERS

At the heart of CSPPS lies a diverse and committed community of member organisations working across contexts to advance peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and inclusive governance. As our network continues to grow, the experiences, initiatives, and insights of our members remain central to our collective impact. Sharing these updates is an important way to strengthen connections across the Platform, highlight local leadership, and create opportunities for collaboration, capacity strengthening, and mutual learning.

The section below presents some developments, activities, and achievements from a selection of CSPPS members around the world, reflecting the breadth of engagement and the dynamism of our network at local, national, and global levels.

### [Afghans for Progressive Thinking \(APT\) \[Afghanistan\]:](#)

APT has engaged more than 1000 youth in different programmes throughout 2025. The 'Safe Spaces for Dialogue' project involved 100+ youth, mostly young women, debating education, peace, and rights. In the 'Writing & Advocacy' project, 120+ youth were trained, and over 10 policy briefs written by women were published. The 'Mentorship for Higher Education' project guided more than 40 young women, with 7 resuming their studies abroad despite bans. Through the 'Creative Writing Voices' initiative, more than 30 women learned writing and shared stories and poetry of courage and resilience. APT also organised the 'Networking & Bridges', 10 different events which connected youth online and in-person, and participated in the 'Global Peace Conference', where Afghan youth perspectives were shared at the EU Youth, Peace and Security Conference in Brussels. Finally, APT organised a monthly eBook distribution that reached more than 400 young people, providing them with reading materials to keep learning alive.

### [Association des Jeunes pour la Citoyenneté Active et la Démocratie \(AJCAD\) \[Mali\]:](#)

As part of the 'Local First' programme, AJCAD worked with Peace Direct to host the National Forum of Youth and Women Peace Ambassadors. The Forum mobilised and equipped young people and women with the skills and tools to take an active role in conflict prevention and resolution. In April, Adam Dicko, Executive Director of AJCAD, was awarded the Woman Leadership Award by Lead Magazine, an organisation dedicated to advocating for women's rights and celebrating their courage. This meaningful and heartfelt recognition highlights her unwavering dedication to empowering youth and advancing gender equality.

### [Asian Academy for Peace Research and Development - Fourth Nepal Dialogue Summit 2025 \[Nepal\]:](#)

The Fourth Nepal Dialogue Summit, jointly organised by more than 45 civil society organisations, including our member the Asian Academy for Peace Research and Development, took place on November 20 and 21. It aimed to strengthen Nepal's culture of inclusive dialogue as a cornerstone of long-term peace. Building on the work of the Nepal Dialogue Initiatives (NDI), the Nepal Dialogue Summit 2025 (2025) featured eight sessions over two days, covering historical reflections, global practices, and theoretical frameworks. The objective of the Summit was to promote dialogue not only as a tool for

crisis response but as a proactive approach to social cohesion and conflict prevention in Nepal's diverse federal context. It concluded with group work to define the "directional guidance" for future dialogue practice and the formal issuance of a 10-point declaration calling for a national dialogue policy and intergenerational engagement. The Summit ultimately reaffirmed that sustainable peace in Nepal depends on broad-based participation, locally led processes, and a shared dedication to nurturing values of compassion, tolerance, and mutual respect. You can learn more about the event [here](#).

### **Fundacion LATIR [Colombia]:**

In 2025, LATIR has placed a strong focus on Youth, Peace and Security within its activities. Building on the growing momentum of the agenda in Colombia, the organization has been particularly active as part of the Colombian Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security, hosting several events to advance the development of the agenda. The Coalition has been designated as the leader of the National Action Plan Steering Committee, which is coordinated and led by Fundación LATIR, strengthening strategic articulation, follow-up, and positioning of the process. LATIR has also produced extensive research materials, bringing together the voices and proposals of young people from across the country to contribute to the development of the National Action Plan for Resolution 2250, a key step toward inclusive and sustainable peace in Colombia. The document can be found [here](#). In August 2025, LATIR was selected as part of the YPS Consultations for the Big Impact grant to host national consultations feeding into the national process and adoption of the NAP, as well as international initiatives such as the Second Progress Study on YPS.

### **Global Participe [Congo Brazzaville]:**

In 2025, Global Participe continued to promote peace and citizen participation in the Republic of Congo, in a fragile security and political context. Although a ceasefire agreement signed in 2017 between the government and Pastor Ntumi's militia reduced hostilities, its full implementation remains incomplete. In addition, the rise in juvenile crime, particularly by groups known as 'Kuluna' or 'Bébés Noirs', contributed to insecurity in several urban neighbourhoods. In response to this situation, Global Participe organised three peace education workshops in secondary schools in Mindouli (Pool Department), as well as in Loutete and Madingou (Bouenza Department). In partnership with the Diocesan Commission for Children's Pastoral Care of the Catholic Diocese of Nkayi, two additional peace awareness sessions were organised for children and young people. The organisation also continued its advocacy for the establishment of the National Dialogue Council, provided for in the 2015 Constitution, and submitted a civil society contribution on its functioning to the government. Global Participe also trained community paralegals to facilitate access to justice for vulnerable communities affected by mining and forestry activities.

### **Positive Peace Ethiopia (PPE) [Ethiopia]:**

In 2025, Positive Peace Ethiopia (PPE) continued its work in peacebuilding and youth empowerment with a few notable efforts. PPE hosted the inaugural UNOY international event in Addis Ababa, which included storytelling sessions and training on strategic fundraising, diversifying funding sources, proposal writing, and donor mapping. Following the event, PPE partnered with UNOY to publish an article on how local actors are building peaceful futures through innovation, collaboration, and resilience. PPE also started the Digitalize Youth project with the French Media Institute (CFI), managed by the European

Partnership for Democracy under DDI, aimed at supporting young journalists and digital content creators. Additionally, PPE teamed up with ActionAid Ethiopia for the National Peace Weavers project, set to run through the end of 2026 under the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPAII). Finally, working with Sustainable Cooperation for Peace and Security (SCPS), PPE helped create a [Joint Youth Statement](#) after a youth symposium on Ethiopia's YPS National Action Plan (NAP), which was a youth-led call to action to push stakeholders to integrate the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda.

### [Saferworld \[United Kingdom\]/Youth Without Borders Organisation for Development \(YWBOD\) \[Yemen\]:](#)

Saferworld and its partners supported [four local hubs in Yemen](#) that played a vital role in building sustainable peace. These hubs serve as platforms for dialogue, joint decision-making, and coordinated action among Yemeni CSOs. Saferworld, in collaboration with Yemeni partner Youth Without Borders Organization for Development (YWBOD), supported locally-led efforts to combat digital gender-based violence. These initiatives focused on awareness-raising, advocacy, and accountability in digital spaces. Find out more about this partnership in this [article](#).

### [Search for Common Ground \[Belgium\]:](#)

Search for Common Ground published its 2024 Global Impact Evaluation, using the Peace Impact Framework to measure progress across 164 projects in 37 countries. The findings show that empowering communities significantly reduces violence. The report is available [here](#).

### [Tiro Association for Arts \[Lebanon\]:](#)

Tiro spearheaded a campaign to revive Beirut's iconic Cinéma Le Colisée, transforming it into the new Lebanese National Theater. This cultural hub offers inclusive access to the arts and supports emerging artists especially women and youth. To learn more and support the Revive Colisée campaign, click [here](#).

### [Youth Partnership for Peace and Development \(YPPD\) \[Sierra Leone\]:](#)

In August 2025, YPPD were selected as part of the YPS Consultations for Big Impact grant to host national consultations in the country to feed into the national process, and the ongoing conversations NAP development, as well as contributions to the Second Independent Progress Study on YPS. Convened together with some members of the CSPPS Country Team, Consultation brought together 120 participants from all of the country's 16 districts and stakeholder institutions from Ministry of Health, Ministry of Information and Civic Education as well as youth and their institutions.

### [Fondation IDEO \[Haiti\]:](#)

In 2025, Fondation IDEO contributed civil society analysis to discussions on Haiti's renewed cyclical crisis, highlighting the cumulative impact of insecurity, political instability, and collective trauma on communities. The organisation emphasised the urgent need for psychosocial support, inclusive national dialogue, and strengthened local institutions, advocating for long-term structural reforms to break cycles of violence and promote sustainable peace. You can read more about it [here](#).

## CSPPS 2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

A dedicated hybrid Executive Committee (EC) Strategic meeting was held in Paris the 3rd of March 2025, next to the IDPS Working-level meeting and the OECD Forum on Development, Peace and Stability happening in the same week. The aim was to gather the EC in person to discuss and agree on input to bring into the IDPS meeting, discuss the priorities for the Platform for 2025, discuss the financial situation of the Platform and the possible opportunities in the current geopolitical landscape. The discussions in Paris led to a stronger and more solidified EC working together, committed to the Platform's work and members. This was the first time the newly elected CSPPS members of the EC met in person, and it was a unique opportunity to strengthen CSPPS team efforts moving into the IDPS meeting and the OECD Forum that followed. Furthermore, being strategically present at the same time as the IDPS Strategic Working-level meeting and the OECD Forum on Development, Peace and Stability, gave the possibility for EC-members to engage in sessions, network and actively participate.



## INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON PEACEBUILDING AND STATEBUILDING (IDPS)

As the civil society constituency of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS), CSPPS continued its engagement throughout 2025 to ensure that the voices, priorities, and evidence of civil society – particularly from conflict-affected and fragile contexts – are meaningfully represented in global peacebuilding and conflict prevention discussions. The IDPS is a unique political forum for political dialogue bringing together countries affected by conflict and fragility, represented by the g7+ group, development partners, represented by the International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) at the OECD, and civil society represented by CSPPS. CSPPS's participation in the IDPS is rooted in its mandate to bring grounded perspectives into political dialogue, strengthen accountability to local realities, and advocate for inclusive approaches to peace and development partnerships.

### ***The IDPS Working-level meeting in Paris***

One of the first coordination milestones of the year took place in the first week of March. On Monday 3rd of March, members of the Executive Committee participated in a strategic in-person meeting in Paris. Members expressed their commitment to forging new partnerships centred around peace and development with stakeholders who share these goals. In the same week, on the 4th of March, the IDPS Working-level meeting took place in Paris, France. The meeting reaffirmed the Dialogue's role in bridging local, national, and global perspectives and highlighted the need for more adaptable partnership models, innovative financing mechanisms, and inclusive decision-making structures. In response to today's turbulent geopolitical environment, IDPS constituency members committed to crafting a refreshed advocacy narrative, including the development of a new fundamental policy statement emphasising the partnership's added value and potential contributions in this context. This later turned into the IDPS Policy Statement that was launched in the context of the UN General Assembly in September 2025.



### ***IDPS Policy Statement***

In the context of the UN General Assembly, the IDPS Luncheon event took place in New York aimed at launching the IDPS Policy Statement drafted by the constituencies. In a turbulent time where the international focus on defence spending and is experiencing cuts in development aid, the IDPS Policy Statement entitled "New Coalitions for Peace and Development International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Policy Statement", calls for collective, multilateral action to urgently accelerate progress on SDG16+, in line with a New Agenda for Peace. Echoing the UN Secretary General's call for a surge in commitment, solidarity and transformative action to achieve the 2030 Agenda, the policy statement stresses the imperative to prioritise pursuing peace and stability as fundamental enablers of all development efforts and as ends in themselves. You can access the full statement [here](#).

## REFLECTIONS ON IDPS LUNCHEON

New York City, September 2025

*First, I must reiterate the immense gratitude for the invitation to attend the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding IDPS high-level luncheon. The organisation of this dialogue was timely and necessary, as outlined in the IDPS policy statement, given the rising global fragility, the shrinking development aid, and the desperate need to invest actively in peace and security.*

*Within my capacity as a youth and culture manager within the Africa Europe Foundation, I actively work to amplify the voice of youth and ensure their active engagement across development sectors directly impacting their lives in Africa and Europe. The IDPS represented a good platform to highlight the importance of actively listening to the needs of youth and their effective participation to advance sustainable peace globally. Furthermore, it is crucial to change the narrative of Youth as disruptors of peace but rather as victims and important actors in solving issues related to peace and security.*

*Among the pathways to meaningful youth involvement in peacebuilding and statebuilding:*

- *Leveraging Global and Regional milestones for relevance: By anchoring youth participation within the existing frameworks (ex: AU Agenda 2063, EU Youth Action Plan) to institutionalise and structurally recognise their engagement.*
- *Utilising online platforms to amplify visibility as alternatives to violence, rebuilding trust, and shaping new narratives for peace.*
- *Expanding networks and inviting more partners to support peace and security programming, especially those focused on youth movements. This would allow to build bridges across borders, sectors, and identities.*

*The IDPS Policy Statement rightly calls for 'nationally owned, inclusive, and multistakeholder approaches. For this to be realised, youth, especially young women, displaced youth, and grassroots activists, must be in the room, not as tokens, but as co-architects of the solutions that affect their futures.*

*I left the luncheon with a strengthened belief that platforms like IDPS are essential. But I also carry a sense of urgency: unless we move from rhetoric to resourcing, from consultation to co-leadership, we risk failing a generation that is ready to build peace, if only we let them.*

Best,

**Manal Benani, from Africa-Europe Foundation | Algeria**



## The 2025 Coastal West Africa Dialogue in Abidjan

Another key engagement within IDPS took place on 10-11 July, when the IDPS convened its 2025 Coastal West Africa Dialogue in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, bringing together 55 representatives from governments, regional organisations, financial institutions, the UN system, and civil society. Building on the 2024 Coastal West Africa Dialogue held in Accra, Ghana, this two-day working-level meeting aimed to build consensus on how IDPS and its partners can best support nationally led peacebuilding, prevention, and stabilisation efforts across Coastal West Africa. Discussions highlighted the need for cross-border cooperation, inclusive and evidence-based approaches, and holistic strategies linking peace, security, and development. Participants emphasized IDPS's role in fostering dialogue, promoting mutual accountability, and bridging governments with women, youth, and frontline actors to advance sustainable peacebuilding in the region.

REFLECTIONS ON

## COASTAL WEST AFRICA DIALOGUE

Abidjan, July 2025

*The Dialogue, opened by the UNDP Resident Representative, the Chief of Staff of the President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and the President of the g7 Plus, comprised seven constructive, proactive and contributory exchange sessions on prevention efforts at the national level in the countries of Coastal West Africa.*

*The objectives of the meeting, which were clearly identified and scientifically defined, were achieved thanks to the quality of the speakers and the contributions of the participants in a peaceful and friendly atmosphere.*

*The participants agreed on the following relevant recommendations:*

- *Reflect on why prevention is not working;*
- *Initiate a youth and women's dialogue;*
- *Consider a joint meeting with the three AES countries;*
- *Strengthen the leadership role between coastal countries and Sahel countries;*
- *Hold cross-cutting exchanges on violent extremism;*
- *Strengthen the partnership at the level of national partners;*
- *Focus the meeting topics on growing trends related to growth, peace, security and development.*

**Yoro Bi Ta Raymond, from Forum National sur la Dette et la Pauvreté | Côte d'Ivoire**



## REFLECTIONS ON **COASTAL WEST AFRICA DIALOGUE**

**Abidjan, July, 2025**

*From July 10 to 11, 2025, as President of the Sougourounoma Initiative for Education, Peace, and Health (ISEPS) and member of the CSPPS, I took part in the Second Edition of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS), held in Côte d'Ivoire.*

*This dialogue, organized under the auspices of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), brought together members of the International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF), the G7+ group of fragile and conflict-affected states, and member organizations of the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and State Building (CSPPS).*

*As the national representative of the CSPPS in Burkina Faso, I contributed to the discussions by moderating session 4 of the conference, highlighting the importance of the role of civil society in the dynamics of peace, institutional resilience, and inclusive governance. Through this contribution, I highlighted the situation and challenges in Burkina Faso in terms of peacebuilding, while sharing best practices from our initiatives in the field, particularly in the areas of interfaith dialogue and mediation, conflict prevention, and the engagement of young people and women in the prevention of violent extremism in partnership with the Robert Bosch Foundation.*

*Our participation in this regional dialogue demonstrates our commitment to working alongside national and international actors for lasting peace in West Africa in general and in Burkina Faso in particular.*

*This experience provided an opportunity for members of the CSPPS from various countries, including Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, Mali, Guinea, Togo, and others, to reconnect and build relationships. In addition to the formal proceedings, we had the opportunity to discuss our experiences, projects, and perspectives in a relaxed atmosphere during a dinner in the Ivorian economic capital.*

*The presence of representatives from both Sahelian and coastal countries in this dialogue is a strong signal that reminds us that the challenges of violent extremism know no borders and that it is only by working together that we can overcome them.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and that of ISEPS to the CSPPS team, in particular Peter and Elise, for this opportunity. In the current context of multiple crises around the world, and especially in the Sahel, synergistic action within civil society through platforms such as the CSPPS must be supported and strengthened. This is necessary to amplify the voice of civil society in forums and frameworks for peace involving governments, multilateral partners, and other stakeholders.*

**Henri Kaboré Sougourounoma, from Initiative for Education, Peace, and Health (ISEPS) | Burkina Faso**

# AMPLIFYING



## INTRODUCTION

Throughout 2025, the global peacebuilding landscape continued to be shaped by rising geopolitical tensions, competing international priorities, and increasing pressure on civil society space. In many conflict- and fragile-affected contexts, local organisations faced growing barriers to participation in policy discussions, alongside funding uncertainties and operational constraints. Yet, the knowledge and leadership of these actors remain indispensable for designing effective responses to conflict, sustaining peace efforts, and advancing inclusive governance. Within this context, CSPPS strengthened its efforts to elevate the perspectives of its members by creating pathways for engagement beyond national borders. The Platform's role has been to connect local experience with global conversations, ensuring that civil society representatives are not only present in international spaces, but able to contribute meaningfully to debates and processes that shape peacebuilding policy and practice. This includes facilitating participation in key events, supporting member-led contributions to global advocacy initiatives, and promoting the visibility of grassroots expertise within multilateral discussions.

The following section presents a selection of initiatives and engagements through which CSPPS worked to amplify civil society voices throughout the year, reinforcing the importance of locally grounded knowledge in shaping more inclusive and effective peacebuilding responses worldwide.

### Bringing about more peaceful, just and inclusive societies

The initiatives presented in this section reflect CSPPS's commitment to amplifying civil society voices through creative and accessible formats - including multimedia campaigns, podcasts, publications, and member-led stories. Together, these efforts contribute to raising awareness, fostering peer learning, and ensuring that local perspectives inform broader conversations on peace, governance, and development.

#### *Voices of the SDG16+ Campaign*

"Voices of SDG16+: Stories for Global Action" is a collaborative video campaign designed to spotlight the important work of civil society on SDG16+ globally, in the context of the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). In this initiative, individuals and civil society partners from across the globe are invited to submit short videos sharing their stories of best practices and efforts advancing SDG16+ at local and national levels. The initiative began in 2019 and the theme of the 2025 edition was "Resilience, Adaptation & Innovation: Local Voices reclaiming SDG16+", which aimed to highlight the innovative actions undertaken by local actors to build resilience in the face of systemic crises at local and national levels. The selected entries of the initiative were streamlined in an official online side-event during the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York in July in 2025. You may watch the final entries [here](#).





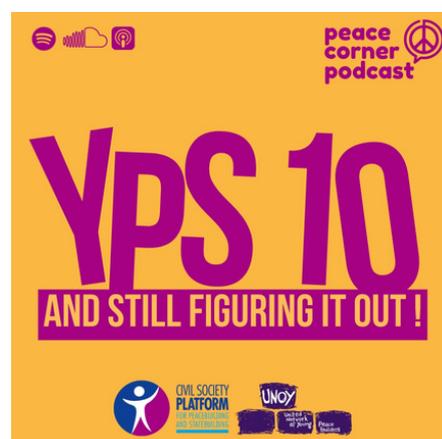
## SDG16+ Storytelling Initiative

As a follow-up to the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process in 2024, which invites countries to submit information on their progress on SDG16+, and the interest in showcasing the work of civil society organisations, CSPPS in collaboration

with the Alliance for Peacebuilding, FORUS International and the TAP Network initiated the SDG16+ Storytelling Initiative. This Initiative is a platform to strengthen civil society's collective capacity for storytelling as a communications tool around SDG16+, and beyond, for advocacy efforts. It build connections across the SDG16+ landscape to share lessons learned and best practices, harmonise and amplify stories of civil society advancing SDG16+ at the international, national and local levels. Over the year, three webinars were organised. The launch webinar organised at the beginning of 2025 attracted more than 200 participants, featuring several speakers including from IDLO and Afghans for Progressive Thinking (APT). Two other webinars were organised in which the second one looked at storytelling and the interlinkages to SDG16, and lastly, by looking at the use of storytelling in restrictive environments was explored. The webinars attracted between 60 and 115 participants from across the world, showing great interest in making the stories and efforts around SDG16+ heard. You may re-watch the webinars [here](#).

## Peace Corner Podcast

The Peace Corner Podcast is a youth-led initiative carried out in collaboration between CSPPS and the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY). Led by interns from CSPPS and UNOY, it aims at capturing the stories of people working to promote and build peace in a variety of contexts, with a variety of approaches. Recorded in an interview format, the podcast explores with different guest speakers the opportunities, successes and challenges faced by peacebuilders in their work at the local, national, and international levels. The 9<sup>th</sup> season of the podcast in 2025 focused on peacebuilding in the context of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN's Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda, which was launched by UNSC Resolution 2250 in 2015. For that season, CSPPS interns Virginia Noacco, Camille Panis-Boudin, Maia Flamme, Oliver Gyori and Eugénie Hirsch recorded an episode, spotlighting practitioners working in a variety of thematic and regional contexts to implement the YPS agenda and push for the meaningful inclusion of young people in peace and security governance. All episodes from the Peace Corner Podcast can be listened to on [Soundcloud](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), and [Spotify](#).



Taking the step further in light of the 10 year anniversary of the YPS agenda, a list of concrete recommendations for implementing the YPS agenda were drafted. These recommendations were captured by the insights and opinions voiced in the 2025 season of the podcast and are available to read [here](#). Ahead of Peace Connect, an online event was hosted to launch the recommendations, and subsequently, an in-person session during the Peace Connect event was co-hosted by CSPPS and UNOY, which focused on the engagement and the process of the YPS agenda.

## Briefing Papers

In the context of the implementation of the German BMZ grant (2024-2025), CSPPS developed numerous Briefing Papers on various themes interlinked to peacebuilding and conflict prevention to demonstrate the multifaceted and diverse peacebuilding efforts at CSPPS. The Briefing Papers give an introduction on the interlinkages between peacebuilding and conflict prevention on the themes gender, climate change, health, digitalisation, migration, food security and youth. The papers dive into examples of CSPPS members' work around these themes to highlight how they play out in practice from their experience and perspectives. On this basis, the Briefing Papers aim to give a general introduction to how peacebuilding and conflict prevention are interconnected and interlinked with the various themes aforementioned. Most importantly, they present, illustrate and highlight the multifaceted and diverse work of various CSPPS members, their expertise and insights on how these interlinkages transpire. In 2025, the Platform published six Briefing Papers, each examining a different intersection of peace and security with a key topic. Briefing papers on the [Climate, Peace and Security Nexus](#), the [Migration, Peace and Security Nexus](#), the [Digitilisation, Peace and Security Nexus](#), the [Health, Peace and Security Nexus](#), the [Food, Peace and Security Nexus](#), and the [Youth, Peace and Security Agenda](#), marking the 10 year anniversary of UNSC Resolution 2250 were published, all of which are available to read in French and English. You may also find the Briefing Paper edition on Women, Peace and Security published in 2024, [here](#).

## Member Stories

In 2025, CSPPS continued with its 'Member Stories' initiative, which aims to deepen engagement with its members and showcase their contributions to peacebuilding. Each story features one CSPPS member, highlighting their mission, activities, or specific projects. You can explore these stories on our dedicated "Stories" webpage.

- [A glimpse of the Forum National sur la Dette et la Pauvreté \(FNDP\): The work of our team in Côte d'Ivoire](#)
- [From Scratch to the Pioneer: Youth without Borders Organisation for Development](#)
- [Latir with purpose: Youth rebuilding hope through peace education](#)
- [Floraison, A Civil Society Organisation in Togo: Education as the foundation of human, social, economic, material, and cultural development](#)
- [From Nairobi to Home: Lessons in Care, Memory, and Peace: I Cried, I Rested, I Returned Changed](#)

## Representing Civil Society in Key Domains

The activities highlighted in this section illustrate how CSPPS engaged across different thematic priorities and policy arenas during the year, reinforcing its role as a bridge between grassroots actors, international organisations, and broader peacebuilding networks. Together, these engagements contributed to advancing collective reflection on emerging challenges, identifying opportunities for collaboration, and promoting more inclusive approaches to peace and development.

## Peace Connect

Peace Connect was a five-day gathering for local peacebuilders and their allies and was created as an inclusive space for peacebuilders from diverse backgrounds to come together and share experiences. Through curated and open-space sessions, meaningful networking opportunities were created, helping to build a united, global community of peacebuilders. CSPPS co-hosted two sessions at the event; one with UNOY on Youth, Peace and Security in occasion of the 10-year anniversary of the agenda and as an opportunity to highlight and discuss



Photo: Peter van Sluis

the recommendations developed as a result of the episodes of the Peace Corner Podcast. Another session was co-hosted with Cordaid, focusing on multi-level advocacy and learnings drawn from the Just Future programme.

Peace Connect was a key event to reconnect with CSPPS members. The gathering allowed CSPPS members to connect in person with one another and with other peacebuilders, organisations and networks. Participants were able to maintain their ties with longstanding and valued colleagues and partners, as well as develop new connections with members of the wider peacebuilding community. Some key discussions during the gathering included the importance of mental health in peacebuilding, as well as the global polycrisis and its effects on peacebuilding work.

The event was a great platform to connect with like-minded networks in the field, and get in touch with organisations for possible avenues of collaboration. At the gathering, CSPPS met with representatives of 13 other networks to initiate action for furthering collaboration between networks, with the intent of working more closely together across the SDG16+ field. This, in turn, has made the Platform a stronger network and player in the domain.

## REFLECTIONS ON PEACE CONNECT 2025

**Nairobi, October 2025**

*In October 2025, over 550 peacebuilders from 90 different countries came together in Nairobi for a week of connection, learning, and solidarity. Designed with care and intention by Peace Direct and local partner International Centre for Peace, Human Rights and Development, the gathering held space for local peacebuilders to forge alliances, challenge existing power structures, and prioritise wellbeing through storytelling, dialogue, reflection, collective art, dancing, music, rest, and even early morning Tai Chi.*

*Amidst this activity, CSPPS and UNOY were invited to co-host a session on the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agenda, which recently marked its 10th anniversary. Building on our latest season*

## REFLECTIONS ON PEACE CONNECT 2025

of *The Peace Corner Podcast*, 'Youth, Peace, and Security: Turning 10 and Still Figuring It Out!', and the resulting recommendations for the future, we designed a dialogue around three questions: What progress have we seen in youth-led peacebuilding and the YPS agenda over the past 10 years? What challenges do young people still face in their peacebuilding efforts? And what is our vision for the next 10 years of the YPS agenda, and how can we get there?

Held in the main conference hall, the conversation brought together young peacebuilders and intergenerational allies from across contexts to share personal experiences and listen to one another attentively and with curiosity. From this space, the dialogue surfaced how the YPS agenda has begun to reshape the landscape for youth-led peacebuilding. While young people have been leading peacebuilding efforts since long before the formalisation of the agenda, YPS has provided a shared framework through which local organisations can articulate this work, strengthen legitimacy, and, at times, access funding, while also offering a tool to hold governments accountable to the commitments set out in the YPS-related UN Security Council resolutions. Beyond policy, the agenda has enabled youth-led organisations to connect and collaborate across levels, drawing on networks such as UNOY to share experiences and position themselves as part of the solution. Through YPS, young peacebuilders have gained access to spaces historically closed to them, and, in many cases, created their own, opening new ways to engage with governments and bridging silos between peacebuilding, development, and humanitarian work.

At the same time, we must name the distance between recognition and reality. In many contexts, political and knowledge-producing spaces remain dominated by non-youth actors, with young people still framed as victims or perpetrators rather than active agents of peace. Awareness of the YPS agenda is uneven, limiting how youth-led organisations can leverage it, while traditional norms continue to constrain youth leadership, disproportionately affecting young women and gender-diverse young people. Despite formal commitments, national implementation has often been slow, and participation remains tokenistic; young people are present at the table, but their perspectives are rarely integrated. These challenges are compounded by chronic under-resourcing, the exclusion of marginalised youth, and, in many contexts, direct risks faced by young people engaged in peacebuilding work.

Looking ahead, we envision a YPS agenda rooted in everyday practice rather than policy alone. Intergenerational cooperation is essential, alongside a shared understanding that YPS benefits whole societies, not only young people. Localising the agenda – bringing it into schools, religious and community spaces, and online platforms where young people already gather – is critical. Stronger coordination among YPS actors, increased and sustained funding for youth-led organisations, and clearer accountability and monitoring frameworks are needed to turn commitments into action. National Action Plans should be treated not as endpoints, but as living tools, supported by political will and resources, to ensure young people's participation in peace and decision-making is meaningful and transformative.

As the session came to a close, what remained was a sense of shared responsibility and possibility. Ten years into YPS, young people and their allies continue to shape its meaning with courage, creativity, and care. The task ahead is to ensure that institutions listen, respond, and act with the same commitment.

**Florence Meuwissen, from United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY) | Netherlands**

## SIPRI Forum in Stockholm

CSPPS participated in the SIPRI Forum in Stockholm where key policymakers, development, and humanitarian actors, peace entrepreneurs, researchers, security experts, and civil society organisations gather to discuss integrated solutions to security, peace and development challenges. CSPPS's participation at the SIPRI Forum has been a key networking event to reconnect with CSPPS members. The Forum was moreover an important event to establish and concretise connections with external partners and colleagues such as the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, GIZ, the African Development Bank, German counterparts, and the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation to name a few. The SIPRI Forum has moreover been of particular importance for peer-to-peer learning with practitioners working in peacebuilding, in fragile contexts in which civic space may be further restricted.

## The Just Future Alliance

CSPPS was the networking partner of the Just Future Consortium, a five-year partnership launched in 2021 funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which aimed at improving security, justice and inclusive political decision-making processes through coordinated lobbying and advocacy efforts in fragile and conflict-affected settings. The Just Future programme worked in six countries, comprising Afghanistan, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Niger and Mali.

2025 was the final year of the Just Future Alliance, concluding a 5-year partnership. In 2025, CSPPS financially supported its partners from Mali and Afghanistan. This funding enabled the partners to strengthen their efforts and work at the national level on various issues, particularly those related to youth participation and gender inclusion.

- Afghans for Progressive Thinking's (APT) work under the programme championed youth empowerment and human rights, most notably through the Afghan Youth Representative to the United Nations (AYR-UN) programme. Aligned with the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security, the initiative provides a vital platform for young Afghans to bring their voices to global policy arenas. The 2025 cycle, launched in February 2025, invited applicants aged 18–29 from across the Afghan diaspora to participate in a rigorous selection process. The final selection round was held at the Cordaid office in The Hague, where Aziza Akrami was chosen as the Afghan Youth representative. CSPPS has continued to support APT and Aziza Akrami throughout her 6-month mandate, by identifying opportunities for her to participate in international forums and to engage with political decision-makers to drive concrete action on the issue of young people in Afghanistan.
- Association des Jeunes pour la Citoyenneté Active et la Démocratie (AJCAD) is a youth-led organisation in Mali that provided capacity strengthening on conflict transformation and human security in the Bamako and Mopti regions, conducted community dialogues on human rights between marginalised communities and multinational actors on the access to justice, in addition to launching online campaigns on the justice and security reforms and best practices of the Just Future programme. AJCAD also produced podcasts to discuss these projects, which you can listen to [here](#).



As the networking partner of Just Future, CSPPS continued to host monthly Just Future networking meetings throughout 2025, each of which focused on a different consortium partner's work within strengthening civil society's efforts. These meetings were valuable opportunities for partners to connect, share strategies and insights from their work and to organise collective advocacy efforts.

At the international level, CSPPS facilitated and supported the participation of Just Future colleagues in the IDPS Coastal West Africa Dialogue in Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire), at Peace Connect in Nairobi in October and the 2nd EU YPS Conference in Brussels in November.

As the end of the Just Future programme came to an end, partners had the opportunity to reflect on lessons learned, progress made, and potential for future action through the closing event. In spite of the programme ending, it has provided a solid base for connections and networks amongst the various partners. Working in fragile and conflict-affected settings, the programme has also shown that significant contributions in supporting more inclusive, constructive, and sustainable relations between constituencies and duty-bearers has been done over the years. CSPPS greatly valued its membership of the Just Future Alliance and is extremely proud of the progress achieved throughout the six countries and hopes for further collaborations with the respective partners in the future.

# POLICY INFLUENCING



## INTRODUCTION

In 2025, CSPPS actively engaged in a range of high-level policy spaces to advance its collective strategies, advocacy priorities and strengthen the collective influence of civil society within global peacebuilding discussions. Through participation in international forums, strategic meetings, and multilateral processes, the Platform worked to forge partnerships, align stakeholders around shared priorities, and promote more coherent approaches to peace, governance, and development. Across these engagements, CSPPS consistently advocated for inclusive peacebuilding approaches, the protection and expansion of civic space, and stronger commitments to locally led action. By bringing forward the perspectives and experiences of its members — particularly those operating in conflict- and fragility-affected contexts — the Platform called for bold and transformative policies that place local actors at the centre of global responses to peace and security challenges.

### SDG16+ Interlinkages

The initiatives presented in this section reflect CSPPS's commitment to policy influencing. Through advocacy and lobby, CSPPS was capable of maintaining a strong relationship with its partner organisations in the form of continued collaboration on a variety of advocacy and outreach initiatives. CSPPS also developed new partnerships, allowing the Platform to explore new ways of collaboration for more effective peacebuilding and conflict prevention action.

As in previous years, CSPPS participated in the **2025 SDG16 Conference**, which was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and entitled "Advancing Peace, Justice and Institutions for Sustainable Development". The conference was organised by the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), and the International Development Law Organization (IDLO). CSPPS, in collaboration with the TAP Network, spearheaded the drafting process of the **2025 SDG16+ Rome Civil Society Declaration**, which was launched at the SD16 Conference on May 12th. The Declaration entitled "**A Compass for Navigating through the Geopolitical Storm**", presents actionable recommendations across four critical thematic areas: a) shifting the focus from conflict to cooperation, b) rethinking financing for SDG16+, c) strengthening civic space and d) fundamental freedoms and safeguarding justice. It can be read [here](#).



## REFLECTIONS ON THE ROME CIVIL SOCIETY DECLARATION LAUNCH

New York City, May 2025

*The launch of the Rome Civil Society Declaration in May was a timely and grounding moment for civil society actors working at the intersection of peace, governance, and sustainable development. Coming at a time of growing global uncertainty, shrinking civic space, and protracted crises, the Declaration reaffirmed a simple but often overlooked truth: meaningful progress on SDG16 and the broader 2030 Agenda is not possible without strong, protected, and genuinely engaged civil society.*

*For organisations operating in fragile and conflict-affected settings, the Rome Declaration resonated deeply. It captured the daily realities faced by civil society actors who continue to work under pressure, often navigating political constraints, security risks, and limited resources, while remaining closest to communities most affected by injustice, exclusion, and violence. The Declaration did not romanticise civil society's role, but rather acknowledged both its indispensable contributions and the structural barriers that undermine its effectiveness.*

*The Declaration's most significant contribution is its emphasis on trust, collaboration, and accountability. It challenged governments, donors, and international organisations to move beyond simple interactions with civil society and instead invest in long-term, fair partnerships. This is especially important for CSPPS members. Peacebuilding and statebuilding efforts require patience, context-specific strategies, and lasting local ownership. Short funding cycles, rigid frameworks, and top-down decision-making continue to weaken the impact on the ground. The Rome Declaration provides a clear call to reconsider these dynamics.*

*Equally important was the Declaration's focus on protecting civic space and recognising civil society as a political actor in its own right, not just a provider of services. In fragile contexts, where democratic institutions are often weak or contested, civil society plays a critical role in mediation, social cohesion, accountability, and early warning. The Rome Declaration correctly positioned civil society as a co-creator of solutions, rather than a secondary stakeholder.*

*For CSPPS, the launch of the Rome Civil Society Declaration represents both an affirmation and a responsibility. It validates years of collaborative efforts to keep peace, justice, and inclusive governance at the forefront of global development conversations. Simultaneously, it urges CSPPS members to keep connecting local experiences with global policy, making sure that promises made internationally actually improve conditions for communities dealing with conflict and instability.*

*The Rome Declaration, in the end, isn't the final word. It's a common touchstone and a political instrument that civil society can use to demand accountability, build coalitions, and reaffirm its position as a force for peace, inclusion, and resilience in a world that's becoming more divided.*

*For me, "working at the grassroots taught me that fragility is not just about weak institutions; it is about unheard voices. When civil society is excluded or constrained, those voices disappear, and with them the early warnings and local solutions that prevent conflict from returning."*

**Musa Ansumana Soko, from WASHnet | Sierra Leone**

CSPPS continued to engage with the Transparency, Accountability and Participation for the 2030 Agenda (TAP) Network, a global coalition of civil society organisations who work for the advancement of SDG16 and accountability within the agenda. CSPPS's bilateral collaborations with other civil society organisations in 2025 included, amongst others, projects with UNOY, Cordaid, Search for Common Ground and Interpeace. These engagements allowed CSPPS to work closely with other organisations to share expertise and resources, spearhead joint initiatives and advance their shared goals.

Ahead of **COP30 in Belém**, CSPPS partnered with Cordaid to co-author a joint position paper on the nexus of Climate, Peace and Security. Building on previous years positioning papers – which can be read [here](#) – and Cordaid's long-standing approach to climate justice, which emphasises fairness, equity and the disproportionate impacts of climate change on fragile and conflict-affected settings, the paper outlines why integrated climate action and peace-sensitive responses are essential to address the compounded vulnerabilities faced by these communities. It calls for substantially increased and more accessible climate finance that is conflict-sensitive, locally-led and tailored to the needs of people in fragile states, and highlights concrete recommendations for policymakers at COP30 and beyond. You can read more about it [here](#).

## Advancing Youth, Peace and Security: YPS Consultations for Big Impact and emerging ecosystem

In 2025, CSPPS, in partnership with Interpeace, successfully launched a GIZ-sponsored project, "Ensuring inclusive and meaningful youth engagement - Youth, Peace and Security Consultations for Big Impact", designed to amplify youth voices and facilitate youth agency and leadership through structured consultations led by youth organisations. Seeking to offer an alternative perspective on the potential of young people as key drivers of national and global peacebuilding agendas and as rights holders shaping policy and governance frameworks, the project supported seven national youth-led consultation processes in Colombia, Guatemala, Kenya, Mali, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, and Syria.

The project revolved around three main objectives, namely strengthening youth agency in peacebuilding and prevention, generating actionable recommendations that inform national and international decision-making and establishing linkages between youth-led initiatives and multilateral YPS processes.

In this project, CSPPS played a coordinating role, overseeing grant management and leading the preparatory phase. After supervising the selection of nine youth-led organisations to conduct the national consultations, CSPPS ensured accountability, monitoring, and reporting of all project activities. In collaboration with Interpeace, CSPPS supported linkages between national consultations and global YPS processes, contributing to the Second Independent Progress Study and the implementation of both the Pact for the Future and the Declaration on Future Generations.

This pilot project demonstrated that youth-led consultations can move beyond symbolic engagement to produce tangible policy-relevant outputs. CSPPS and Interpeace backbone roles ensured that youth voices were amplified, findings were aligned with broader peacebuilding and prevention frameworks, and lessons learned could inform

local, national, regional, and international decision-making.

Besides, the project strengthened connections between youth-led initiatives and international YPS processes, including the Second Independent Progress Study on YPS. The consultations have directly fed into critical global deliberations and multilateral frameworks that will shape the next decade of peace and security. The aim was twofold: ensure youth-generated evidence identifies or fills defined gaps in the implementation of the YPS agenda, and positions youth perspectives to influence high-level policy debates - while simultaneously connecting and influencing local/national decision points in the countries where consultations take place.



Photo: RENEDEP Mali

## Supporting the advancement towards peaceful, just and inclusive societies

CSPPS continued to engage within the SDG16 Global Coalition and continued its efforts in positioning itself, its members and civil society overall in the context of the review of the 2030 Agenda and the relevant milestones in that realm, including the High-level Political Forum (HLPF), the Peacebuilding Architecture Review, and the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4). Engaging in these key events has involved following the conversations, networking with key relevant stakeholders and partners, and not least, continuing to put forward the role for civil society in such spaces and dialogues. CSPPS has continued advocating for more peaceful, just and inclusive societies, including at the United Nations level.

### United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture | February

In February, CSPPS participated in a consultation meeting in Brussels, hosted by the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO), as part of the ongoing review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture (PBAR). This gathering brought together peacebuilding practitioners, policy experts, and civil society representatives to reflect on the current state and future direction of the PBAR. The discussion focused on how to ensure that the architecture remains fit for purpose in a rapidly changing global context



Photo: EPLO

marked by complex crises and increasing threats to peace and stability. CSPPS moderated a discussion on how the UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review (PBAR) can more effectively advance cross-cutting priorities, particularly the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agendas. This conversation also examined how adopting a human rights-based approach can help bolster conflict prevention efforts. Participants underscored the importance of fostering integrated and inclusive partnerships, as well as improving coordination across sectors and institutions, to enhance the global impact and sustainability of peacebuilding initiatives. CSPPS will continue its engagement in the review process and will continue to advocate for a peacebuilding architecture that is inclusive, responsive, and capable of supporting locally-led efforts in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

Next to following the processes around the Peacebuilding Architecture Review, CSPPS participated in the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) in Seville, Spain. In partnership with the Quaker UN Office, and TAP Network, CSPPS organised an official side-event on "Financing for Development in the HDP Nexus: Locally-led Approaches Towards Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies". The event gathered, among others, the Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) Elizabeth Spehar, Minister Barlay from Sierra Leone and CSPPS member Ajmal Ramyar from APT as speakers. Both ASG Spehar and Minister Barlay mentioned at the end of the event that the discussion should have been featured on the main stage of the FfD4-conference, as it tackled major challenges the peacebuilding and prevention domain is confronted with since the beginning of 2025. The event focused on how the FfD framework, alongside donors and other key stakeholders, can better support holistic and localised financing models across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus. In particular, discussions emphasising the need to scale up investments that uphold the integrity and resourcing of each HDP pillar while advancing peacebuilding, access to justice, accountable institutions, and locally-led development efforts.

## OECD Forum | March

On the 5th and 6th of March, the CSPPS EC delegation attended the first OECD Forum on Development, Peace, and Stability in Paris, France. The Forum highlighted the urgent need for a paradigm shift in the approach to peacebuilding and conflict prevention in conflict-affected and fragile settings. As development aid budgets face significant cuts, the Forum underscored the necessity of doing development differently, in which peacebuilding efforts must adapt and evolve to meet the challenges of today's rapidly changing landscape. This requires a concerted effort to integrate peacebuilding efforts must adapt and evolve to meet the challenges of today's rapidly changing landscape. This requires a concerted effort to integrate peacebuilding and prevention into broader programmatic interventions, ensuring that these efforts are not compartmentalised but rather integrated into the fabric of development initiatives.



REFLECTIONS ON

**PARIS DIALOGUES ON PEACEBUILDING AND PREVENTION**

Paris, March 2025

*We are going through a particularly critical period for peace. The world is currently facing a record number of conflicts, many of which are protracted and increasingly complex. These crises are exacerbated by major structural factors such as climate change, the rise of authoritarianism, and violent extremism, placing a strain on multilateral systems that are increasingly unable to provide appropriate and coherent responses.*

*At the same time, civic space is shrinking globally, while funding for peacebuilding and conflict prevention is declining rapidly. This situation is all the more worrying as societies face an erosion of trust, profound geopolitical shifts, and growing insecurity. In this context, peace is no longer an abstract ideal, but a political, social, and human emergency.*

*It was in this context that the main stakeholders of the international community—government representatives, civil society organizations, technical and financial partners—met in Paris during the first week of March to engage in strategic discussions on these major challenges.*

*Ahead of the meeting of the Steering Committee of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS), scheduled for March 4, 2025, and the OECD Forum on Development, Peace, and Stability, held on March 5 and 6, 2025, the Executive Committee of the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) held a face-to-face strategic planning meeting on Monday, March 3.*

*This meeting, in which I participated as a member of the CSPPS Executive Committee, brought together current, former, and newly elected members of the Executive Committee. Its purpose was to align the Platform's strategic positions, prepare civil society contributions to upcoming dialogues, and strengthen a collective voice based on the realities of countries affected by conflict.*

*The discussions provided an opportunity to share analyses on the state of peace, justice, and inclusion in member countries, while identifying clear strategic priorities for the coming years. These included reaffirming the central role of local actors and civil society in peacebuilding processes, as well as the need for more balanced, inclusive, and sustainable partnerships.*

*My participation in the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding was a key moment in this Paris event. This unique forum for dialogue between states, development partners, and civil society aims to promote country-led crisis recovery pathways based on national ownership, citizen inclusion, and long-term conflict prevention.*

*These Paris Dialogues served as a powerful reminder that, in the face of multiplying crises and the weakening of international cooperation mechanisms, it is imperative to put peace, conflict prevention, and state-building back at the heart of global priorities. Collective mobilization, political dialogue, and the ongoing engagement of civil society remain essential levers for building a more just, inclusive, and sustainably peaceful future.*

**Adam Dicko, from Association des Jeunes pour la Citoyenneté Active et la Démocratie (AJCAD) | Mali**

## CSW69 | March

CSPPS co-hosted with the Alliance for Peacebuilding (AfP), Baha'i International Community, International IDEA, NGO-CSW, the Transparency, Accountability & Participation (TAP) Network, the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) an informal Roundtable dialogue at the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women about the Interlinkages between Gender Equality and Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies. The roundtable reinforced the need for continued collaboration and collective action to advance gender equality (SDG5) and peace, justice and inclusion (SDG16). The challenges discussed, from political shifts to funding cuts, are creating urgent opportunities for a unified, evidence-based approach to ensure these goals remain central to global efforts for peace, justice, and gender equality. Participants expressed a shared commitment to leveraging future discussions and international processes (e.g. High-Level Political Forum and the Financing for Development Forum).

## Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) | May

In May, CSPPS Coordinator, Peter van Sluijs, was invited to participate in the Expert-level meeting on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) for building and sustaining peace. He shared his thoughts on the vital role of SSTC in promoting sustainable peace through civil society-led learning, policy exchange, and cross-regional collaboration, urging the Peacebuilding Commission to enhance inclusive, context-driven peacebuilding strategies.

## Geneva Incubation Space meeting | June

In June, two Executive Committee members participated in the Geneva Incubation Space meeting organised by Principles for Peace and the Swiss government. The event was attended by the g7+, INCAF donors, and other key stakeholders. The goal was to discuss the challenges, the solutions and explore ways to move forward amid today's growing global instability. A major theme was the urgency of keeping IDPS relevant in a world facing rising conflict and shrinking resources. The main takeaway was the opportunity the current turbulent time offers in reimagining and rebuilding partnerships equipped to make the case for prevention and peace. The report from the two-day discussions can be read [here](#).

## Second EU Youth, Peace and Security Conference | November

As 2025 marked the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 2250, the Second Youth, Peace and Security Conference was held in Brussels between the 11th and the 14th of November. The Conference was organised as a response to the current global crisis, bringing together EU institutions, Member States and over 120 young peacebuilders and partners from across the globe to co-shape the future of Team Europe action on YPS. At the Conference, APT and Cercle Dev representatives were present, highlighting the work through the Just Future programme. In that context, the Africa-



Europe Foundation (AEF), the Sustainable Cooperation for Peace and Security (SCPS) and the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS), convened a high-level dialogue to place Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) at the heart of the Africa-Europe partnership. Ahead of the AU-EU Summit, which sets the strategic course for renewed cooperation, the event aimed to ensure that young people are recognised not just as beneficiaries but as partners in shaping peace, governance, and sustainable development. Bringing together youth leaders, policymakers, and civil society representatives from across both continents, the discussion focused on practical pathways to integrate youth perspectives into national and regional policy frameworks, especially through the co-creation and financing of National Action Plans (NAPs) on YPS. As a result of the EU YPS Conference, a [joint declaration on YPS](#) was co-drafted and consulted amongst the practitioners and participants at the Conference in Brussels. It was launched on the 20th of November. The Conference additionally provided a space for a consultation for the 2nd Independent Progress Study on YPS, in which input from practitioners was gathered to feed into the study, expected to be launched in spring 2025.

REFLECTIONS ON

## THE SECOND YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY CONFERENCE

Brussels, November 2025

*After seven years, the Second EU Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Conference, alongside the inaugural YPS Week, offered a timely and invaluable opportunity for dialogue, reflection, and collective action. As Co-President of Sustainable Cooperation for Peace & Security (SCPS) and part of the Anna Lindh Foundation delegation, I had the privilege of witnessing over 150 young peacebuilders from more than 88 nationalities, alongside representatives of EU Member States, UN agencies, and EU institutions, come together to share experiences, confront persistent challenges, and envision the future of youth-led peacebuilding. The event reaffirmed, in no uncertain terms, the transformative potential of youth participation when it is approached not as a symbolic gesture, but as a strategic imperative.*

*The Conference and YPS Week, organised by the EU YPS Coalition, embodied the principle of co-creation. Participants actively contributed to the preparatory process over several months, and the programme itself privileged open-floor formats, fostering a space where every voice could be heard and every perspective respected. From facilitating sessions and coordinating with key speakers to overseeing interpretation, safeguarding, and partner engagement, the entire endeavour reflected a profound sense of collective ownership, uniting organisers, Team Europe partners, and participants in a shared commitment to advancing the YPS agenda.*

*A particularly memorable aspect of my engagement was the co-organisation of the parallel thematic roundtable on YPS in the Africa-Europe partnership, which provided a space for nuanced reflection on strengthening cross-regional collaboration, sharing practical experiences, and exploring pathways for youth to contribute meaningfully to sustained peace. The roundtable underscored the necessity of creating inclusive, long-term frameworks that connect local, national, and regional initiatives, demonstrating that partnerships built across geographies are essential to translating commitments into concrete action.*

*Equally significant was my role in the Joint Declaration process, where I had the opportunity propose amendments that were unanimously accepted. These amendments emphasized to insti-*

## REFLECTIONS ON

**THE SECOND YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY CONFERENCE**

tutional collaboration, highlighted the critical role of the Joint Secretariat on YPS and the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, and advocated for inclusive mechanisms to ensure equitable access to funding for youth organizations. The process allowed young peacebuilders and EU Member States alike to contribute directly and exemplified the power of shared ownership and collective decision-making, ensuring that the Declaration is both a practical tool and a symbolic commitment to genuine partnership. However, challenges on the follow-up on the Joint Declarations remain.

As a member of the Advisory Board for the Second Independent Progress Study on YPS, I also had the privilege, together with partners from the UN and international CSOs, to facilitate a consultation on the Study on the last day of the Conference. This session provided a vital moment to reflect collectively on progress, share insights, and identify pathways for the Study to inform ongoing EU and global YPS efforts, further bridging local experiences with international policy frameworks.

The Conference also afforded valuable opportunities for collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including participation in the Italian-hosted YPS reception, reinforcing diplomatic engagement and nurturing multilateral dialogue essential to the sustainability of the YPS agenda. The network formed during this gathering is, in itself, a critical achievement. Many participants have already initiated national or regional YPS coalitions, and sustaining these connections will be vital for translating commitments into tangible outcomes, with the support of EU Delegations and, where appropriate, the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy missions. Together with the Joint Declaration, this network provides a foundation for moving beyond dialogue toward meaningful, sustained action.

Ultimately, the Second EU YPS Conference demonstrated that youth inclusion is not a performative exercise, but a cornerstone of resilient and sustainable peace. By fostering meaningful participation, nurturing institutional collaboration, and creating equitable frameworks for engagement, the YPS agenda can respond effectively to the complex and interconnected challenges of our time. The energy, insight, and commitment of young peacebuilders inspire confidence that, through sustained engagement, we can turn intention into action, and collaboration into enduring change.

**Closing Reflection:**

The outcomes of this Conference resonate far beyond Brussels, linking directly to broader EU and global frameworks. The Joint Declaration and the strengthened network of young peacebuilders offer practical avenues to advance the Team Europe approach to peace and security, promoting coherence, coordination, and shared responsibility across Member States, institutions, and civil society actors. Simultaneously, the Conference contributes to the UN Pact for the Future, ensuring that the youth dimension of sustainable peace is firmly integrated into global agendas, development strategies, and multilateral cooperation.

As we look ahead, the momentum generated during this Conference must be sustained through more regular EU YPS gatherings. Waiting seven years between events is no longer acceptable; future conferences must occur more frequently to maintain continuity, strengthen networks, and ensure that commitments translate into tangible, long-term impact. By connecting local initiatives to regional and international frameworks, and by convening youth, policymakers, and practitioners regularly, the YPS community is now better positioned to transform dialogue into action, bridging generational, geographic, and institutional divides, and building a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable architecture for peace.

**Marjus Cevoli, from Sustainable Cooperation for Peace & Security (SCPS) | Italy**

## CSO-UN Dialogue in Geneva | December

In December 2025, CSPPS brought members to participate in the CSO-UN Dialogue in Geneva, a flagship annual gathering convened by the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) alongside UN System partners and civil society. Initiated in 2023, the Dialogue provides a dedicated platform for civil society actors to engage directly with UN entities and Member States, share ground-level peacebuilding insights, and influence global policy and architecture. Under the overarching theme of conflict prevention, the 2025 edition of the CSO-UN Dialogue had three interlinked priorities: a) sustainable and flexible financing for peacebuilding, b) meaningful inclusion of civil society (with a special emphasis on youth, women and local actors), and c) the institutionalisation of youth participation through the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Agenda. Several members of CSPPS were present, including representatives from Justice Call, WANEP, SCPS, Interpeace, UNOY, CSP, Christian Aid Ireland, GPPAC and Peace Environment for Development.



## Global Policy Partnership with Search for Common Ground

In 2025, CSPPS and Search for Common Ground (Search) entered a partnership in making the case for continued peacebuilding efforts amongst German stakeholders through a Global Policy Partnership. In October, a week of engagement in Berlin was organised in that context. The aim of the trip was to meet and engage with various German stakeholders in the peacebuilding and conflict prevention field and to make the case for continued prioritisation of peacebuilding and peace financing at a time of increasing militarisation. The CSPPS/Search delegation met with several German counterparts and participated in the Berlin Peace Dialogue. Held on the 9th of October at the Federal Ministry of Defence in Berlin and online, the Dialogue focused this year's topic was on "Hybrid threats and civilian crisis prevention: Building resilience in a fragmented world." It was organised by the Advisory Board to the Federal Government for Civilian Crisis Prevention and Peacebuilding, and brought together civil society, academic experts, and policy-makers to explore how hybrid attacks, such as cyber-attacks, sabotage, and disinformation campaigns, challenge Germany's and Europe's integrated security frameworks, and what civilian crisis-prevention strategies can be deployed in response. The participation at the Dialogue aimed at connecting directly with various stakeholders, to address the cuts in development funding and advance peacebuilding and prevention as key cornerstones for sustainable peace.

## A renewed strategic partnership with Germany

In January 2026, a new partnership agreement between Cordaid (on behalf of CSPPS) and the German BMZ Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development commenced. CSPPS is grateful for the continued support and partnership

with the German government. The partnership provides the Platform with needed support to carry out its core functions: coordinating a global network of civil society organisations that support peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts in fragile and conflict-affected settings. The partnership is also a testament of Germany's commitment and support for the role of civil society in international policy dialogue domains. As CSPPS, we look forward to working in partnership with BMZ and other departments in making the case for peacebuilding, conflict prevention and the role of civil society therein. The Platform looks forward to continuing this partnership in 2026 and to further engagement with the German government on issues of shared concern including youth, gender equality, climate change, migration, health and pandemic preparedness, food security or digitalisation.

# STRATEGIC OUTLOOK FOR 2026

Against a shifting and increasingly fragmented global landscape, marked by protracted conflicts, political polarisation, and weakening institutions, 2026 represents a critical moment for peacebuilding efforts worldwide. As insecurity deepens and preventive approaches continue to be sidelined, there is an urgent need to reinvigorate collective commitments to peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and inclusive governance. Across many parts of the West, governments are increasing defence budgets while investments in peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and diplomacy are shrinking. This imbalance risks creating a strategic blind spot: a scenario where societies rely increasingly on militarised responses that, paradoxically, deepen the instability they aim to contain. In this context, there is an urgent need to reinvigorate collective commitments to preventive approaches, inclusive governance, and localised peacebuilding. CSPPS seeks to strengthen engagement with civil society actors, governments, and international institutions to ensure that peacebuilding remains a central pillar of both national and global policy agendas.

To respond effectively to the challenges facing the sector, deeper collaboration across civil society organisations and networks will be essential. CSPPS will continue to invest in strategic partnerships that enable collective action and coordinated advocacy, including through its ongoing engagement its members and other SDG16+ networks. These alliances play a critical role in consolidating civil society positions, amplifying shared messages, and strengthening the collective influence of peacebuilding actors across policy processes – but also to frame peacebuilding as a strategic security investment, demonstrating tangible benefits such as strengthened governance, restored public trust, social cohesion, and reduced displacement pressures. In 2026, CSPPS will maintain a strong focus on advocating for the protection and expansion of civic space, as well as for increased and more predictable funding for peacebuilding and prevention. At the same time, recognising the evolving donor landscape, the Platform will actively pursue new and creative funding modalities.

A key strategic priority in the coming year will be CSPPS's engagement in the next phase of global policy processes related to SDG16+, including the Voluntary National Review (VNR). CSPPS will work to support coordinated civil society input into these reviews, ensuring that peace, justice, and inclusive governance perspectives – particularly from the Global South – are meaningfully reflected. Through this engagement, the Platform aims to reinforce accountability, elevate locally grounded evidence, and strengthen the role of civil society in monitoring progress toward the 2030 Agenda. Building on progress achieved in 2025, CSPPS will deepen its commitment to advancing the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda and promoting

meaningful youth inclusion in peace processes and decision-making. The 10-year anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 2250 in 2025, has renewed global attention to the role of young people in peacebuilding, creating new policy opportunities at global and national levels. In this context, CSPPS aims to further consolidate its role within this space by amplifying the work of its youth-led and youth-focused members and ensuring that youth perspectives and leadership are meaningfully represented in key peacebuilding dialogues and policy discussions.

Despite the challenging environment, CSPPS enters 2026 with a strong foundation built on trust, collaboration, and shared purpose. The Platform remains deeply grateful for the continued partnership and commitment of its members, partners, and with the BMZ. This support has been instrumental in enabling CSPPS to sustain and adapt its work in a constrained global context, maintain its coordinating role, and continue advocating for inclusive, locally led approaches to peacebuilding. Through this partnership, CSPPS will continue to innovate, influence policy, and make the case that peacebuilding is not a “soft” alternative to security but a strategic, evidence-based pillar of global and domestic resilience, essential for a safer, more open, and peaceful world.

# ANNEXES



# PUBLICATIONS

## Briefing Papers

### **Briefing Papers:**

- [Climate, Peace and Security Nexus](#) [March 2025]
- [Migration, Peace and Security Nexus](#) [May 2025]
- [Digitalisation, Peace and Security](#) [June 2025]
- [Health, Peace and Security](#) [July 2025]
- [From Policy to Practice - ten years of civil society engagement with the Youth, Peace and Security agenda](#) [August, 2025]
- [From Policy to Practice - ten years of civil society engagement with the Youth, Peace and Security agenda](#) [August, 2025]

### **Policy Oriented Papers:**

- [2025 SDG16+ Rome Civil Society Declaration: A Compass Through Navigating the Geopolitical Storm](#) [May 2025]
- [Coastal West Africa Dialogue on Prevention and Peacebuilding](#) [July 2025]
- [IDPS Policy Statement](#) [September 2025]
- [Youth Recommendations for the YPS Agenda](#) [October 2025]
- Reflection Paper: [The Strategic Blind Spot: How Neglecting Peacebuilding Undermines Global Security](#) [February 2026]

### **News articles:**

In 2025, CSPPS partnered with some of its members to draft articles on crucial new developments in peace and security in their regions. These pieces can be read below.

- [When Peace Turns to Chaos: The Aftermath of Gen Z Protests in Nepal | CSPPS](#)
- [Funding Peace in Eastern and Southern Africa | CSPPS](#)
- [An Overview of the Situation in Haiti: The Renewal of a Cyclical Crisis | CSPPS](#)

### **Other publications:**

- [Voices of the SDG16+: Stories for Global Action](#) [July 2025]
- [SDG16+ Storytelling Initiative](#) [2025]

## HOW THE PLATFORM WORKS

At its core, CSPPS hosts Country Teams, coordinated at the country level by a Focal Point Organisation (FPO), and individual members. A Country Team is established once there is more than one member organisation at the country-level.



For each Focal Point Organisation, a Focal Point Representative (FPR) and a Focal Point Deputy (FPD) are appointed to be in charge of liaising and communicating with the CSPPS Secretariat and the Country Team. With this, the FPO provides analysis, conducts advocacy work, coordinates activities (capacity strengthening, awareness raising and media outreach) in their home countries, and helps 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 country focal points, deputies and individual members. Next, at the top of our governance structure lies the elected Executive Committee (EC), which, among other responsibilities, provides decision-making advice on the platform's issues and priorities, and reviews the use of the CSPPS budget. Additionally, two co-chairs are elected by the Executive Committee and serve as an immediate advisory to the Secretariat in periods of short deadlines. Finally, the Secretariat facilitates the functioning of the Core Group and the Executive Committee and the coordination of civil society participation in the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS) events and other relevant policy domains, next to generating and disseminating information about our members' activities.



The International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS) is the first forum for political dialogue bringing together countries affected by conflict and fragility, development partners, and civil society. The constituency members of the IDPS are the International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF), the g7+ group of fragile and conflict-affected states, and the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS). The UN Development Programme currently runs the Secretariat of IDPS, based in New York. The IDPS remains a key *raison d'être* for CSPPS, and a key entry point for policy influencing and putting forward the role and voice of civil society in policy dialogues around peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

# CSPPS STRUCTURE



# CSPPS IN THE WORLD



**CIVIL SOCIETY MEMBER ORGANISATIONS IN ALL 20 g7+ COUNTRIES**

**CIVIL SOCIETY MEMBER ORGANISATIONS IN 24 NON-g7+ COUNTRIES**

**CIVIL SOCIETY MEMBER ORGANISATIONS IN 12 NORTHERN COUNTRIES**



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, Expert Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention at Cordaid. Please find relevant contact information for the Platform, and do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you might have.

## CSPPS SECRETARIAT STAFF

- **Peter van Sluijs**, Expert on Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention and CSPPS Coordinator;
- **Elise Granlie**, Junior Expert on Civil Society Engagement in Peace and Justice;
- **Camille Panis-Boudin**, Junior Expert Youth, Peace and Security.
- **Isabela Marcon Ciceri**, Advocacy and Coordination Intern

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To learn more about the work of CSPPS:

- Visit our website: [www.cspps.org](http://www.cspps.org)
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