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### CSPPS NEWSLETTER – July 2018

We are delighted to release the CSPPS newsletter for July 2018, aiming to keep CSPPS members and our partners informed with news and developments relating to the CSPPS and its engagement at national and global levels. We thank all of you who contributed to each civil society activity and to its implementation in the context of the CSPPS and our engagement in IDPS and related policy domains.

READ FRENCH VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER [HERE](#)

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*The Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) is the South-North non-governmental coalition of peacebuilding organizations in [g7+ countries](#) that coordinates and supports civil society participation in the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding ([IDPS](#)) and related policy processes. The goals of CSPPS are to strengthen the voice and capacity of society to effectively engage in, and influence,*

*sustainable peace and development for all.*

## CSPPS Updates

This section presents recent events (updates) as they happened in the Platform. Activities have been supported and/or initiated by the CSPPS Secretariat and implemented by CSPPS members in various locations.

### The Path to HLPF 2019: from ambition to results for SDG16+



CSPPS Coordinator Peter van Sluijs participated in a SDG16+ retreat in New York 'The Path to HLPF 2019: from ambition to results for SDG16+'. This meeting was organized to discuss and agree upon a more coordinated approach between various initiatives focussing on SDG16+ and to plan for HLPF2019. The HLPF in 2019 provided an opportunity to showcase success and solutions in implementing the SDG targets for peaceful, just and inclusive societies (SDG16+), and to make new commitments to demonstrate results by the end of a second four-year cycle in 2023. See for more information the [challenge paper](#) that was developed by the three organizers of the retreat indicated plans to work together ahead of the HLPF2019.

### UN High Level Conference on Counter-Terrorism



The **UN High Level Conference on Counter-Terrorism** was held at the General Assembly Hall of the United Nations in New York from the 28th to 29th of June, 2018 against a backdrop of rising violent extremism and terrorism globally. It was convened by the UN Secretary General to enable stakeholders and civil society in particular to share information and resources that will be useful to support member states in effectively countering and preventing violent extremism and terrorism.

CSPPS Nigeria Focal Point, Theophilus Ekpon was invited to address the assembly and share his experience around Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) following the CSPPS-funded research on the role of Youth in PVE in the Lake Chad Basin region. The conference helped to position both CSPPS and the IDPS as a partnership platform for early response through dialogue.

The conference and future engagements with the UN Counter-Terrorism Office will enable the CSPPS to strategically influence and provide input into the prevention of violent extremism work of the UN by bringing to bear civil society perspectives.

### **European Partnership Forum 2018**

Peace, security and development are intrinsically linked. On the one hand, wars and violent conflicts have a tremendous impact on development, leading to devastating human costs, weak and dysfunctional public institutions and destroyed livelihoods. More than two billion people live in countries where development is affected by fragility and armed conflict. At the same time, socio-economic hardship, inequalities and exclusion from power and in the delivery of basic services can be among the root causes of violent conflict.

On the second day of the EU Partnership Forum CSPPS Coordinator Peter van Sluijs was asked

and Local Authorities for peace, security and development at the local, regional and global levels. A report of this session is available via the Secretariat.

### **SIPRI: CSPPS Featured Initiatives**

This year's Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development focused on 'The Politics of Peace'. Building towards the [High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace](#) and upon conclusions from the recent report '*Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict*' (United Nations; World Bank: 2017), the 2018 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development looked at the politics of peace by assessing how different policies, processes and tools could be used to overcome political obstacles to build and sustain peace in complex environments.

Targeted, inclusive and sustained conflict prevention can contribute to lasting peace by reducing the risk of violent conflict. In complex environments, international commitments like the Sustainable Development Goals and Women, Peace and Security Agenda can provide entry points for prevention by identifying common ground among diverse stakeholders. In practice, though, political will is often lacking in the countries where prevention is most needed. In such cases, building unlikely or temporary coalitions may be necessary to keep the peace in the interim while more sustainable solutions are developed. Even when there is political will to prevent violence, individual actors can obstruct peacebuilding—either wilfully or through negligence—in pursuit of their own interests. Thus, sustaining peace is not just about good technical solutions, but it is also about getting the politics right. Peacebuilders must find paths to work through, with and, occasionally, around, obstructive actors and institutions.

A CSPPS delegation participated in the Forum that featured, among other sessions, dedicated sessions around the [Fambul Tok/Wan Fambul](#) framework and work done in context of the [Lake Chad](#). The Platform was represented by John Caulker (Executive Director of Fambul Tok & Member of the CSPPS Country Team) who will share practiced-based examples on a **three-layer approach to development** building on the Fambul Tok/Wan Fambul (FT/WF) experience. John will be joined by Lilian Morsay, Coordinator of Peace Mothers Programme in Fambul Tok International. Also representing the CSPPS will be Theophilus Ekpon (Executive Director, [Centre for Sustainable Development and Education in Africa](#) & CSPPS Focal Point in Nigeria) who will speak on the **need for countering violence exclusion** building on a recent research study on the [Role of Young People in Preventing Violent Extremism](#). Peter van Sluijs, CSPPS Coordinator and Cordaid Senior Strategist will be joining the CSPPS delegation in Stockholm. *Please download sessions briefing papers and flyers [here](#).*



In April of this year the CSPPS Coordinator was given the opportunity to participate in [UNPGA High-level meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace](#). The President of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák identified peacebuilding and sustaining peace as a key priority. Therefore he convened the High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace on 24 and 25 April 2018 to assess efforts undertaken and opportunities to strengthen the United Nations' work on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Next to a Plenary Session and Member States interventions the meeting included four Interactive Dialogues. Please see [link here to intervention](#) delivered on behalf of the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding and as part of the Interactive Dialogue #3 on **Strategic Partnerships with the United Nations for Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace**.

### CSPPS Annual Meetings



The CSPPS organised its annual Executive Committee meeting (ECM+) from 10 until 11 April, followed back to back by its CSPPS Core Group meeting (CGM) from 12 until 13 April, both at Cordaid headquarters in The Hague/The Netherlands. The meetings resulted in a renewed workplan for the CSPPS for the period 2018 – 2021, and a re-engagement by all members to continue to use the New Deal principles as the main framework to implement the 2030 Agenda in

Concluding the CSPPS-meeting participants issued The Hague Declaration – you can read The Hague Declaration [here](#).

### From Words to Action: Why Inclusivity Matters for SDG Implementation in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Countries



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Tension arises when country-owned and country-led process used to identify and decide on peacebuilding strategies is not inclusive nor transparent – leaving certain communities or segments of the population to feel that their interests are not being taken into consideration. There is strong evidence that locally owned peacebuilding processes in Fragile and Conflict Affected States (FCAS) have the best chance to succeed. Where state-society relations are weak and where state institutions lack capacity, the meaningful involvement of civil society holds a pivotal key to ensuring whole-of-society ownership and implementation of the transformative SDGs. Yet while a consensus around the need for greater inclusivity in the design and implementation of policy has emerged in recent years, unique challenges remain in contexts affected by conflict and fragility. On 21 March 2018, [CSPPS](#) and its member organization [FriEnt](#) organized a session during the [Global Festival of Action for Sustainable Development](#) in Bonn, Germany to reflect on why inclusivity matters for SDGs implementation in conflict and fragile affected states. Session panelists shared lessons learned from the New Deal implementation in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States (FCAS) and reviewed new evidence why decisive action is needed for anchoring inclusive processes as part of the localization of the 2030 Agenda in FCAS. Read full article [here](#).

### Members Updates

#### FriEnt Peacebuilding Forum

## BUILDING AND SUSTAINING PEACE THROUGH INCLUSIVE COUNTRY DIALOGUES: THE CASE OF SIERRA LEONE

Wednesday, 13 June, 13:30-15:00,  
Room 6.01, FriEnt Peacebuilding  
Forum, Berlin

 @IntDialogue  
#NewDeal4Peace #FriEntPBF2018



German & international civil society organisations, governmental institutions and academia gathered in Berlin to attend the FriEnt Peacebuilding Forum 2018 entitled “Connect – reflect – create: enhancing peacebuilding together”. The forum created space to highlight and discuss new and inspirational ideas for the prevention of violence and sustaining peace.

CSPPS Country Team member Valnora Edwin and CSPPS Coordinator Peter van Sluijs participated in an IDPS organized session on the country dialogue process in Sierra Leone, where they highlighted the importance of ongoing and inclusive dialogue as a means to address the most important issues affecting the country.

### **IDPS High-Level Session: Implementing Prevention: Operational Response to the Pathways for Peace Report**

On 6<sup>th</sup> March, the International Dialogue hosted a well-attended *High-Level Panel* at the World Bank 2018 Fragility Forum, to a packed audience in the Preston Auditorium (300 people attended approximately). Entitled *'Implementing Prevention: Operational Responses to the Pathways for Peace report'* the panel was a great opportunity for the IDPS to showcase itself as an inclusive multi-stakeholder platform, and effective recognized convener of development partners, governments of countries affected by conflict and fragility, and civil society, on issues related to conflict and fragility.

The panel brought the Dialogue's three constituencies together for an interactive discussion on the World Bank-UN report *Pathways for Peace*, launched earlier that day (see below). The [g7+](#) was represented by Somalia's Minister for Women and Human Rights Development, H.E. Deqa Yasin Hagi Yusuf, the [OECD-DAC INCAF](#) by Sweden's Ambassador Joran Bjällerstedt, and [CSPPS](#) by Mr Guy Aho Tete Benissan, the Chair of the CSPPS Executive Board.

challenges of their operationalization, drawing on their experiences of implementing [the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States](#) and the 2030 Agenda. Mr Franck Bousquet, World Bank Senior Director of Fragility, Conflict and Violence, acknowledged that economic growth was not enough to address the underlying causes of conflict and fragility, but announced the creation of a specific Prevention Window, a facility in the WB to drive the agenda forward. Ms. Teresa Whitfield, Director, of the Policy and Mediation Division at UN Department of Political Affairs, insisted on the need for joint analysis for joint action, acknowledging the inherent challenges. Both outlined how their respective institutions planned to adapt to take on the report's recommendations, underlining the need for partnerships to take the recommendations forward. Download CSPPS perspectives [here](#).

## Blog

- **CSPPS:** [What is Needed to Prevent Electoral Violence: Spotlight on Sierra Leone 2018 Elections](#)
- **CSPPS:** [Dialogue Partnership for Prevention: The International Dialogue in Context of the 2030 Agenda, Sustaining Peace and Conflict Prevention Agendas](#)
- **CSPPS/RIKO:** [Why isn't the prevention of violent conflict more of a priority in Danish policy and practice?](#)

## Publications

See below links to some interesting publications:

- The missing peace: [independent progress study on youth and peace and security](#)
- [United Nations – World Bank Pathways for Peace Report](#)
- **Alliance for Peacebuilding** : [Annual Report 2017](#)
- **GPPAC & QUNO Report:** ['Building Sustainable Peace: How inclusivity, partnerships and a reinforced UN Peacebuilding Architecture will support delivery.'](#)
- **International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding:** [Reflections on Use of Country Systems in Somalia: A government perspective](#)
- **Saferworld:** [Policy brief - Building inclusive peace: gender at the heart of conflict analysis](#)

## Upcoming events

**We share with you upcoming events to which the CSPPS Secretariat and/or its members have received invitations to attend:**

- High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development – “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies” – 9 – 18 July, UN HQ, New York
- 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) – 18 – 30 September, UN HQ, New York
- Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund, 12 – 14 October, Bali Nusa Dua, Indonesia
- Alliance for Peacebuilding Annual Conference, 24 – 26 October, Washington, D.C.
- Paris Peace Forum, 11-13 November, Paris -- <https://parispeaceforum.org/>
- INCAF Director Level Meeting, 19 - 21 November, Paris

**We welcome your contributions for future editions of our Newsletter at: [info@cspps.org](mailto:info@cspps.org)**

**A final note: we care about your privacy, if you for any reason would like to no longer**

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[psl@cordaid.org](mailto:psl@cordaid.org)



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