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NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2017

We are delighted to share with you this second issue of CSPPS newsletter. This newsletter aims to keep CSPPS members and all our partners informed with news and developments which relate 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 CSPPS and the IDPS partnership.

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

Issue No 2 | December 2017

CSPPS UPDATES

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

[A Network for the Prevention of Violent Extremism in the Sahel](#)

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CSPPS Member in Nigeria Centre for Sustainable Development and Education in African ([CSDEA](#)) inaugurated a Network for the Prevention of Violent Extremism in the Sahel. The inaugural meeting of the Sahel Network for the Prevention of Violent Extremism (SNPVE) held on 27 and 28 November 2017, represented an opportunity to implement, on a long-term basis, the recommendations of [the CSPPS/CSDEA Research on the Role of Youth in Preventing Violent Extremism in the Lake Chad Basin](#). The meeting was attended by civil society actors from the Sahel-Maghreb region, which includes the Lake Chad Basin, to discuss and strengthen collaborative efforts aimed at preventing violent extremism and building peaceful societies in the region. CSPPS member organization in Chad, Centre d 'Etude sur la Paix, la sécurité et le Développement en Afrique and CSPPS Nigeria Country Team will be participating in this meeting to help strategize on how to prevent violent extremism in the Sahel countries. Find out more [here](#).

[Building Peace and Resilience in a Changing World – 2016 Annual Report](#)



It was with great pleasure that we released the 2016 **CSPPS Annual Report: Building Peace and Resilience in a Changing World**. The Annual Report 2016 showcases pioneering work of the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding ([CSPPS](#)) supporting the implementation of commitments made in context of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States and related policy processes. The report provides an overview of multiple initiatives and continuous efforts to shape and infuse the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding ([IDPS](#)), the actualization of the Sustainable Development Goals (i.e. SDG16+) and other related policy processes with peacebuilding values. Readers will find records of milestone events and other highlights of the

that lie at the heart of peacebuilding, statebuilding and conflict prevention. Next to this the Platform looks forward to continuing its partnership with colleague constituencies in context of the IDPS and through concerted meaningful and tangible action in g7+ countries and other fragile and conflict affected contexts. Please find the report via these links: [English version](#) & [French version](#).

Nigeria and the International Dialogue Membership



A Steering/Technical Committee meeting of the IDPS/New Deal was held on 14 November 2017 between Nigerian government ministries, UNDP, UNESCO, and civil society Organisations and think tanks to discuss the implementation plan for the New Deal in Nigeria. The Technical Committee is making progress with the development of a Program document on the IDPS/New Deal for Nigeria. Next to that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been making significant progress to get Nigeria to be an official member of the IDPS/g7+. Some members of the Steering Committee including CSPPS Country Team have been tasked to draft a comprehensive but short document on why Nigeria should sign on to the New Deal process. Once finalized, the document will be sent to the Nigerian President's office for his approval. More information on this process will be published on CSPPS website once available.

A Community-Centered Process for Peace and Sustainable Development



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[Inclusive, People and Community-Centered Peacebuilding and Development in Sierra Leone.](#) Healthy partnerships have been secured with the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development via its Minister, having attended the conference and extended his support throughout processes that followed the Inter-district learning conference. Recently, the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development has formed a new partnership with Fambul Tok International and [Catalyst for Peace](#) with the goal of supporting the development of **'Wan Fambul': National Framework for Inclusive Governance and Local Development.** The Framework aims to facilitate inclusive, community-centered sustainable development through the creation of transparent, accountable, collaborative, inclusive chiefdom and district infrastructures that are ultimately responsible for facilitating a National People's Planning Process (PPP); effectively supported by government, national and international civil society organizations and donors; leading to resilient communities across Sierra Leone. More details available [here](#).

From Words to Actions: Implementing SDG16 in Fragile and Conflict Affected States



Members of the CSPPS were invited by the World Federation of United Nations Associations ([WFUNA](#)) to join [the Inaugural Annual Showcase Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies – from words to action: implementing SDG 16 at the local and national level](#), from 30 October to 1st November 2017 in Tbilisi, Georgia. The Platform was represented in the Showcase by Peter van Sluijs, IDPS/CSO Coordinator & Cordaid Senior Strategist; Foday D.M. Sesay and Joao Boavida, respectively CSPPS Country Team members in Sierra Leone and Timor Leste. They were joined by [FriEnt](#) and [GPPAC](#) (CSPPS northern member organizations). In advance of the Inaugural Showcase, the CSPPS Secretariat contacted Joao and Foday to speak about their expectations for the conference. Read their perspectives [here](#). Find additional information on the showcase via these links ([Resources](#) & [News](#)).

In Need for a Paradigm Shift: Will the Visit of the UNSG to CAR Change Self-Imposition of MINUSCA?



Ahead of the visit of Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary General, to the Central African Republic on 24 October, members of the CSPPS (the National Coalition of Civil Society Organizations for the New Deal in CAR – CNOSC/New Deal) shared their perspectives on the

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three essential issues, among others, reflecting weaknesses of MINUSCA actions which has resulted in a lack of population trust: **(i) composition of MINUSCA, which has gradually been built up to over 90% by Muslim contingents;** **(ii) action of certain contingents directed solely towards the protection of the majority of armed groups judged by these contingents as belonging to a minority while they are strongly engaged in the conflict and (iii) lack of professionalism of certain contingents and appropriate response by MINUSCA forces to mass killings and the protection of civilians victims of armed conflict. Read their perspectives further [here](#).**

Consolidating a Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding



The National Forum on Debt and Poverty (FNDP), in collaboration with Côte d'Ivoire Ministry of Planning and Development, received financial support from the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) to launch Phase 2 of the project on the relevance and applicability of Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals ([New Deal](#)) in operationalizing the 2030 Agenda on 27 September 2017 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The launch of the Project on **'Strengthening and Consolidating the Dialogue Platform on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals (PSGs)'** was chaired by Dr. Yeo Nahoua, Chief of Staff in the Ministry of Planning and Development. The workshop was an opportunity to officially discuss how a New Deal principles approach can be of crucial importance in contextualizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The workshop was well-attended and aimed to present the project on strengthening and consolidation of the Platform for Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals to all New Deal stakeholders in the global SDGs context in Côte d'Ivoire. Read more on outcomes and perspectives [here](#).

Report Launch - Role of youth in violent-extremism in Lake Chad Basin

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In 2017, a study on the *Role of Young People in Preventing Violent Extremism in the Lake Chad Basin* was commissioned by the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding ([CSPPS](#)) in collaboration with the Centre for Sustainable Development and Education in Africa ([CSDEA](#)) as a contribution to the global progress study on youth's positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution. The objective of the study was to document the role of youth-led and youth-focused conflict and extremism prevention approaches that are dynamic and promote peacebuilding. The study report provides the key findings from the data collected from Cameroun, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, where the following extremist groups operate: (i) Ansar Dine (The Success of Islam); (ii) Boko Haram and (iii) Mujao (Movement for the Consolidation of Jihadist in West Africa). They are referred to as Al-Qaida in the Sahel. *You can download the full report [here](#), or read the summary of key findings and recommendations via this [link](#). Also read : UNDP - [Journey to Extremism in Africa](#).*

Partnership for Peace, Dignity for All



The International Day of Peace is observed around the world each year on 21 September. The [United Nations](#) has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. The theme of this year's commemoration is **"Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All"** which aims to highlight the importance of all segments of society to work together to strive for peace. As we celebrate International Day of Peace today, members of the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding ([CSPPS](#)), under the initiative of The Quaker United Nations Office ([QUONO](#)), have joined international

- Fully embrace the commitments to peace in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Balance national efforts with a focus on external drivers of peace, justice and inclusion
- Mainstream prevention, including in development, humanitarian action, and crisis response
- Protect and support civil society in fostering sustainable peace

Read full Peace Day Statement [here](#).

Cementing Partnerships to Address Vulnerabilities



A Fragility Assessment was held in the Union of the Comoros, starting from 21 to 23 June 2017 in Anjouan, from 29 June to 1st July 2017 in Mohéli and from mid-August in Comoros. This tripartite exercise, which brought together Government representatives, technical and financial partners and civil society organizations from the grass-roots level, was perceived a rather emblematic process for its inclusive nature throughout the whole process. This Country Team, set up following the [CSPPS Scoping mission](#) in the Comoros last February, is composed of 56 Civil Society Organizations of the Greater Comoros, 30 organizations of Anjouan and 20 organizations of Mohéli. For the CSPPS, a Fragility Assessment without active and meaningful representation of the civil society will not lead to an adequate identification of the root causes of fragility. Ahmed Youssouf, [CSPPS Focal Point in Comoros](#), participating in the evaluation session reported that progress is reported on some Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals ([PSG](#)). Read more [here](#).

A Role for Youth in promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies

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'The Role of Young People in Promoting Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies', a side event co-organised on 19 July by the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding ([CSPPS](#)), [UNDP](#), [UNPBSO](#), [Cordaid](#), Search for Common Ground ([SFCG](#)) and the United Network of Young Peacebuilders ([UNOY](#)), on behalf of [the Inter-Agency Working Group on Youth and Peacebuilding](#), in conjunction with the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development ([HLPF 2017](#)), discussed young people's role in promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies, by showcasing promising examples, innovations and by expressing and discussing challenges for meaningful participation by young people in peacebuilding. The event, moderated by Peter van Sluijs, Senior Strategist and CSPPS Coordinator at Cordaid, focused on three case countries namely Afghanistan, Libya, and Nigeria. Concluding the event, Peter alluded that there are still challenges for civil society to be part of what is supposed to be the transformative multi-stakeholder partnership approach in the operationalization of SDGs. Though membership driven, it should allow civil society – including youth organizations to be brought to the table, to be given the opportunity to partner and participate. This is a concern that civil society is trying to address at various levels. Peter continued that Goal 16, and all included in it, is an accelerator for success of the whole 2030 Agenda. He further suggested that there should be a review on what countries are doing to implement Goal 16 on an annual basis – as done with Goal 17. Peter urged for the need to progress on SDG16 both at national and international levels. If we are not doing that, we are missing the chance of making the 2030Agenda as success. *Read more [here](#) – watch side-event video recording [here](#)*

CSPPS Country Reports



society representative at country level. In this context, the CSPPS Secretariat, in collaboration with CSPPS Focal Points, issue reports that reports on how civil society engages in the New Deal implementation process in-country. Country reports provide evidence-based participation of civil society in Fragility Assessment process, National Development Plans, Compact, the work performed by the CSPPS Country Teams to include gender and youth in peacebuilding and statebuilding; early warning early response mechanism, how civil society is organised in-country, upcoming activities in context of country team and other related processes. Read **September and November** issues including country reports from [Guinea Conakry](#), [Nigeria](#), [Central African Republic](#) and [Nepal](#). You can also read previous edition [here](#).

UPDATES OF CSPPS MEMBER ORGANISATIONS & IDPS CONSTITUENCIES

Find out in this section a summary of events held by IDPS constituencies and CSPPS Member Organizations:

- [INCAF Director Level Meeting](#)

An INCAF Director Level Meeting was held in Paris on 7 November 2017 to discuss progress made against the INCAF 2016-2017 workplan, partnerships and INCAF priorities and actions going forward. Peter van Sluijs, CSPPS Coordinator represented the CSPPS in this meeting that also covered discussions on the IDPS Strategy, work programme and summary of IDPS Chairs Strategy Session (see update on IDPS Chairs session below). Read [communiqué](#) issued at the end of the INCAF Director Level Meeting.

- [Chairs' Informal Strategy and Planning Session: 'Opportunities for the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding \(IDPS\) in the Conflict Prevention and Sustaining Peace Landscape'](#)

On 20 October 2017, the IDPS organised an Informal Strategy and Planning to generate plans for ensuring the IDPS is well positioned within emerging agendas on inclusive prevention and on sustaining peace, and then to consult more widely in the Steering Group. The CSPPS was represented in this meeting by its Coordinator and Cordaid Senior Strategist, Peter van Sluijs. Read Session summary [here](#).

- [Interpeace – Towards a New Balance in Guinea Bissau: Creating Spaces for Women's Participation in Governance and Conflict Resolution](#)

Women's participation in governance is essential to ensure sustainable peace in conflict-affected regions of the world. Interpeace current work in [Guinea-Bissau](#), carried out with its partner organization and CSPPS Focal Point Organization [Voz di Paz](#), with the support of the [UN Peacebuilding Fund](#), seeks to promote the participation of women in decision-making spheres,

participation in decision-making, and learn about possible solutions that can lead to positive change. These results of the consultation were presented at a National Conference held in the capital Bissau on October 10-11, 2017. The purpose of the National Conference was to enrich, validate and debate these results as well as explore possible solution paths. [Read more.](#)

- **[Interpeace – A Strategy for Inclusive Peacebuilding](#)**

Inclusivity is the first step towards positive social change, CSPPS member organization Interpeace recently released an update on its Strategy for Inclusive Peacebuilding. The update features how this strategy has been applied in many countries including Cote d'Ivoire and Somalia (both [g7+ countries](#)). Detailed strategy is available [here](#).

- **[Making SDG 16 Work for the Rule of Law and Access to Justice](#)**

On September 28th, 2017, the Institute for Economics and Peace ([IEP](#)) together with [the Carnegie Foundation](#), [The Hague Institute for Global Justice](#), [The Hague University of Applied Sciences](#), [Humanity X](#), [Cordaid](#), the Civil Society Platform for Peace and Statebuilding ([CSPPS](#)) and The [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands](#) organised a public event in the Peace Palace in The Hague and presented SDG16 report and discussed the current situation around Goal 16. The event served as a milestone in providing an important benchmark against which to gauge progress towards meeting Goal 16. At the same time, it was meant to begin a debate and a process to look at developing ways to advance progress on SDG 16. Following the event in the Peace Palace, a [one-day roundtable discussion](#) with several members of g7+ countries took place, bringing together recent national and third-party perspectives and experiences on monitoring and measurements and reflect on the difficulties faced. Peter van Sluijs, Cordaid Senior Strategist and Coordinator of IDPS/CSO Secretariat represented the CSPPS in the public event. The g7+ Secretariat was represented by Dr. Helder Da Costa, Secretary General of the g7+ and Mr. Habib Ur Rehman Mayar, Deputy Secretary General of the g7+. Read the recent IEP Report: [SDGs 16 Report](#), a comprehensive global audit of progress on available [SDG 16](#) indicators. Read draft meeting report [here](#).

- **[The g7+ High Level Side Events on 'Promoting Justice: Accelerating Progress towards SDGs16' and 'Pursuit of Peace through Nationally Owned Mechanism'](#)**

The above High-Level Side Events were co-hosted by the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone and Permanent Mission of Timor-Leste on 20 September 2017 in the margin of the 72nd United Nations General Assembly. The Justice meeting discussed and explored concrete ways in which will be guided international assistance to improve the Justice sector in g7+ countries on strengthening institutions and capacitating judges and lawyers. The second-High Level Dialogue on Pursuit of Peace was held to capture meaningful perspectives and increase members' awareness on the national ownership and leadership in pursuit of sustainable peace in g7+ countries through

- **[Knowledge Platform on Security and Rule of Law - Annual Conference](#)**

On 7th September 2017, the CSPPS, represented by its Coordinator, Peter van Sluijs, was invited to attend the [Knowledge Platform on Security and Rule of Law's](#) 2017 Annual Conference titled **'Achieving Security and Justice for All: Elephants in the Room'**. The conference focus was on the contentious things usually ignored when working on peace, security & rule of law. CSPPS, Cordaid and UNOY Peacebuilders organised a panel discussion on Youth, Peace and Security as part of the programme of the Knowledge Platform Annual Conference. Read the report of discussions [here](#).

- **[The g7+ Technical Meeting – Pathways Towards Resilience](#)**

The CSPPS Executive Committee mandated its Chairperson (Guy Aho Tete Benissan) to attend the g7+ Technical Meeting from 24 to 25 July 2017 in Lisbon, Portugal. The technical meeting was a good opportunity to find pathways to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to celebrate the inauguration of the new g7+ European Hub based in Lisbon. During the meeting, CSPPS Chair flagged that national judicial system in almost all ECOWAS countries is considerably weakened and no longer enjoys public confidence. He further explained that however many citizens trust the ECOWAS Court of Justice which is the principal judiciary organ of the community. Guy made a call to participants on behalf of civil society, stressing the importance of adequate resources to continue civil society work of informing and sensitizing the community on methods of court procedures. Guy urged the g7+ to develop partnership with ECOWAS for learning and sharing best practices. In closing, Guy called for actions at national level, encouraging countries that have not yet conducted Fragility Assessment to embark of this crucial step to identify root causes of conflict and issues.

- **[UNOY and Search for Common Ground Global Survey \(Mapping a Sector : Bridging the Evidence Gap on Youth-Driven Peacebuilding\)](#)**

The [UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security](#), adopted in December 2015, requested the UN Secretary-General 'to carry out a [Progress Study](#) on the youth's positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution'. In 2016, UNOY Peacebuilders and Search for Common Ground developed a Global Survey of Youth-Led Organisations Working on Peace and Security as a contribution to the Progress Study. Mapping a Sector Bridging the Evidence Gap on Youth-Driven Peacebuilding is a descriptive analysis of the 399 responses from youth-led Organisations to the Global Survey. It provides a snapshot and a broad overview of the activities, achievements, strengths and needs of youth-led Organisations as reported by them. The Survey report was presented at the CSPPS Side-Event ['The Role of Young People in Promoting Peaceful and Just Societies'](#) organised on 19 July in the margin of the High-Level Political Forum. Download the Mapping Sector Report [here](#).

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BLOGS

- CSPPS Country Team in Liberia : [Elections and the Future Agenda of Liberia - a needed focus on youth engagement and participation.](#)
- CSPPS: [Persistent Challenges in Implementing United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325: CSPPS Representatives Reflections on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda](#)
- Cordaid/CSPPS : [SDGs Bound to Fail Without Meaningful Participation of Civil Society](#)
- Saferworld: [Keeping the SDGs on track: did the 2017 UN High-Level Political Forum do its job?](#)

PUBLICATIONS

See below links to some interesting publications:

- UNOSSC/g7+ : [Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation – Volunteerism, Cooperation & Solidarity \(2017\)](#)
- FriEnt : [Empowering Youth to Build and Sustain Peace – Status review two years after the adoption of UNSCR 2250](#)
- CSPPS Brochure 2017 – [Working Towards Peaceful and Inclusive Societies in Fragile & Conflict Affected States](#)
- EVE Organization for Women Development (CSPPS Member in South Sudan) : [South Sudan Women's Position on Durable Peace and Reconciliation](#)
- Global Peace Index : [Positive Peace Report](#) & [SDG16 Progress Report](#)
- Saferworld : [Annual Review 2016-2017](#) & [Lessons on Counter-Terror and Countering Violent Extremism](#)
- [World Bank – United Nations Pathways for Peace Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict](#)

KEY UPCOMING EVENTS

- IDPS Consultation Workshop : Engendering Gender-centred Inclusivity in Somalia's National Development Planning and Partnership Agreement Development Process - 11 December 2017, Nairobi, Kenya.
- [Symposium on Governance for Implementation the Sustainable Development Commitments in Africa](#), 11 to 13 December 2017, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- [Monitoring and reporting progress on SDG16](#) - 13 December 2017, Berlin, Germany
- [Youth for Peace - Challenges & changes of strengthening youth participation](#) - 14 December 2017, Berlin, Germany
- CSPPS Core Group Meeting - February/March 2017
- World Bank Fragility, Conflict and Violence Forum - March 2017

We welcome your contributions for future editions of our Newsletter at: info@cspps.org

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