

We are delighted to release this second issue of the CSPPS newsletter.

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We are delighted to release this second issue of the CSPPS newsletter. This newsletter aims to keep CSPPS members and 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 the CSPPS.

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

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The Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) is a 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, peacebuilding and statebuilding as a critical contribution to crisis prevention and sustainable peace and development for all.

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.

Dreaming about Peace in the Central African Republic (CAR)



Photo Credit: CSPPS Secretariat

Following the recent signing of the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan (RCPCA), the Central African Republic (CAR) finds itself today at the doorstep to embark on a challenging process that is set to propel the country out of fragility and build the foundations for resilience and sustainable peace. However, significant and urgent challenges remain to be addressed, as the CAR starts to recover from more than two years of armed conflict and poor governance. On 8 June 2017, [Cordaid](#) in collaboration with the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding ([CSPPS](#)) and the Békou Trust Fund of the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development ([DEVCO](#)) hosted a workshop entitled '[Supporting partnerships for sustainable peace in the CAR](#)' during the European. The session gave a platform to national authorities and civil society from the Central African Republic, together with the donor community to debate the foundations and needs for building sustainable peace in the CAR using the [New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States](#). Full session report and recording can be accessed [here](#).



Photo credit: Cordaid

The Federal Government of Nigeria in partnership with the CSPPS Country Team in Nigeria organized a well-attended and successful consultative conference on 11th May 2017 focusing on [the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding](#) and [the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States](#). During the conference, a National Plan for the implementation of the [New Deal principles](#) was unveiled and the Federal Committee has been tasked to develop a National Action Plan within a month's time to give way to further implementation of these agreements in the context of Nigeria. The Honorable Khadija Buka A. Ibrahim - Minister of State for Foreign Affairs graced the event alongside high-level representatives from relevant government ministries, security agencies and civil society. Prominent donors present in the country were also in attendance and pledged to support the New Deal Implementation in Nigeria. Among those presents were the African Regional Director for UNESCO and the Ambassadors of Finland and Norway. The Nigerian government has expressed its expectations for receiving a formal invitation from the International Dialogue (signed by the Dialogue Co-chairs – Sweden and Sierra Leone) to join the Dialogue ranks and become a member and participant in the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding. This is a milestone and ... [Read more](#)

Comoros - Coalesce Civil Society coalition for greater coordination



Pictured: Moroni Civil Society Workshop (Ph. Cr. CSPPS Secretariat)

A CSPPS delegation composed of Peter van Sluijs (Coordinator of the CSPPS Secretariat) and Georges Tshionza Mata (Regional Coordinator of PREGESCO and CSPPS EC Member) conducted a scoping mission from 19 to 24 February 2017 to galvanize coordination mechanisms among Comorian civil society actors to ensure their active and dynamic contributions to the New Deal Implementation and relevant other policy processes in context of Comoros. The mission was incited by the Comorian Civil Society call to CSPPS for a scoping mission that was to help build capacity and solidify the participation of Civil Society in New Deal processes both at country and international levels. During the mission, a broad consultation within Comorian Civil Society representatives was conducted for the constitution of a CSPPS Country Team and the selection of a Focal Point aimed to ensure districts continuous engagement in various New Deal processes. The mission and the delegation presence in Comoros facilitated outreach to key governmental stakeholders and development partners to catalyze a dialogue process that is to be further build on. The mission and various meetings held have been instrumental to advocate for the importance of meaningful civil society involvement in New Deal and related policy processes. [Read more](#)

Empowering Civil Society to ensure an Inclusive Validation of Guinea Bissau's Fragility Assessment



Pictured: Guinean Civil Society during the Country Team Formation Workshop (Ph.Cr. Voz di Paz)

As part of the New Deal implementation and strengthening of civil society organizations (CSOs) role in Guinea-Bissau, Voz di Paz in collaboration with the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) organized a training workshop for Guinea Bissau civil society from 6 to 8 February 2017 at Hotel Lisboa, Bissau. The workshop, facilitated by Mr. Georges Tshionza Mata (CSPPS DRC Focal Point and here also as UNDP Consultant), aimed at (i) preparing civil society and ensuring its full participation in the New Deal process and (ii) consolidating its contribution into the process of the validation of Guinea Bissau Fragility Assessment report. [More details here](#) on Country Team Training, composition and its participation in the validation of the Guinea Bissau Fragility Assessment.

Sierra Leone Youth takes center stage



Photo credit: Cordaid

On 28 February 2017, the Youth Partnership for Peace and Development (YPPD) in Sierra Leone in close partnership with the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding organized a launch event of the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security, to honor this landmark resolution in an official ceremony. The Resolution was officially launched in Sierra Leone by Mr. Anthony A. Koroma, Commissioner, National Youth Commission. The event brought together well over one hundred and twenty representatives from the government, civil society organizations, youth activists, academics, some CSPPS members such as Cordaid, Search for Common Ground, United Network of Young Peacebuilders, as well as UN agencies, such as UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women and FAO to discuss challenges and opportunities for greater youth engagement in the country's future. CSPPS was represented in this meeting by Peter van Sluijs, Coordinator of the CSPPS Secretariat and Senior Strategist at Cordaid. More on event outcomes can be read [here](#).

Comoros Country Team reaches out to New Deal stakeholders



Pictured: CSPPS Country Team and UNDP Representative in Moroni (Ph. Cr. MOSC)

From March to April 2017, the CSPPS Country Team in Comoros held multiply meetings with government and partners to introduce the country team and strengthen dialogue between civil society, government and partners. These meetings were held following the CSPPS mission in Comoros (February 2017) which aimed to raise awareness of Comorian Civil Society on the relevance of strategic and structural engagement of Civil Society as key partner in the New Deal process. The Country Team met with following individuals and institutions: President of Comoros Court of First Instance; Council of the island of Ngazidja; Secretary General of the Government; Commissioner General; The UNDP Resident Coordinator; the Coordinator of the European Union and the Association of mayors of Comoros.

Key results:

- Comorian government has proposed to hold a workshop which will involve all development actors (government, partners, legislative institutions, justice and civil society) to establish a partnership between the State and Civil Society, this was previously inexistent.
- The UN System Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative have agreed to fund this workshop:
 - To officially launch the CSPPS Country Team established on 24 February 2017

- To promote the role of CSOs to have a unique voice in the country's sustainable development objectives

As of June 13, the Country Team organized a workshop with a focus on PSG4, "Economic Foundations". The agenda of the workshop focused on updating the spectrum of fragility in Comoros, which is part of the national process, currently reviewing the Stratégie de Croissance Accélérée de Développement Durable (SCA2D) to align it with the new priorities of the Government of on the other hand, integrating the SDGs and the objectives of the African Union agenda 2063 in the document is already launched on 13 June. The House of Civil Society Organizations (MOSC) is actively involved in the process. The same work will be organized in the coming days in the islands (in Anjouan and Mohéli), a representative of the House of Civil Society Organizations (MOSC) is invited to accompany the delegation to the islands. The chairman of the MOSC country focal point appointed the head of PSG 4 Mr. Ibrahim Ali Soilih to accompany the mission in the islands to represent the country team of the CSPPS.

Recent changes in CSPPS Focal Point Coordination Arrangement

- **Guinea Conakry** (Organisation pour le développement durable et intégré de la Guinée – ODDI Guinée): A Country Team Consultation was held in Guinea on 8 March 2017 resulting in the nomination of a new CSPPS Focal Point in Guinea Conakry, Mr. Amadou Sara Diallo.
- **Democratic Republic of Congo** (Programme de Renforcement des Capacités de la Société Civile dans la Prévention et la Gestion des Conflits en Afrique Centrale – PREGESCO): Having accepted a new position in a DRC World Bank funded project, Georges Tshionza Mata has left the DRC Country Team since end March. He is replaced by Mr. Jean Kenge (PREGESCO).
- **Somalia** (*IIDA Women's Development Organisation*): Ms. Deqa Yasin, CSPPS Focal Point in Somalia, has become the newly sworn in cabinet Ministers of the Federal Government of Somalia as the Minister for Women and Human Rights Development. The new Focal Point coordination arrangement in Somalia will be communicated in due course.
- **Togo** (Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in West Africa – FECCIWA): Mr. Tolbert Jallah, CSPPS Focal Point in Togo has left his position within FECCIWA, CSPPS Focal Point Organization in Togo. The new Focal Point coordination arrangement in Togo will be communicated in due course.

CSPPS Country reports

CSPPS supports coordinated local civil society engagement in the implementation of New Deal for engagement in fragile states; strategic support is provided through consultations with the civil society representative at country level. The Country Team is supported in processes related to New Deal implementation. The goal is to provide

Secretariat, in collaboration with CSPPS Focal Points, has developed Country reports concerning 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. CSPPS Country reports published during the first semester are available [here](#).

UPDATES FROM THE g7+ AND THE INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE

Find out in this section a summary of events held by constituencies of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS):

Global Conference on 'Realising the 2030 Agenda in Difficult situations' - Dili, Timor Leste

The Government of Timor-Leste, in partnership with members of the informal High-Level Support Group for SDGs, and the [g7+](#), organised **'The Global Conference on the 2030 Agenda: A Roadmap for SDGs in Fragile and Conflict-affected States'** on 22 and 23 May 2017 in Dili, Timor-Leste. The conference brought together Ministers and high-level officials from g7+ member countries, conflict affected countries, development partners, donors, civil society organizations and private sector to discuss how to advance the 2030 Agenda in the most difficult and fragile situations. The Conference provided a platform to discuss and share lessons on specific challenges facing fragile and conflict-affected countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Peter van Sluijs, Coordinator of the CSPPS, was invited to participate as a distinguished speaker in the session entitled **'Peace as the Precursor to Sustainable Development'**. During his remarks, he highlighted the importance of a dialogue to jointly build on and strengthen existing pockets of resilience and reinforcing elements that will help a country exit from fragility. Peter further explained that civil society can and is playing a key and constructive role in addressing grievances, work actively on reconciliation efforts and invest in programmes that bolster social cohesion - all this aimed at further conflict prevention and working towards sustaining peace. See [highlights](#) of the Global Conference for more information.

Also read [Timor Leste's Roadmap for the Implementation of 2030 Agenda and SDGs](#) launched during the Global Conference.

The g7+ Technical Meeting in Dili

From 23 - 24 November 2016, the g7+ held a technical meeting on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The purposes of the meeting were to review a list of proposed indicators for the g7+ to

Delegates from the g7+ countries outlined what they had achieved in recent months. This varied a lot, from being well advanced in prioritising targets and indicators and identifying responsible ministries, to having made little progress – this was especially true for states facing active conflict or other disruption. Participants agreed to proceed with the implementation of revised indicators and countries will appoint focal persons to liaise and coordinate with the g7+ Secretariat on SDG indicator monitoring and reporting. For more information on this meeting, please contact the g7+ Secretariat: g7plus.secretariat@gmail.com.

Meetings of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding

On 19th and 20th April, the IDPS held the Implementation Working Group and the 20th Steering Group meetings (SGM) respectively. The 20th SGM was held in the margins of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Spring Meetings. Following the endorsement of the International Dialogue Strategy, this meeting was an important decision-making opportunity for Steering Group members to agree on the programme of work of the next biennium. Steering Group members also had an opportunity to discuss the modalities for supporting New Deal implementation through the Implementation Working Group. The CSPPS was represented in this meeting by Mahboub Seraj (CSPPS Focal Point in Afghanistan), Lulseged Abebe and Peter van Sluijs (CSPPS EC members), Erin McCandless (CSPPS IWG co-chair) and Gwendolyn Myers (CSPPS Liberian CT-member and youth representative).

CSPPS PARTNERS

Read in this section news from CSPPS partners

UNDP Youth for Peace Portal

We are proud to invite you to visit CSPPS page available on UNDP Youth for Peace Global Knowledge Portal. The portal is a new multi-stakeholder partnership between the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), Search for Common Ground (SfCG) and the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY), working together through the inter-agency Working Group on Youth & Peacebuilding. The online platform, launched in 2016 to promote and support the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security, is hosted by UNDP Youth-GPS with support from the Oslo Governance Centre. To keep up with CSPPS activities and other Youth-led initiatives, you need to sign-up

[UNDP New Deal Facility Highlights - Quarter 1 of 2017](#) : featuring activities from the first quarter, activities planned for the second quarter, and other related New Deal activities

CSPPS MEMBERSHIP

The CSPPS strives to enlarge its membership to include more Southern and Northern Civil Society Organisations. In this context, the CSPPS welcomed the following new member organizations in the last semester:

Northern organizations: [The Council for International Conflict Resolution \(RIKO\)](#) (Denmark); [Search for Common Ground](#) (SFCG – USA).

Southern Organizations : [Youth without Borders Organization for Development](#) (YWBOD) ; [La Maison des Organisations de la Société Civile](#) (MOSC – Comoros) ; [Voz di Paz](#), a peacebuilding initiative in Guinea Bissau

As of 24 March 2017, the CSPPS has a new Executive Committee (EC) composition (*New EC member):

EC Members	Organization
Guy Aho Tete Benissan	REPAOC (Senegal/Regional)
Lisette Mavungu*	PREGESCO (DRC)
Marc Baxmann*	FriEnt (Germany)
Mouldjide Ngarygam*	FOJET (Chad)
Pascalie Barampama	Réseau Femmes et Paix (Burundi)
Foday D.M. Sesay	DADA (Sierra Leone)
Lulsegged Abebe	International Alert (Addis Ababa)
Peter van Sluijs	CSPPS Secretariat - Cordaid (Netherlands)

You may also wish to view the list of CSPPS Focal Points Organisations available [here](#).

If your organization works on issues relating to peacebuilding, statebuilding and conflict prevention and is willing

MEDIA AND BLOG

Press Release

On various occasions, the CSPPS published press releases to inform the public (media) of recent developments in the Platform context. Read via link below a press release published during the last semester.

Sierra Leone : [Building Peaceful, Inclusive & Resilient Societies while taking Youth along](#)

Blog

CSPPS Secretariat has recently developed a Blog page on the CSPPS website. The Blog has been developed to enable CSPPS members and partners in the International Dialogue context to provide blog contributions, in either French or English, on any issues relevant to peacebuilding and statebuilding. Blog articles could include, but should not be limited to, operationalization of New Deal and SDGs in Fragile and Conflict Affected States; efforts to ensure inclusive participatory processes; Peacebuilding and Statebuilding; Conflict prevention; Early warning mechanism; Inclusivity; Youth and gender in Peace-statebuilding; Electoral processes; New Deal and SDG linkages and the role of civil society therein. All interested bloggers can email blog articles for review at info@cspps.org. Read some of our latest Blog posts:

- [Forging Coherence on Two Vital Agendas for Sustainable Peace and Development - The Agenda 2030 and Sustaining Peace](#) – Erin McCandless, CSPPS Core Group Member
- [Looking Back with Pride, Moving Forward with Confidence - Reflections on role of civil society in the New Deal](#) – Georges Tshionza Mata (Former CSPPS DRC Focal Point) & Mireille Kabasubabo (CSPPS Policy and Communications Officer)

[do with it](#)) – Theophilus Ekpon, Executive Director (CSDEA) & CSPPS Focal Point in Nigeria

- [The 2030 Agenda's commitment to peaceful, just and inclusive societies – making it count](#), Anna Moller-Loswick, Saferworld

UPCOMING EVENTS

- CSPPS EC Meeting (face to face) – Fall 2017
- CSPPS Core Group Meeting (face to face) – November 2017
- CSPPS/UNDP Youth/UNOY Side Event at High Level Political Forum: 19 July 2017 - More information soon available on [CSPPS Website](#).
- CSPPS Session entitled 'Partnership for Sustaining Peace' at the [European Union Partnership Forum](#): 6 July 2017 - Please find information on the programme [here](#).

PUBLICATIONS

See below links to some interesting publications:

- [Preventing Violence: Community-based Approaches to Early Warning and Early Response](#) - Steven Leach, Author and Consultant for the Centre for Security Studies, Zurich
- Amnesty International rapport 'Human Rights Defenders Under Threat - [A shrinking space for civil society](#)
- [Fragility Assessments: Where the Dialogue Needs to Go - CSPPS Perspective](#) - CSPPS
- [Realization of the SDGs in Countries Affected by Conflict and Fragility: The Role of the New Deal](#) - IDPS
- ["Timor-Leste Strategic Review: Progress and Success in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 2"](#) - The [Centre of Studies for Peace and Development \(CEPAD\)](#) in partnership with [Johns Hopkins University](#)
- [Saferworld: Civil society observes Somalia's 2016 electoral process](#)
- [Shouldn't YOU be Countering Violent Extremism?](#) - Larry Attree, Saferworld
- [Peace and Conflict Report: June 2017](#) - Insights on Conflict
- Also take a look at CSPPS publications [here](#).

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



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