



CSO FORUM 2016

EU Engagement with Civil
Society and for Human Rights

17-18 MARCH 2016

TURNING BIG PLEDGES
INTO LOCAL CHANGES

L'Arsenal, Chaussée de Wavre 950, 1040 Brussels

The 2016 edition of the CSO Forum will bring together civil society organisations (CSOs) from both the international development and human rights constituencies with European Institutions and Member States. The Forum's purpose is to further the implementation of:

- The EU policy shift towards supporting the enabling environment, participation and capacity of civil society as an actor of governance, as enshrined in its 2012 Communication, 'The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations'.
- The strong EU commitment to promote and protect human rights, the rule of law and democracy worldwide, as outlined in the 'Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy', the second version of which was adopted in 2015.

This Forum is organised with other events such as the Policy Forum for Development, the dialogue with private sector representatives, the Development Education and Awareness Raising multi-stakeholder meeting, turning this week into a 'Civil Society Week'.

Tapping into the wealth of experience and innovative practices in different constituencies, the Forum's purpose as an interactive platform is to spark a constructive dialogue and gather feedback on best practices to help the EU institutions further develop adequate operational responses to complex and evolving challenges in the field.

The CSO Forum will enhance implementation of the:

- Three priorities of the 2012 Communication, 'The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations';
- Three objectives of the 2014-2020 Thematic Programme 'Civil Society and Local Authorities';
- Seven outcomes described in the European Union's 2012 Strategic Framework on Human Rights and Democracy; and
- Five objectives of the newly adopted 2015-2019 Human Rights and Democracy Action Plan.

The CSO Forum will focus on three threads:

- Civil society's enabling environment, and threats thereto, have been extensively discussed in numerous forums and reports. This thread will address the recommendations made by assessing the concrete adaptations required and discuss the possible responses to observed trends, including operational innovations and projects. See pages 8-15.
- Working with CSOs at the grassroots level is one of the EU's strategic goals for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Convinced that CSOs are drivers of change, the EU has become the first donor to CSOs based in partner countries. This thread will discuss how to more effectively support local CSOs in their roles as independent development actors and local change-makers. See pages 16-24.
- EU instruments for civil society and human rights: The EU has developed a diverse set of financial tools for civil society and human rights, including innovative support models, amounting to EUR 2 billion annually. This thread will inform and consult participants on the concrete use of these tools and mechanisms available at global, continental and country level. See pages 25-37.

At the venue, participants will have the opportunity to book on-the-spot personal meetings:

MEET WITH OUR FUNDING EXPERTS



At dedicated desks to explain EU instruments and technical application tools (EIDHR, ProtectDefenders.eu, CSO-LA, DEAR, PROSPECT and PADOR), Forum participants will receive practical answers to their technical queries on procedures, financial and project requirements or the timeline of upcoming calls for proposals. Additionally, specific workshops will consult participants on upcoming calls for proposals.

PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY



Front Line Defenders will welcome any representative for one-on-one digital security consultations as well as digital training sessions on securing social networks, alternatives to Skype or identity theft. At the cyber clinic, participants will receive concrete advice and practical toolboxes to protect field practitioners from the risks of cyber-censorship and identity theft.

JOIN PROSPECT AND PADOR



PROSPECT is the new EU online system to submit paperless applications for calls for proposals. It has proven to be an intuitive system and has scored high in user satisfaction. Nonetheless, we stand ready to answer your queries regarding your online application.

CONNECT WITH THE COMMUNITY



Capacity4dev.eu gathers a community of more than 18 000 development practitioners and advocates in more than 390 thematic or country-specific groups. The platform enables members to share articles, posts, videos and documents to facilitate the exchange of practices and knowledge sharing.



VISIT THE EXHIBITION

Throughout the venue, participants will be able to enjoy an exhibition of cartoons by 28 cartoonists members of Cartooning for Peace, one from each EU Member State. Cartooning for Peace is an international network of committed press cartoonists who fight with humour for the respect of cultures and freedom. Visit: <http://www.cartooningforpeace.org>



ACCESS THE VENUE

The venue has been selected on the basis of its quality/price ratio while taking into account accessibility requirements. We are prepared to accommodate the needs of participants requesting specific assistance. During the Forum, dedicated staff is available upon request.



THURSDAY 17 MARCH 2016

AUDITORIUM 1		AUDITORIUM 2		AUDITORIUM 3		ROOM 4		ROOM 5		
WELCOME AND OPENING PLENARY										
09:00 11:00	EXPLORE 08 GRASSROOTS LEVEL		EXPLORE 09 GRASSROOTS LEVEL		EXPLORE 01 ENABLING ENVIRONMENT		INFORM 01 PROTECTDEFENDERS.EU		INFORM 02 TALD	
	Supporting Civil Society in Fragile Environments		CSOs and Political Society: The Challenges of Non-Partisanship		Making a Rights-Based Approach a Reality: Lessons from the Field		European Union Human Rights Defenders Mechanism: ProtectDefenders.eu		Territorial Approach to Local Development: An Effective Way to Implement the 2030 Agenda?	
PAGE 17		PAGE 18		PAGE 9		PAGE 30		PAGE 31		
BURUNDIAN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS										
RESTRICTED WORKING LUNCH										
LUNCH										
13:00 14:00										

14:00 15:30	EXPLORE 10 GRASSROOTS LEVEL Increasing the Resilience of Women, Youth and Children in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations		PAGE 19	EXPLORE 02 ENABLING ENVIRONMENT Funding for Civil Society and Human Rights: Up or Down?		PAGE 10	EXPLORE 03 ENABLING ENVIRONMENT Enabling Civil Society Participation: Lessons from Budget Support		PAGE 11	14:00 15:00 INFORM 03 PANAF PROGRAMME CSO Support in the Pan-African Programme		PAGE 32	14:00 15:00 CONSULT 01 EIDHR CALL 2016 Consultation on the Fight Against Torture and Ill-treatment		PAGE 26
	COFFEE BREAK														
15:30 16:00															
	EXPLORE 04 ENABLING ENVIRONMENT Confronting the Shrinking Space: Supporting Human Rights Defenders		PAGE 12	CONSULT 3 REVISION OF POLICIES The Future EU-ACP Relationship: What Role for Non-State Actors?		PAGE 27	EXPLORE 11 GRASSROOTS LEVEL The Indigenous Navigator: Monitoring a Rights-Based Approach		PAGE 20	15:15 16:15 INFORM 04 EU TRUST FUND Emergency Trust Fund for Stability and Addressing Root Causes of Irregular Migration and Displaced Persons in Africa		PAGE 33	15:15 16:15 CONSULT 02 EIDHR CALL 2016 Consultation on Business and Human Rights		PAGE 26
16:00 17:30															
										16:30 17:30 INFORM 05 EU TRUST FUND European Trust Fund for the Central African Republic		PAGE 34	16:30 17:30 CONSULT 04 INCUBATOR What is the Potential for a EU CSO Incubator Programme?		PAGE 28

NETWORKING DINNER & CSOs' GOT TALENT!



FRIDAY 18 MARCH 2016

AUDITORIUM 1		AUDITORIUM 2		AUDITORIUM 3		ROOM 4		ROOM 5	
09:30 11:00	EXPLORE 05 ENABLING ENVIRONMENT	EXPLORE 12 GRASSROOTS LEVEL	EXPLORE 06 ENABLING ENVIRONMENT	INFORM 06 CITY SHELTERS	CONSULT 05 EIDHR CALL 2016				
	GSP+ and Free Trade Agreements: CSO Participation in EU Trade Instruments PAGE 13	Climate Conflicts, Climate Migrants: The Role of Civil Society in the Sahel PAGE 21	Dodging a Darwinian Dilemma: Shaping a New CSO Donorship PAGE 14	City Shelters: Relocating Human Rights Defenders PAGE 35	Consultation on the Rights of Persons belonging to Minorities and Persons affected by Caste-based Discriminations PAGE 28				
11:00 11:30	COFFEE BREAK								
11:30 13:00	EXPLORE 07 ENABLING ENVIRONMENT	EXPLORE 13 GRASSROOTS LEVEL	EXPLORE 14 GRASSROOTS LEVEL	INFORM 08 EU TRUST FUND	CONSULT 07 EIDHR CALL 2016				
	Measuring the Enabling Environment: Synergies and Challenges PAGE 15	New Approaches to Deradicalisation: The Role of Civil Society PAGE 22	EU Country Roadmaps for Engagement with Civil Society PAGE 23	European Union Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis PAGE 37	Consultation on Women Human Rights Defenders or Human Rights Defenders defending Women Rights PAGE 29				
13:00 14:00	LUNCH								
14:00 14:30	FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS				EU RELOCATION PLATFORM				
	RESTRICTED WORKING LUNCH				RESTRICTED WORKING LUNCH				
SIGNING CEREMONY					SIGNING CEREMONY				
Framework Partnership Agreements PAGE 24					Framework Partnership Agreements PAGE 24				

SPECIAL ADDRESS AND CLOSING PLENARY

THURSDAY 17 MARCH – 09:00-11:00

WELCOME*WELCOME***JEAN-LOUIS VILLE**

Director of Human Development and Migration (f.f.), European Commission

ROSÁRIO BENTO PAIS

Head of Unit for Civil Society, Local Authorities, European Commission

PRESENTATION OF THE CSO FORUM'S FACILITIES

- Visit the Cyber Clinic against cyber-security threats
- Meet our funding experts at dedicated helpdesks

*FEEDBACK FROM THE POLICY FORUM FOR DEVELOPMENT (PFD)***DR SIFA CHIYOGÉ**

Director, International Cooperative Alliance – Africa

*EU SUPER THURSDAY**A voting session to break the ice***OPENING PLENARY**

Introduction by **Jean-Louis Ville**, Director of Human Development and Migration (f.f.), European Commission

RAMI ABDUL RAHMAN

Founder and Director of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights

MAINA KIAI

United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association

ULRIKE LUNACEKMember of the European Parliament
Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance
Vice-President of the European Parliament

FRIDAY 18 MARCH – 14:30-16:00

SPECIAL ADDRESS**KAMEL JENDOUBI**Minister for Relations with Constitutional Institutions and Civil Society,
Tunisia**CLOSING PLENARY****NEVEN MIMICA**

European Commissioner for Development and International Cooperation

CLOSING PANEL

Moderated by **Rosário Bento Pais**, Head of Unit for Civil Society, Local Authorities,
European Commission

PIERRE CLAVER MBONIMPAFounder of the Association for the Protection of Human Rights (APRODH),
Burundi**TETET LAURON**Chairperson of the Board, Asia-Pacific Research Network (APRN)
Co-Chair of the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE)**HENRI TIPHAGNE**Executive Director of People's Watch India
Laureate of the Amnesty International Human Rights Award 2016

THREAD ONE**CSOs' ENABLING ENVIRONNEMENT**

Building on the conclusions of the December 2015 EU-NGO Human Rights Forum on 'Protecting and Promoting Civil Society Space', the Forum sessions under this thread will:

- Widen the debate to include civil society actors from both the international development and human rights constituencies; and
- Focus on discussing the concrete and operational responses to the issue.

CSOs' ENABLING ENVIRONMENT – EXPLORE 01**MAKING A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH A REALITY: LESSONS FROM THE FIELD**

THURSDAY 17 MARCH – 11:30-13:00 – AUDITORIUM 3

Human rights and development are inextricably linked. Human rights and development strategies are mutually reinforcing and complementary. They have the same ultimate objective to improve human well-being and freedom, based on the inherent dignity and equality of all people.

Following the adoption of the Agenda for Change and the Strategic Framework on Human Rights and Democracy in 2012, the EU committed to move towards a rights-based approach for development cooperation, encompassing all human rights. The European Commission has started to implement this important shift. A toolbox has been guiding the implementing by EU staff of a rights-based approach since 2014.

Building on lessons learnt from concrete experiments in Asia, Latin America and Africa, this session will explore the role civil society can play in pushing a national government to endorse a rights-based approach to development as well as its role in monitoring its concrete implementation. The session will also assess the state of play of the integration of the rights-based approach in EU development cooperation and discuss its added value in sensitive contexts where it might be difficult to work openly on human rights.

ANDREA KÄMPF

Senior Policy Adviser, German Institute for Human Rights

FANNY LAFOURCADE

Programme Manager, Human Rights, Gender, Democratic Governance Unit, European Commission

SANTOS SHARMA

Emergency Response Coordinator, CARE, Nepal

JOSEPH OLE SIMEL,

Executive Director, Mainyoto Pastoralists Integrated Development Organisation, Kenya

MODERATOR**TANYA COX**

Senior Policy and Advocacy Manager, Plan International

RAPPORTEUR**DÉIRDRE DE BÚRCA**

Director, Advocacy & Justice for Children, World Vision

CSOs' ENABLING ENVIRONMENT – EXPLORE 02**FUNDING FOR CIVIL SOCIETY AND HUMAN RIGHTS: UP OR DOWN?**

THURSDAY 17 MARCH – 14:00-15:30 – AUDITORIUM 2

Financial support to CSOs for development or human rights purposes has softly but progressively increased over the last 10 years to reach an annual level close to EUR 18 billion – an estimated 13 % of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee's (DAC) official development assistance (ODA). Private donors are estimated to aggregate more than EUR 27 billion of donations per year. Today, the European Union is the largest world donor to local CSOs. While this is commendable, the reality is more mixed.

The OECD DAC top three donors – the United States, the United Kingdom and the European Commission – account for 53 % of the aid to CSOs. Support to CSOs as providers of assistance (EUR 15.2 billion) largely overruns the support to CSOs as actors of governance (EUR 2.5 billion). The support to donor country-based CSOs (EUR 11.4 billion) largely overruns the support to developing countries-based CSOs (EUR 1.45 billion). Today, some donors appear to be questioning their CSO-related ODA pledge or its orientation.

At a time when the battle for financing for development is ongoing and as the EU is set to review its programming in 2017, this session will explore the upcoming trends, up or down, of ODA for CSOs and human rights. The session will also examine the potential pressures and risks to shifts from actions in third countries to actions within donors' own countries, for example on migrants. It will also look at the risk of balance and negative compensation between the EU's funding increase and Member States funding levels.

CLAIRE ROUFFINEAU

Coordinator, Funding for Human Rights and Democracy, Human Rights & Democracy Network

ÅSA THOMASSON

Chair, Working Group on Funding for Development and Relief, CONCORD

JEAN-LOUIS VILLE

Director of Human Development and Migration (f.f.), European Commission

JACQUELINE WOOD

Senior Policy Advisor, Task Team on CSO Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment

MODERATOR

ROSE LONGHURST

Funding Policy Manager, UK National Platform of Development CSOs (BOND)

RAPPORTEUR

VINCENT FOREST

Advocacy Director, EuroMed Rights

CSOs' ENABLING ENVIRONMENT – EXPLORE 03**ENABLING CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION: LESSONS FROM BUDGET SUPPORT**

THURSDAY 17 MARCH – 14:00-15:30 – AUDITORIUM 3

Civil society participation in public governance leads to greater social cohesion and stronger democracies. CSOs stand out because of their capacity to reach out to, empower, represent and defend vulnerable and socially excluded groups. By articulating citizens' views, CSOs contribute to more inclusive and effective policies, thanks to greater ownership and more accountability. In this capacity, civil society acts as a 'watchdog', presents policy alternatives and triggers social innovations. In its external relations, the EU supports civil society participation in policy processes to help to build more accountable and legitimate governance.

This session will explore how these principles also apply in the context of budget support, which accounts for around 25 % of total EU aid disbursements. This session will address the requirements for a participatory budget process, ranging from the respect for human rights (for example, access to official documents and freedom of expression) to capacity building to empower civil society in technical fields such as budget oversight or public expenditure evaluation.

Participants will then address the challenges ahead, such as building a fair and balanced dialogue between public authorities and CSOs and the conditions for mutual credibility and respect, as well as the requirements for an informed public debate engages all citizens.

RALISON ANDRIAMANDRANTOCoordinator, *Observatoire de la Vie Publique* (SEFAFI), Madagascar**MILENA LAZAREVIĆ**

Programme Director, European Policy Centre, Serbia

MIKLOS MARSCHALL

Deputy Managing Director, Transparency International

JORGE RODRIGUEZ-BILBAO

Quality Support Manager, Decentralisation, Local Development and Local Governance, Civil Society, Local Authorities Unit, European Commission

MASOOD UL MULK

Chief Executive Officer, Sarhad Rural Support Programme, Pakistan

MODERATOR

CHARLOTTE ADRIAEN

Head of Sector Governance, Human Rights, Gender, Democratic Governance Unit, European Commission

RAPPORTEUR

HONY RADERTSecretary General, *Collectif Citoyen et des Organisations Citoyennes*, Madagascar

CSOs' ENABLING ENVIRONMENT – EXPLORE 04**CONFRONTING THE SHRINKING SPACE: SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS**
THURSDAY 17 MARCH – 16:00-17:30 – AUDITORIUM 1

The EU strongly believes in the role of human rights defenders (HRDs). Full enjoyment of human rights cannot be achieved unless the defence of those rights is protected and respected. During the past decade, the EU has progressively developed comprehensive support to HRDs. Endowed with an unprecedented amount of EUR 1.3 billion, the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) is the world's largest pro-human rights programme.

Lately, HRDs are facing increased stigmatisation and undue restrictions in an attempt to stifle any forms of their criticism, calls for accountability for human rights violations, or their calls for democratic change. The repression of HRD organisations or individuals takes many forms, ranging from administrative harassment, criminalisation, defamatory campaigns and arbitrary detention to torture or assassination. Since 2010, 101 restrictive laws have been passed in more than 60 countries. HRDs are labelled 'foreign agents', 'subversive elements' and are accused of associating with terrorists or committing other offences.

Many States are multiplying obstacles to human rights, drawing on a sophisticated arsenal of restrictive legal, administrative and practical measures, less visible and therefore less likely to incite international condemnation.

The session will explore best practices on how to confront the shrinking space that HRDs are working in and how to use existing supporting instruments, in particular the EIDHR. Participants will discuss innovative and transferable strategies to address these restrictions.

BRIGITTE DUFOUR

Director, International Partnership for Human Rights, Azerbaijan

ARMEL NIYONGERE,

President of ACAT, Burundi

ALEJANDRA NUÑO

Consultant, Centro de Derechos Humanos de las Mujeres, Mexico

ADILUR RAHMAN KHAN

Secretary General of ODHAKAR, Bangladesh

MODERATOR**SARAH RINALDI**

Deputy Head of Unit for Human Rights, Gender, Democratic Governance, European Commission

RAPPORTEUR**EMMA ACHILLI**

Head of EU Office, Frontline Defenders

CSOs' ENABLING ENVIRONMENT – EXPLORE 05**GSP+ AND FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS: CSO PARTICIPATION IN EU TRADE INSTRUMENTS**
FRIDAY 18 MARCH – 09:30-11:00 – AUDITORIUM 1

The recent Trade for All Communication sets an ambitious and comprehensive agenda to make sure that economic growth goes hand-in-hand with social justice, respect for human rights, and high labour and environmental standards. This objective is pursued through a broad range of trade policy instruments and initiatives. This session will address two main instruments: the Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) and EU free trade agreements.

GSP+ is the EU's primary trade instrument to promote human rights and good governance in developing countries. It provides unilateral, generous market access to vulnerable developing countries that commit to ratify and effectively implement 27 core international covenants: seven UN human rights declarations, eight International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions on labour rights, eight Multilateral Environmental Agreements and four Good Governance declarations. It is an incentive-based scheme rather than a sanctions-based one to support and inspire developing countries to pursue a sustainable development path.

The EU ensures that GSP+ beneficiaries comply with their legal obligations through stringent and systematic monitoring. In January 2016, the Commission, in cooperation with the EEAS, published the first report on GSP+ countries compliance with the 27 conventions. To date, GSP+ countries include Armenia, Bolivia, Cape Verde, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Paraguay and the Philippines.

Recent EU Free Trade Agreements contain legally binding provisions on labour rights and environmental protection. The involvement of civil society, including trade unions, business associations and environmental organisations, is central to their successful implementation, helping to identify issues and future areas of action. There are also regular opportunities for civil society in the EU and our partner countries to meet jointly to discuss relevant matters.

This session will explore how CSOs can contribute to achieving the objective of the GSP+ programme to improve the respect of core international human and labour rights in beneficiary countries. It will discuss how CSOs can participate in implementing the Trade and Sustainable Development Chapters in recent EU free trade agreements to advance the respect of core international labour rights. Finally, it will address how CSOs can engage to promote responsible business practices.

SERGI CORBALÁN

Executive Director, Fair Trade Advocacy Office

ANDREA ROSSI

Deputy Head of Division, Human Rights, European External Action Service

ANTONIO TUJAN JR

International Director, IBON International Foundation

MODERATOR**SANDRA GALLINA**

Director, Sustainable Development; Economic Partnership Agreements – African, Caribbean and Pacific; Agri-food and Fisheries, Directorate General for Trade, European Commission

RAPPORTEUR**RADBOUD REIJN**

Advocacy Coordinator, Justice and Peace

CSOs' ENABLING ENVIRONMENT – EXPLORE 06**DODGING A DARWINIAN DILEMMA: SHAPING A NEW CSO DONORSHIP**

FRIDAY 18 MARCH – 09:30-11:00 – AUDITORIUM 3

CSOs are confronted with an increasing range of complex issues, especially in a growing number of restrictive and repressive environments. In some countries, the need for greater transparency and accountability is used as a pretext to justify legislation and practices that unduly restrict the ability of associations to access funding. In some cases, the transparency and accountability argument has been used to exert extensive scrutiny over the internal affairs of associations as a way of intimidation and harassment.

At the same time, CSOs have become major implementers of public funds for which donors are scrutinised and accountable. The UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and several CSOs in their reports question whether too many requirements imposed by donors can reduce civil society's autonomy, diversity and lead to homogenisation. Can extensive reporting requirements favour 'usual suspects', i.e. those CSOs that have built capacity to speak the donors' language? At the same time, donors are facing contradictory demands: more impact and larger budget vs. outreach to small and disenfranchised CSOs at constant cost.

This session will explore whether donors must evolve to maintain effective funding and what, if needed, would be the DNA requirement for a new CSO donorship. Participants will discuss the balance that needs to be struck between contradictory requirements in terms of accountability of public funds and necessary flexibility. They will also explore alternative ways to fund small CSOs and discuss the pros and cons of a more programme and partnership-based approach to CSO support.

DRISS EL YAZAMI

Chairman, Moroccan National Human Rights Council
President, Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights
Defenders (EMHRF)

RONIT HEYD

Executive Director, Shatil, New Israeli Fund

MAINA KIAI

United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful
Assembly and of Association

PATRICE LENORMAND

Deputy Head of Unit for Civil Society, Local Authorities, European Commission

DANNY SRISKANDARAJAH

Secretary General of CIVICUS

MODERATOR

EMILIE DROMZÉE

Programme Director, European Funders for Social Change and Human
Rights, ARIADNE Network

CSOs' ENABLING ENVIRONMENT – EXPLORE 07**MEASURING THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT: SYNERGIES AND CHALLENGES**

FRIDAY 18 MARCH – 11:30-13:00 – AUDITORIUM 1

With the growing interest in civil society involvement in public governance and the decreasing space for CSOs in an increasing number of countries, the international community has agreed to develop indicators that measure the enabling environment for civil society, i.e. the conditions that affect the capacity of citizens – whether individually or collectively – to participate and engage in civil society.

In 2011, at the Busan High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, the international community agreed on a Global Monitoring Framework to track implementation and progress on commitments and agreed actions. One of the indicators measures the extent to which 'civil society operates within an environment that maximises its engagement in, and contribution to development'. Data is currently being collected in 79 countries. Following the adoption of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, a new set of indicators is about to be adopted for all of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, including indicators potentially relevant to ensuring an enabling environment for CSOs.

A wealth of UN special reports, NGO reports, Human Wrongs indexes and good practices exist on the issue of monitoring the enabling environment for CSOs. As an example, the EU developed indicators to measure and strengthen CSOs enabling environment and stimulate participatory democracy in EU candidate countries.

This session will update participants on the on-going international negotiations and the current reporting on CSOs' enabling environment. It will explore the potential for synergies between the various existing processes and reflect on additional or complementary best practices.

CORNELIUS HACKING

Multi-stakeholder Task Team on CSO Development Effectiveness and
Enabling Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands

KATERINA HADZI-MICEVA

Executive Director, European Centre for Non-Profit Law

DIEGO LÓPEZ-GONZÁLEZ

Partnerships Officer, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
Member, CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness

MODERATOR

OLI HENMAN

European Representative, CIVICUS

RAPPOREUR

ELENA MAGDA TOMA

Coordinator, International Forum of National NGO Platforms (IFP)

THREAD TWO

WORKING AT GRASSROOTS LEVEL

Sessions under this thread will focus on initiatives to translate global pledges, including the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, into local changes through the involvement of grassroots civil society organisations.

This thread will organise discussions around two clusters. The first one will explore which tools and processes need to be further supported or enhanced to ensure that grassroots CSOs are involved in the implementation of the SDGs. The second will focus on the added value of working with local actors to address key issues.

WORKING AT GRASSROOTS LEVEL – EXPLORE 08

SUPPORTING CIVIL SOCIETY IN FRAGILE ENVIRONMENTS

THURSDAY 17 MARCH – 11:30-13:00 – AUDITORIUM 1

In 2016, half of the world's poor will live in fragile states. Tackling fragility is pivotal to achieving any of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Today, at least 17 countries are experiencing serious armed conflicts. CSOs have become unintentional operators in crises, much beyond their original role of delivering humanitarian assistance. Sadly, CSOs are also suffering staff losses.

In these fragile environments, civil society is confronted with vital and challenging responsibilities both as an actor of governance and a service provider. CSOs are called on to provide services when states collapse and where necessary fill vital gaps. There is not a case of massive numbers of refugees and internally displaced people where there are not scores of CSOs involved. Moreover, they are often tapped to trigger early warnings and prevention, to support mediation, to voice the concerns of marginalised groups, and hold states accountable, as well as after the crisis, to help rebuild a sense of trust and confidence in the institutions, including by providing some vindication for victims' rights.

In 2011, donors agreed to a 'New Deal' for fragile states at the High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, with the intent of creating an enabling environment for CSOs. To date, progress is mixed in strengthening civil society in fragile contexts. Lessons can be drawn from past failures and successes. This session will explore what more the EU can do to support the roles of civil society before, during and after crises in light of the upcoming revisions of the EU's external assistance, particularly in the area of civilian protection.

BUTHAINAH MAHMOOD ABBAS

Director of Hawa Organization for Relief and Development, Iraq

RITA MARTIN

Co-founder of EVE Organization for Women Development, South Sudan

MOHAMED SUMA

Head of International Center for Transitional Justice, Ivory Coast

ERICA GERRETSEN-PHIPPS

Head of Unit for Development Coordination and Regional Cooperation in Central Africa, European Commission

MODERATOR

BEN MOORE

Senior Policy Officer, European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)

RAPPORTEUR

STEPHANIE JOUBERT

Programme Officer, Security and Justice, CORDAID

WORKING AT GRASSROOTS LEVEL – EXPLORE 09**CSOS AND POLITICAL SOCIETY: THE CHALLENGES OF NON-PARTISANSHIP**
THURSDAY 17 MARCH – 11:30-13:00 – AUDITORIUM 2

An empowered civil society is a crucial component of any democratic system that sustains pluralism and accountable governance. It represents and fosters pluralism. By articulating citizens' concerns, CSOs are active in the public arena, engaging in various initiatives to further participatory democracy and strengthen effective governance.

Such dialogue contributes to pluralism and to the better functioning of democratic societies. Conversely, lack of political will can lead to mistrust and may challenge the legitimacy of public authorities.

Neutrality and non-partisanship are at the heart of the UN and EU definitions of civil society. CSOs are actors that may also address sensitive political issues, for example by calling on governments to be accountable for their actions. This can lead to complex situations where perception of red lines and motivations can become challenging. Regular attacks on CSOs often use the argument of their political partisanship, in particular when CSOs find themselves the only organised form of expression in difficult regimes.

This session will explore the role of civil society in constructive interactions with political spheres. It will address CSOs' experience on the challenges of non-partisanship in their work with parliaments and political societies, acting as watchdogs both in democratic states where they can monitor key debates, and in cases of repressive regimes where political parties are banned and CSOs become a voice of last resort.

KAMEL JENDOUBI

Minister for Relations with Constitutional Institutions and Civil Society,
Tunisia

MIRKO DAUTOVIC

Member of the State Capture Working Group, Heinrich Böll Stiftung

KOL PREAP

Executive Director, Transparency International, Cambodia

MAURICIO ALARCÓN SALVADOR

Programme Director, Fundamedios

MODERATOR

OLIVIER LOUIS

Head of Sector Democracy, Human Rights, Gender, Democratic Governance
Unit, European Commission

RAPPOREUR

INGRID JOHANSEN

Project Officer, Sustainable Development Goals Programme, AWEPA

WORKING AT GRASSROOTS LEVEL – EXPLORE 10**INCREASING THE RESILIENCE OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND CHILDREN IN CONFLICT AND POST-CONFLICT SITUATIONS**
THURSDAY 17 MARCH – 14:00-15:30 – AUDITORIUM 1

Women, youth and children are disproportionately affected by conflicts, exacerbating pre-existing barriers and gender inequalities, which are exposing them to all forms of violence, especially sexual violence, the most flagrant violation of human rights. And yet, they possess skills and capacity to build resilience, i.e. prepare for, respond to and recover from conflict and post-conflict situations. They should not just be informed and educated. They need to be empowered and offered opportunities to actively engage so that we can build on their knowledge and vision about how to reduce the impact of conflicts. Female leadership in conflict prevention and resolution requires targeted and sustained actions to overcome barriers such as gender inequality and discrimination.

UN Resolution 1325 (2000) and Resolution 2242 (2015) emphasise achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These resolutions strongly reaffirm that women's empowerment and gender equality are critical to conflict prevention and to maintain international peace and security. The recent adoption of UN Resolution 2250 (December 2015) on Youth, Peace and Security completes this approach by highlighting the crucial role of young people in preventing and resolving conflicts. Through active participation of women, children and youth, we can shape a more resilient and safer world.

Building on lessons learnt from grassroots actions and experiences, the session will explore the role of women, youth and children in building resilience in households, communities and countries affected by crises and conflicts, ensuring gender and youth-sensitive approaches to recognise their distinct rights, needs and capacities as well as their valuable contribution to peacekeeping efforts and post-conflict rebuilding. The session will also present interesting cases where investing in the role of women, children and youth has created promising opportunities for peace.

CATHERINE LEILA POULTON

Senior Technical Adviser, Women's Protection and Empowerment,
International Rescue Committee

DR NADA MOHAMMED IBRAHEEM AL-JUBORI

President of Iraqi Women of the Future, Member of the National Iraqi
Reconciliation Committee

LAKSHITHA SAJI PRELIS

Director, Children and Youth Programs, Search for Common Ground

CIARA O'BRIEN

Chair of the Council Working Party on Human Right, COHOM

MODERATOR

CÉLINE MIAS

EU Representative, CARE International

RAPPOREUR

KATARINA CARLBERG

Field Representative for Iraq, Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation

WORKING AT GRASSROOTS LEVEL – EXPLORE 11**THE INDIGENOUS NAVIGATOR: MONITORING A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH**

THURSDAY 17 MARCH – 16:00-17:30 – AUDITORIUM 3

‘No one will be left behind.’ Building on this pledge, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ‘to realise the human rights of all’. To monitor the equal and non-discriminatory implementation of these goals, high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data is required. Without such data, progress in achieving the commitment to leave no one behind will not be measurable.

The session will explore the merits of the Indigenous Navigator. The Navigator is based on a genuine participatory monitoring with and by the rights-holders themselves being engaged in the data collection. The Navigator is built on indicators linked both to the SDGs and to human rights instruments applicable to indigenous peoples (UNDRIP, ICESCR, ICCPR, CERD, CRC, CEDAW, ILO Convention No. 169 and fundamental labour conventions).

By providing a framework and tool for currently dispersed and uncoordinated human rights monitoring efforts into a strategic intervention, the Indigenous Navigator helps indigenous peoples to systematically monitor the level of recognition and implementation of their rights. It helps to build a direct link between the local and the global by capturing the reality of the communities and linking it to sophisticated global frameworks.

Drawing from their experiences during the pilot phase of the Indigenous Navigator initiative, panellists will discuss how the Navigator can help monitor implementation a rights-based approach to development by national governments.

GRACE BALAWAG

Indigenous Peoples’ International Centre for Policy Research and Education (Tebtebba)

JOJI CARINO

Senior Policy Advisor, Forest Peoples Programme (FPP), United Kingdom

JOAN CARLING

Secretary General, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

STANLEY KIMAREN RIAMIT

Executive Director, Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners (ILEPA), Kenya

MODERATOR

BIRGITTE FEIRING

Programme Manager, Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR)

RAPPOREURS

MARTIN OELZ

Senior Specialist on Equality and Non-Discrimination, International Labour Organization

CAECILE MIKKELSEN

Coordinator, International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)

WORKING AT GRASSROOTS LEVEL – EXPLORE 12**CLIMATE CONFLICTS, CLIMATE MIGRANTS:
THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE SAHEL**

FRIDAY 18 MARCH – 09:30-11:00 – AUDITORIUM 2

In the Sahel, climate change causes increased competition for natural resources, resulting in serious security and migration implications. Rural populations, already fragile, are particularly vulnerable and their resilience capabilities are limited. To avoid the risk that millions of people die or flee areas that have become uninhabitable, it is urgent to develop the adaptation capacity of the territories and populations of the Sahel countries.

In 2015, the European Council adopted a five-year regional action plan (2015-2020) to implement the EU’s strategy for security and development in the Sahel. While the strengthening of security remains the EU’s main objective the region, the action plan emphasises support for environmental resilience, inclusive socioeconomic development, democratic governance, and the promotion of human rights and the rule of law.

This session will explore the strengths and assets that civil society can bring to complement public authorities. It will discuss how the contribution of grassroots organisations to the definition, implementation and monitoring of local policies is pivotal to sustainable and peaceful development of the region. The session will also highlight best practices.

SÉBASTIEN VALLEUR

Geographic Coordinator, Africa Department, Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

MAMADOU GOÏTA

Director, Institut de Recherche et de Promotion des Alternatives de Développement en Afrique (IRPAD/Afrique), Mali

ANGEL LOSADA

European Union Special Representative for the Sahel

STEFANO SIGNORE

Head of Unit for Migration, Employment, Inequalities, European Commission

HINDOU OUMAROU IBRAHIM

Association des Femmes Peuples Autochtones, Chad

MODERATOR

ROSÁRIO BENTO PAIS

Head of Unit for Civil Society, Local Authorities, European Commission

RAPPOREUR

JEAN-BOSCO BAZIÉ

Director General, Eau Vive, Burkina Faso

WORKING AT GRASSROOTS LEVEL – EXPLORE 13**NEW APPROACHES TO DERADICALISATION: THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY**

FRIDAY 18 MARCH – 11:30-13:00 – AUDITORIUM 2

The Sahel-Maghreb region's evolving domestic and transnational terrorist threat draws strength from a combination of socioeconomic, generational, ethnic, political and ideological factors. In a context of poverty, poor governance, endless conflicts, fragmented society and political instability, extremist movements offer identity, values, economic support and a sense of community that attract young people, especially those who are excluded from the decision-making process. But violent radicalisation is not the by-product of an alleged resurgence of local traditions or religious identity. On the contrary, it stems from the waning of local traditions and the weakening of civil society.

Today's counter-terrorist responses go beyond the traditional vocational training and employment nexus. The challenge is not limited to an issue of socioeconomic integration. It needs to build an even bolder societal shift that pursues inclusion from a cultural, political and economic standpoint. This more comprehensive approach increasingly relies on CSOs as primary partners in deradicalisation. Because they enjoy genuine grassroots support, NGOs, victims of terrorism, media, cultural, women and youth organisations can be more effective in limiting the influence of violent extremist ideology, challenging the narratives of extremists and offering positive alternatives to violence.

This session will compare the approaches to prevention in Sahel and Europe and explore the implications of such societal shift. The discussion will focus on outcomes of concrete field activities implemented in schools and by women and youth associations.

DR SALMA BELAALA

Marie Curie Advanced Fellowship
Steering Committee Membership, UNICRI Programme of Prevention of
Radicalisation in North Africa and Sahel

NOÉLIE KOURAOGO

Human Rights, Gender and Youth Activist, Burkina Faso

MAÏMOU WALI

Coordinator of an Educational Project in Quranic Schools (PAPEC), EIRENE
Sahel, Niger

MODERATOR

MICHEL LALOGÉ

Head of Sector Local Authorities, Civil Society, Local Authorities Unit,
European Commission

RAPPORTEUR

NORA GHELM

Expert, *Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie*

WORKING AT GRASSROOTS LEVEL – EXPLORE 14**EU COUNTRY ROADMAPS FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY**

FRIDAY 18 MARCH – 11:30-13:00 – AUDITORIUM 3

For the past two years, the European Union has worked in 97 partner countries to develop country-specific roadmaps that enhance its engagement with civil society. These roadmaps translate at country level the three priorities for EU support (enabling environment, participation and capacity-building), as enshrined in the 2012 Communication 'The Roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations.'

Good practices have emerged from this first phase, which has shown that roadmaps constitute a unique opportunity to act more decisively, strategically and inclusively at EU level. The session will thus take stock of the progress to date in two illustrative countries (Nepal and Zimbabwe) and build on recent reports by both the Commission and CONCORD.

Building on the lessons learnt from these reports and experiences, the session will explore the opportunities and challenges ahead as the focus shifts towards implementing and monitoring of the agreed strategies. Issues to be addressed include sustaining the momentum with CSOs, ensuring Member States involvement, and the EU's role in monitoring the enabling environment and mainstreaming civil society engagement into all sectors of cooperation.

SHARMILA KARKI

President of Nagaran, Nepal

JACQUES PERROT

Roadmaps Coordinator, Civil Society, Local Authorities Unit, European
Commission

KARINE SOHET

Senior Policy Officer, ACT Alliance EU
Working Group on EU Delegations, CONCORD

CEPHAS ZINHUMWE

Director, National Association of NGOs, Zimbabwe

MODERATOR

BEATRIZ SANZ CORELLA

Team Leader, European Union Roadmap Support Group

RAPPORTEUR

JORGE BALBIS

Executive Director of the Asociación Latinoamericana de Organizaciones de
Promoción al Desarrollo (ALOP), Mexico

SIGNING CEREMONY**FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS**

FRIDAY 18 MARCH – 14:00-14:30 – ROOM 4

In 2015, the European Commission established Framework Partnership Agreements (FPAs) to improve and simplify its support to CSOs. These FPAs lay out medium- and long-term cooperation based on common objectives shared by the EU and the concerned CSO platform.

FPAs will be signed during the Forum with 20 global and regional networks of CSOs.

FPAs illustrate in concrete terms the European Union's commitment to support Civil Society Organisations not only as providers of aid but also as pivotal actors of governance and key contributors to policy-making. Laying out long-term cooperation between the EU and civil society umbrella organisations, FPAs give them the means to play this role. They cover Africa, Asia, the Pacific, Latin America and Europe, and a wide-array of fields of intervention: anti-corruption, gender, accountability, human rights, social inclusion or economic empowerment.

FACILITATOR

KARINA CHIRCU

Programme Manager, Civil Society, Local Authorities Unit, European Commission

THREAD THREE**EU INSTRUMENTS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY
AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

As an operational platform to discuss concrete instruments, the CSO Forum will host dedicated workshops on EU tools and instruments that support civil society and human rights. The EU has developed a diverse set of financial tools for civil society and human rights, including innovative support models, amounting to a EUR 2 billion per year.

This thread will engage participants on the concrete uses of these tools and mechanisms available at global, continental and country level.

CONSULT 01 – EIDHR GLOBAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2016**CONSULTATION ON THE FIGHT AGAINST TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT**

THURSDAY 17 MARCH – 14:00-15:00 – ROOM 5

A Call for Proposals under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) is planned for 2016. Protecting human dignity is a strong commitment of the European Union and a priority under the new EIDHR Multiannual Indicative Programme for 2014-2017. The European Union adopted Guidelines on Torture and ill treatment in 2001 and subsequently revised them in 2008 and 2012. The upcoming Call for Proposals will focus on the implementation of these guidelines.

This session will consult participants on how best to support projects that help monitor and prevent torture and ill-treatment as well as rehabilitate torture victims.

FACILITATOR

MARTHA MENDEZProgramme Manager, Human Rights, Gender, Democratic Governance Unit,
European Commission**CONSULT 02 – EIDHR GLOBAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2016****CONSULTATION ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

THURSDAY 17 MARCH – 15:15-16:15 – ROOM 5

A Call for Proposals under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights is planned for 2016. The Human Rights Council in its resolution 17/4 of 16 June 2011 endorsed the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Reinforcing their implementation is one key action of the 2015-2019 EU Action Plan for Democracy and Human Rights.

This session will consult participants on how best to support projects that develop capacities, knowledge and monitoring on the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, corporate social responsibility in respect of human rights and the advocacy for drafting and implementing National Action Plans by partner countries.

FACILITATOR

LESLIE PIERRARDProgramme Manager, Human Rights, Gender, Democratic Governance Unit,
European Commission

PRESENTER

DANTE PESCE

Chair of the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights

CONSULT 03 – POST-COTONOU**THE FUTURE EU-ACP RELATIONSHIP: WHAT ROLE FOR NON-STATE ACTORS?**

THURSDAY 17 MARCH – 16:00-17:30 – AUDITORIUM 2

In 2000, the Cotonou Partnership Agreement (CPA) acknowledged that civil society organisations, local authorities, the private sector and national parliaments play a pivotal role in development processes. The revision of the CPA provides an opportunity to evaluate the role they played, as well as the challenges and opportunities they faced.

Discussions on the future of the CPA, which will expire in 2020, have already started. Following the European Commission's public consultation in October 2015, an evaluation will draw up a set of recommendations by summer 2016. On that basis, the European Council will set a direction for the future relationship between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. In 2017, the official negotiations will start.

Several dialogues are taking place on various elements of the CPA. This session intends to provide a better understanding of the upcoming revision process. It will focus on the place, role and challenges for all key actors in a renewed partnership and a revised agreement. It will discuss the implications of evolving contexts and conditions for EU and ACP CSOs as well as their role in upcoming national, regional and international dialogues.

RIGO BELPAIREAssistant to the Head of the Task Force Post-Cotonou, European
Commission**GUY AHO TETE BENISSAN**Regional Coordinator, Coordination Régionale du Réseaux des Plateformes
d'ONG d'Afrique de l'Ouest (REPAOC)**GINA WHARTON**International Planned Parenthood Federation – European Network (IPPF-EN)
Co-chair of the CONCORD Cotonou Working Group

MODERATOR

DR LUIS FERNANDO BLANCOResearch Associate, Multinational Development Policy Dialogue, Konrad
Adenauer Stiftung

CONSULT 04 – INCUBATOR**WHAT IS THE POTENTIAL FOR AN EU CSO INCUBATOR PROGRAMME?**

THURSDAY 17 MARCH – 16:30-17:30 – ROOM 5

Numerous initiatives exist that support volunteers programmes, innovations, hubs and CSO incubators. The European Commission is exploring options and added value for potential future EU programmes in these areas.

This session will consult participants on the potential for a EU CSO Incubator Programme. It will focus on the EU's effort to reach out to small, local and often disenfranchised CSOs, support youth engagement and employment in civil society, as well as provide reinforced CSO core capacity.

FACILITATOR

PATRICE LENORMAND

Deputy Head of Unit for Civil Society, Local Authorities Unit, European Commission

CONSULT 05 – EIDHR GLOBAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2016**CONSULTATION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS BELONGING TO MINORITIES AND PERSONS AFFECTED BY CASTE-BASED DISCRIMINATIONS**

FRIDAY 18 MARCH – 09:30-10:30 – ROOM 5

A Call for Proposals under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights is planned for 2016. Promoting and protecting the rights of persons belonging to minorities and/or affected by caste-based discriminations as well as combating the discrimination they often suffer is an added value of the new EIDHR regulation for 2014-2020.

This session will consult participants on how best to support projects advocating for and supporting the rights of persons belonging to minorities and persons affected by caste-based discrimination.

FACILITATOR

SOFIA LEMMETYINEN

Programme Manager, Human Rights, Gender, Democratic Governance Unit, European Commission

CONSULT 06 – EIDHR GLOBAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2016**CONSULTATION ON IMPUNITY AND SUPPORTING TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE**

FRIDAY 18 MARCH – 10:45-11:45 – ROOM 5

A Call for Proposals under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights is planned for 2016. Supporting transitional justice and stopping impunity for serious human rights violations and for crimes of concern to the international community (genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity) are priorities of the EIDHR multiannual indicative programme for 2014-2017.

This session will consult participants on how best to support the fight against impunity and to support transitional justice processes and mechanisms.

FACILITATOR

TSVETOMIR SVILENOV

Programme Manager, Human Rights, Gender, Democratic Governance Unit, European Commission

CONSULT 07 – EIDHR GLOBAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2016**CONSULTATION ON WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS OR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS DEFENDING WOMEN RIGHTS**

FRIDAY 18 MARCH – 12:00-13:00 – ROOM 5

A Call for Proposals under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights is planned for 2016. Supporting HRDs and reinforcing their capacities to do their work in the short and long-term and in working with the United Nations, and to provide tangible support and means of action to local civil society in the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the area of women rights are priorities of the EIDHR multiannual indicative programme for 2014-2017.

This session will consult participants on how best to provide direct support and protection to Women Human Rights Defenders and/or Human Rights Defenders working on women rights.

FACILITATOR

LUIGIA DI GISI

Programme Manager, Human Rights, Gender, Democratic Governance Unit, European Commission

INFORM 01 – PROTECTDEFENDERS.EU**EUROPEAN UNION HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS MECHANISM:
PROTECTDEFENDERS.EU****THURSDAY 17 MARCH – 11:30-13:00 – ROOM 4**

This interactive information session will present ProtectDefenders.eu, including its complementarity with other channels of EU support to human rights defenders.

ProtectDefenders.eu is the first EU comprehensive human rights defenders mechanism. Funded by the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, the mechanism protects defenders at high risk and facing the most difficult situations worldwide. It provides stable, comprehensive and gender-sensitive EU support to individuals and local actors who strive to promote and defend human rights worldwide.

ProtectDefenders.eu reaches out to the most at risk and isolated human rights defenders, working in remote areas and countries where it is particularly dangerous to work in defending human rights. It provides assistance to defenders who are especially targeted, including women human rights defenders and defenders of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people, as well as defenders of land rights, environmental rights, economic and social rights, minorities, lawyers, and those fighting for freedom of expression and association.

ProtectDefenders.eu:

- Delivers a fast and specific EU response to support human rights defenders at risk;
- Supports local organisations working with human rights defenders to implement activities aimed at advancing a human rights agenda and to counter violations;
- Works to extend the international network of host institutions offering human rights defenders temporary relocation, including through the EU Temporary Relocation Platform (www.hrdrelocation.eu), when preventive and protection measures for personal security are no longer enough;
- Offers trainings to meet the security needs of human rights defenders, providing them with ad-hoc knowledge and tools; and
- Helps build public awareness and ensure enhanced visibility about the situation of human rights defenders at every level.

PRESENTERS**SARAH RINALDI**

Deputy Head of Unit for Human Rights, Gender, Democratic Governance, European Commission

JOAN AUDIERNE

Secretary General, ProtectDefenders.eu

INFORM 02 – TALD**TERRITORIAL APPROACH TO LOCAL DEVELOPMENT:
AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO IMPLEMENT THE 2030 AGENDA?****THURSDAY 17 MARCH – 11:30-13:00 – ROOM 5**

This interactive information session will present the key features of a territorial approach to local development and how it can help implement the 2030 Agenda. It will also address the specific role of CSOs and community-based organisations in this context. Focusing on territories and empowering local authorities could be effective in improving a country's capacity to deliver SDG-based policies.

In May 2013, in its Communication 'Empowering Local Authorities in Partner Countries for Enhanced Governance and More Effective Development outcomes', the European Union embraced decentralisation as a vehicle to unleash the economic and social potential of 'territories' and enable local authorities as effective development players that perform a dual role of partner of central governments and catalyst of local development. In this context, the EU committed to promote territorial approaches to local development where the capacity of local authorities hinges on an effective relationship with other levels of governance such as civil society and the private sector.

These policy developments echo a growing interest in the role of local authorities. The Busan Outcome Document (2011) highlighted the multi-actor multi-level nature of development processes and the distinct role of local authorities. The 2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development, agreed in 2015, includes a number of goals whose achievement will depend on strengthening sub-national authorities, i.e., autonomous and accountable local governments with democratic legitimacy. More specifically, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015) stresses the need to address the financial and capacity shortages of the sub-national level. The idea of 'localising' the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is gaining momentum.

PRESENTERS**CARLOS HURTADO**

Executive Director, Confederation of Civil Society Organisations, Ecuador

MARJORIE PAMINTUAN

General Secretary, Asia Pacific Research Network, The Philippines

JORGE RODRIGUEZ-BILBAO

Quality Support Manager, Decentralisation, Local Development and Local Governance, Civil Society, Local Authorities Unit, European Commission

ANTONELLA VALMORBIDA

Secretary General, ALDA – The European Association for Local Democracy, Belgium

MODERATOR**JEAN BOSSUYT**

Head of Strategy, European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM)

INFORM 03 – PAN-AFRICAN PROGRAMME**CSO SUPPORT IN THE PAN-AFRICAN PROGRAMME**

THURSDAY 17 MARCH – 14:00-15:00 – ROOM 4

This interactive information session will present the recently launched Call for Proposals in support of the participation of Civil Society Organisations in decision and policy-making processes in Africa.

Established in 2014, PANAF is one of the main EU financial instruments for implementing the Joint Africa-EU Strategy. It is funded with a budget of EUR 845 million for the period 2014–2020.

The PANAF is the first-ever EU programme in development and cooperation that covers Africa as a whole. It supports projects with a trans-regional, continental or global added value in areas of shared interest, and offers new possibilities for the EU and Africa to work together. It complements the existing funding mechanisms at national and regional level that support Africa's development objectives.

With democracy, good governance and human rights as critical areas of cooperation, the support for civil society is a key component of the PANAF programme. In line with the African Union's Agenda 2063, PANAF aims to support civil society organisations' contribution to promoting good governance and human rights.

PRESENTERS**PAUL RENIER**

Deputy Head of Unit for Africa-EU Partnership, African Peace Facility,
European Commission

STEPHANIE TRUILLE-BAURENS

International Cooperation Officer, Africa-EU Partnership, African Peace
Facility Unit, European Commission

INFORM 04 – EU TRUST FUND**EMERGENCY TRUST FUND FOR STABILITY AND ADDRESSING ROOT CAUSES OF
IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA**

THURSDAY 17 MARCH – 15:15-16:15 – ROOM 4

This interactive information session will present the Emergency Trust Fund for Stability and Addressing Root Causes of Irregular Migration and Displaced Persons in Africa.

In November 2015, 25 EU Member States, together with Norway and Switzerland, launched the EU Trust Fund for Africa at the Valletta Summit on Migration. This Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa is made up of EUR 1.8 billion from the EU budget and the European Development Fund, to be complemented by contributions from EU Member States and other donors.

The Trust Fund will foster stability in the regions and contribute to better migration management. More specifically, it aims to promote economic and equal opportunities, security and development. A wide diversity of projects can be supported, including:

- Creating employment opportunities, especially for young people and women, with a focus on vocational training and the creation of micro and small enterprises. Actions could contribute in particular to supporting the reintegration of returnees into their communities.
- Supporting basic services for local populations such as food and nutrition security, health, education and social protection, as well as environmental sustainability.
- Improving migration management, including containing and preventing irregular migration, effective return and readmission, international protection and asylum, legal migration and mobility, and enhancing synergies between migration and development.
- Strengthening overall governance, in particular by promoting conflict prevention and enforcing the rule of law through capacity building in support of security and development. Actions could also contribute to preventing and countering radicalisation and extremism.

PRESENTER**HANNAH COLE**

Trust Fund Coordinator, European Commission

INFORM 05 – EU TRUST FUND**EUROPEAN TRUST FUND FOR THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**

THURSDAY 17 MARCH – 16:30-17:30 – ROOM 4

This interactive information session will present the Trust Fund for the Central African Republic.

The Trust Fund for the Central African Republic (Bêkou Trust Fund), launched in July 2014, is the first of EU's Trust Funds. The Trust Funds were created to compensate for the weakness of the national administrations, combined with a sudden increase in the number of donors, leading to disorganised and fragmented responses of the international community, thus hampering an effective and sustainable contribution to the reconstruction of a country.

More than 2.5 million people in the Central African Republic – out of a population of 4.6 million – are in need of humanitarian aid. The scale of the political and security crisis calls for international aid that is structured and tailored to situations of fragility and can be organised quickly and efficiently. The Bêkou Trust Fund makes it possible to move beyond coordination between Member States and put in place a real joint organisation of resources, expertise and implementation capacity.

The Bêkou Trust Fund aims to prepare the transition from emergency response, such as humanitarian aid, towards longer-term development assistance, according to the Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development approach. The Trust Fund will finance measures designed to:

- Restore essential public services (e.g. electricity, transport, access to justice and access to water) and basic social services (health and education), and stabilise the food and nutrition situation;
- Revive economic activity;
- Stabilise the country and restore the social fabric, in particular through reconciliation, peaceful coexistence between the communities of the Central African Republic and respect for human rights; and
- Re-establish the legitimacy, rebuild capacity and restore the operation of national and local administrative structures.

PRESENTER**IRCHAD RAZAALY**

Trust Fund Manager, European Commission

INFORM 06 – CITY SHELTERS**CITY SHELTERS: RELOCATING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS**

FRIDAY 18 MARCH – 09:30-10:30 – ROOM 4

This interactive information session will present the new Protection and Shelter Programme under the EU human rights defenders mechanism, ProtectDefenders.eu, and foster exchange of best practices in this field.

Providing shelter or refuge in a safe location, usually outside one's home country, has been a long-standing way of ensuring the safety of human rights defenders subject to persecution and threats. Governments, local authorities, universities, NGOs and other actors have relocated such individuals at risk by alleviating the enormous pressure they suffer under and enabling them to continue their work.

In 2008, with the revision of the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders, the EU committed to providing temporary shelter in EU Member States to human rights defenders in danger. In 2009, the European Council welcomed the pan-European Shelter City Initiative promoted by the Czech Presidency of the EU, as well as the Protection and Shelter Programme implemented by the Spanish Government since 2008.

In 2011, the Commission undertook a mapping study of all existing shelter/temporary relocation initiatives worldwide and implemented by any type of actor, including NGOs, governments, and universities. This led to the design of the existing EU Protection and Shelter programme.

Endowed with EUR 5 million, the programme offers temporary protection and shelter both inside and outside Europe, including housing and subsistence. It also offers initiatives for human rights defenders to be able to continue their human rights activities, lecture in universities, build their capacities through training and language courses, and to expand their international network.

PRESENTERS**LUIGIA DI GISI**

Programme Manager, Human Rights, Gender, Democratic Governance Unit, European Commission

ALEXIA FALISSE

Programme Manager, Shelter City Initiative, Justice and Peace

HELGE LUNDE

Executive Director, International Cities of Refuge Network (ICORN)

WIEN DE SMET

Advisor for International Affairs and Local Human Rights Policies, City of Utrecht

MODERATOR**GUUS VAN ZWOLL**

Coordinator of the EU Temporary Relocation Platform, ProtectDefenders.eu

INFORM 07 – DEAR**DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING:
UPCOMING CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

FRIDAY 18 MARCH – 10:45-11:45 – ROOM 4

This interactive information session will present the objectives, priorities and eligibility guidelines of the upcoming Call for Proposals under the Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) Programme of the European Union's Development Cooperation Instrument. It will be launched in spring 2016.

The DEAR programme aims to develop European public awareness of the interdependent world, and to support active engagement in global attempts to eradicate poverty and to promote justice, and human rights, as well as sustainable ways of living.

PRESENTERS**JAN MATYAS**

Programme Officer, Civil Society, Local Authorities Unit, European Commission

LUCIA PARDUCCI

Programme Officer, Civil Society, Local Authorities Unit, European Commission

INFORM 08 – EU TRUST FUND**EUROPEAN UNION REGIONAL TRUST FUND IN RESPONSE TO THE SYRIAN CRISIS**
FRIDAY 18 MARCH – 12:00-13:00 – ROOM 4

This interactive information session will present the European Union Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis and its objectives.

Launched in December 2014, the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian crisis is the single biggest EU measure in response to the Syrian refugee crisis. In 2016, its programmes will help up to 1.5 million refugees and overstretched host communities in Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan and Iraq through providing basic education and child protection, better access to healthcare, improved water and wastewater infrastructure, as well as support to resilience, economic opportunities and social inclusion.

In partnership with the host governments, these actions will be aligned and implemented in accordance with the refugee crisis response plans of the affected countries. European NGOs will play a key role in implementing these four programmes.

The EUR 390 million-aid package consists of four programmes:

- A EUR 165 million education programme will finance support to the Ministries of Education in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan to enable them to enrol an additional 172 000 refugee children in school.
- A EUR 145 million resilience and local development programme will target more than 200 communities and 400 000 people across the region and notably in Turkey, addressing basic financial needs of vulnerable families, engaging unemployed and disillusioned youth through work.
- A EUR 55 million health programme will reach at least 700 000 refugees with a focus on Turkey and Lebanon. In addition, specific healthcare support is foreseen in northern Iraq.
- EUR 25 million will be used to set-up a water, sanitation and hygiene programme that will benefit up to 1 million people in Jordan and Lebanon, where the needs for supporting municipal water and wastewater services are biggest.

PRESENTER**NADIM KARKUTLI**

Trust Fund Manager, Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission

CSOs' Got TALENT!

The networking dinner will showcase talented musicians from diverse musical backgrounds who are engaged in promoting peace and education.

QOTOB PROJECT

Qotob founded an oriental fusion and instrumental musical project in Damascus in 2015. It builds on the cultural and historical ties between east and west. Refugees from their country at war, they are continuing their project in Brussels through collaboration with Belgian musicians.

Performers include:

- FRANÇOIS POSTIC, Saxophone
- RUI SALGADO, Double Bass
- BASSEL ABU FAKHER, Cello
- PIET MARIS, Accordion
- SIMON LELEUX, Percussion and Drums

GOIABADA

This Brazilian group is named after a goyave-based marmalade that is very popular in Brazil. Formed by four Brazilian musicians established in Belgium, the quartet plays the highly varied rhythms of Brazilian music, including Choros e Baioes.

Performers include:

- VICTOR DA COSTA, Guitar
- CLAUDIO ROCHA, Saxophone and Flute
- MARAT ARAUJO, Bass
- AUGUSTO REGO, Drums

ASBL NYANGA ZAM

This organisation is committed to peace, education and culture through music, vocals and choreography. Founded in Cameroon, it promotes intercultural dialogue through projects in Burkina Faso supported by Wallonie Bruxelles International.

Performers include:

- ZAM EBALE MARTINO, Singer
- OCTAVE AKAKPO, Percussions
- TODOR STEPHANOV, Piano
- VLADIMIR KOSTOV, Guitar
- PASCAL HAUBEN, Bass

CAIRDE SA BHEILG

Cairde sa Bheilg will perform some traditional Irish music on the occasion of Saint Patrick's day!

Performers include:

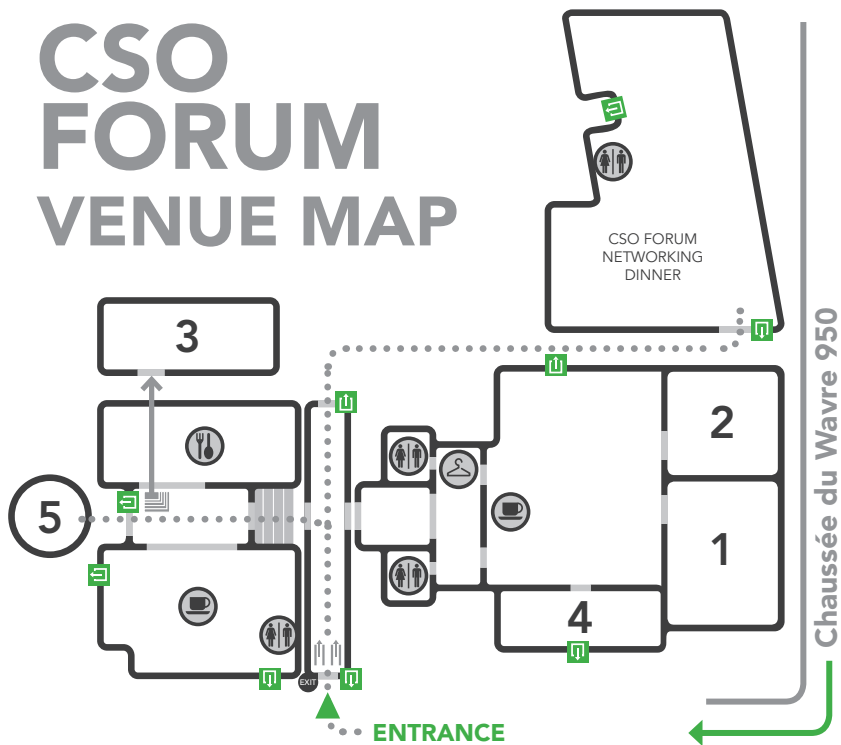
- GERRY MULLIGAN, Uilleann Pipes
- MICHEAL O'BREIN, Flute
- JASON O'ROURKE, Concertina
- JAN THOLEN, Violin

**CSO
FORUM 2016**
EU Engagement with Civil
Society and for Human Rights
17-18 MARCH 2016

This programme was printed on recycled paper



CSO FORUM VENUE MAP



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TURNING BIG PLEDGES
INTO LOCAL CHANGES

L'Arsenal, Chaussée de Wavre 950, 1040 Brussels