**The Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) is the official forum for coordinated civil society participation in the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS).**

CSPPS brings together a diverse representation of civil society globally, both from g7+ countries and from civil society organizations working on issues of peacebuilding, statebuilding, conflict & fragility and development at regional and global levels. Since 2011, we have engaged in the shaping of the IDPS process and its outcomes and in country implementation of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States.

*i) What is “enabling”? What does it mean to “create” and “maintain” space?*

The CSPPS enables a space made possible through the New Deal agreement whereby an ongoing dialogue between g7+ Governments and CSOs and OECD-INCAF donors is organised and proactively conducted around the implementation of five Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals (PSG).

Beyond this formal arrangement countries implementing the New Deal need sustained international and national attention for this 'organised' engagement space to be maintained through coordinated action and lobbying that bring that process about and make the New Deal real.

The International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding and within it the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, working from the strong premise of inclusive participation mechanisms sanctioned and supported by g7+ Governments, OECD-INCAF development partners and CSPPS CSOs, is the best chance for civil society space to be created and maintained - also from the premise that ongoing and constructive state-society dialogue is a pre-requisite for restoring cohesion in the social fabric in countries affected by instability, conflict and violence.

*ii) Concrete, actual country examples and illustrations. How were the experiences beneficial to all stakeholders?*

Wherever the New Deal process is conducted in an inclusive way and according to its core goals and principles, it has been beneficial to all stakeholders. In all constructive cases Governments benefit from accrued access to the people’s voice and to society-grounded analysis of the country’s root causes of conflict and instability and emanating from that defined priorities for follow-up policy action, and donors find a broadened base for fine tuning assistance to political processes favouring peaceful and just societies. A few examples to illustrate:

* The work of the CSPPS Country Team in Togo has allowed for reopening civil society space around peacebuilding that had been narrowed to almost nothing for years. CSO voices are heard and listened to again, having found a common platform sanctioned by domestic and international support to engage publicly in peacebuilding issues.
* In the DRC, the CSPPS Country Team has remarkably established space, building on multi sector expertise provision to negotiate an openly critical assessment of the country’s 2012-2014 budget allocations against New Deal criteria, and continuing thematic expansion of peacebuilding analysis (private sector, gender integration).
* At global level persistent efforts by elected representatives of the CSPPS to the decision making bodies of the IDPS and obtaining that processes are tailored to country contexts, needs in close relation with local CSOs that have their input to make on a range of issues summarised by the New Deal Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals.

The New Deal process with its various streams, instruments and especially indicators covering all aspects of public life and space, offers just as many opportunities to create and secure new space where it is limited or narrowing, and institutionalising this space.

*iii) If there are limitations, how do you continue to carry out your activities? Where are the openings?*

CSPPS and IDPS partners promote and seek to optimize inclusion that joins up genuine space in the public debate on peace and political stability, and active inclusion in policy processes, starting with the New Deal. Where this has not proved possible, CSOs have found other ways to voice their concerns on peacebuilding.

* South Sudan as blocked process due to strong internal conflicts, lack of political will for pursuing the New Deal process, and fast narrowing space for civil society under heavy pressure from security institutions. Openings here are found in the continuing engagement of CSOs to providing their analysis of how the New Deal can exist in South Sudan, should be pursued, and what the country can learn from former failure of the process. See the perspective paper “The New Deal Implementation in South Sudan”. Expertise provision to the Government’s relation with donors is also playing a role in keeping the discussion space open.
* In Afghanistan the New Deal process has encountered resistance in integrating Gender as part of its discussions and agendas. Here at the forefront of CSO representation are undeterred efforts from CSO Afghan Women Network, complemented by donor support for discussing Gender issues and the role of women and women groups in peacebuilding as integral part of the New Deal process.

The CSPPS offers a peer support and global level support mechanism to all member organisations working in contexts where space and voice are limited or narrowing. and where possible and needed will address this issue in context of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding.

*iv) Useful links, tools, resources, guides*

*Useful publications*

* IDPS, “A New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States”, 2011
* CSO Working Group on Sustainable Peace, State Building and Development, “The New Deal implementation in South Sudan: A South Sudanese civil society perspective paper”, 2015
* CSPPS 2014 Annual Report, “Amplifying the Voice of Civil Society in Policy Processes”,
* CSPPS Brochure, “The Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding”, 2015
* CSPPS, “Tackling and Preventing Ebola while Building Peace and Societal Resilience”, 2015

A complete repository of Civil Society input to the IDPS and New Deal processes is available [at this link](http://www.cspps.org/cspps-resources).

Visit the CSPPS website for more on New Deal and peacebuilding CSO initiatives at [www.cspps.org](http://www.cspps.org)