

CONCORD POSITION AHEAD OF THE 22 OCTOBER 2015 CONSULTATION MEETING ON THE

IcSP art. 4: conflict prevention, crisis preparedness and peace-building

As members of CONCORD, the European NGO confederation for relief and development, representing over 2,400 NGOs, we are pleased to connect to the Civil Society Dialogue Network and to take part in today's consultation. More specifically, CONCORD members:

1. Welcome the share for CSOs in IcSP (art. 4) conflict prevention funding:

Within CONCORD, a study is underway to review the share for CSOs in the implementation of the EU's financial instruments for development, human rights, conflict prevention etc. With regards to the IcSP, we welcome the fact that the instrument - for article 4 - has implemented a large part of its work directly through CSOs: From 12 % for CSOs in 2010, this share has grown to more than 50% in 2014 and almost the same in 2015 (in-country CSOs).

The Thematic Strategy Paper for IcSP 2014-2020 strongly recognizes the essential role of international and local CSOs, with references to the 2012 Communication "*The roots of Democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with civil society in external relations*". The CSO involvement with regards to the IcSP covers a broad spectrum such as early warning, conflict prevention, programmes for children and youth - often in the most difficult and dangerous situations, remote areas, working together with the communities that we seek to assist. It is positive that specific reference is made to the need to strengthen in-country capacities, particularly of civil society actors. This is something that European CSOs are heavily engaged in and discussing with the European Commission in different fora.

2. Welcome a further strengthened dialogue on key challenges

As European development CSOs, we would welcome a further strengthened dialogue with FPI on the enormous challenges faced in the areas of development cooperation and conflict prevention. The large number of people currently affected by conflict and fragility worldwide require the strongest possible support from the EU.