POLICY FRAMEWORKS RELEVANT TO PEACEBUILDING AND THEIR EVOLUTION 1991-2018

IN GERMANY, SWEDEN, THE UK AND THE EU

1991-1999
Wars in Bosnia & Kosovo

1991-2002
Sierra Leone civil war - wider conflict in West Africa

1994
Rwandan genocide

1997
White Paper, Eliminating World Poverty: A Challenge for the 21st Century (UK)

Brings violent conflict within the development frame and promotes an integrated response to tackle the root causes of violent conflict.

1997
OECD-DAC Guidelines on Conflict, Peace and Development Co-operation

Charts main lines of action for development cooperation in different phases of conflict.

1992
UN Agenda for Peace

Report from UN Secretary-General introduces concept of "post-conflict peacebuilding" in the post-Cold War world.

2000
Cotonou Partnership Agreement between EU and African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States

Introduces Article 11 on conflict prevention and peacebuilding to EU oldest traditional aid and trade agreement.

2000
UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security

Provides first global commitment on women, peace and security - widely referenced in subsequent strategies and approaches.

1999
Preventing Violent Conflict - A Swedish action plan

Proposes new instruments and methods for preventing conflicts from escalating.

2003
Start of Iraq War

2003
European Security Strategy

First EU Security Strategy in the wake of 9/11 - lightly mentions human security approach and focus on state failure and fragility as part of EU conflict prevention approach.

2001
9/11 and Start of 'Global War on Terrorism'

NATO intervention in Afganistan

2001
EU 'Gothenburg Programme' for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts

Recognises conflict prevention as one of the main objectives of EU external action.

2001
European Commission Communication on Conflict Prevention

Proposes to mainstream conflict prevention in European Commission international engagement through an integrated approach.

2004
German Action Plan for civilian crisis prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding

Sets out plan to build capacities for crisis prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Stresses the 'primacy of the civilian' in German crisis prevention.

2005
Creation of the UN Peacebuilding Commission

To support peace efforts in conflict-affected countries.

2005
European Consensus on Development

Defines conflict prevention and peacebuilding as a subset of EU institutions and member states' approach to development.

2007
EU Communication 'Towards an EU response to situations of fragility'

First EU response to fragile states - includes framework for engaging in difficult environments for sustainable development, stability and peace.

2007
Council Conclusions on Security and Development

Further develops the security-development nexus concept in EU external action.

2009
Lisbon Treaty

Consolidation of the EU and creation of a new foreign policy architecture - with Article 21 - 2 (c) TEU to preserve peace, prevent conflicts and strengthen international security.

2009
White Paper Eliminating World Poverty: Building Our Common Future (UK)

Outlines the UK's approach to building peaceful states and societies.

2010-2014
Sweden's 'Peace and Security for Development' policy

Highlights the significance of peacebuilding and statebuilding in development cooperation in conflict and post-conflict countries.

2011
Building Stability Overseas Strategy (UK)

First cross-government strategy on conflict issues; puts the concept of stability at the centre of the UK's conflict prevention efforts.

2010-2011
Start of the Arab Uprisings

2011
Start of the Syrian conflict

NATO Libya intervention

2011
New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States

Global agreement to improve development policy and practice in fragile and conflict-affected states, centred around 5 Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals.

World Bank - World Development Report on Conflict, Security and Development

Brings conflict and fragility issues to the development agenda.

2013
EU Comprehensive Approach to External Conflicts and Crises

Agenda for bringing together all EU actions with regard to external crisis, spanning diplomacy, security, defence, finance, trade, development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

2013
BMZ strategy paper on 'development for peace and security'

Aims to focus German development aid on structural causes of conflict and support to peaceful conflict resolution, reflecting German commitment to the New Deal.

2014
Russia's annexation of Crimea

2015-2017
Major terrorist attacks in Europe

2015
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

New global framework for sustainable development with dedicated goal on peaceful and inclusive societies (SDG 16).

2015
Aid strategy 'Tackling global challenges in the national interest'

Conflict-affected and fragile states placed at the forefront of UK development and foreign policy (commitment to allocate 50% of DFID's spending to these states).

National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review (UK)

Instability, conflict and state failure overseas as an increasingly direct threat to the UK - tackling the causes and mitigating the effects of conflicts is a national security interest.

2016
Vote on Brexit

Election of Donald Trump in the US

2016
Global Strategy for the EU's Foreign and Security policy

Asserts EU as a stronger security actor; calls for a more ambitious approach to fragility and resilience, putting 'peacebuilding' and 'conflict prevention' at the centre of an EU 'integrated approach' to conflict.

2016
DFID Building Stability Framework (UK)

Provides evidence-based guidance about how UK aid can help build stability and describes how aid can best help communities to make the transition from fragility to stability.

2017
EU Communication on resilience

Outlines the resilience approach to the prevention of violent conflict.

2017
Guidelines 'Preventing Crises, Resolving Conflicts, Building Peace' (Germany)

German cross-departmental guidelines for building sustainable peace. Built around the 'primacy of politics and the priority of prevention'.

2017-2022
Strategy for Sustainable Peace (Sweden)

Aims at contributing to prevention of armed conflict, effective conflict resolution, sustainable peacebuilding and statebuilding, increased human security.

2017
New European Consensus on Development

Peace as one of four cross cutting issues - peacebuilding mentioned as well as human security, stabilisation and countering violent extremism.

2018
Council Conclusions on the Integrated Approach

Framework for a more holistic and coherent EU conflict response. Stresses need to invest more in conflict prevention and mediation and introduces a focus on stabilisation.

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