



from Secretariat of the Knowledge Platform Security and
Rule of Law

date 27 November 2014

regarding Invitation to the Comprehensive Approach Workshop

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Dear Sir/Madam,

On Friday **12 December 2014** The Comprehensive Approach and Human Security Working Group of the Knowledge Platform is pleased to present two scoping studies:

'Gaps between comprehensive approaches of the EU and EU member states' (10.30 to 13.00) and **'Preparing for the Comprehensive Approach in the Netherlands'** (14.00 to 16.30).

The first session will look at efforts taken within the EU family, i.e. EU institutions and EU member states, to cooperate more comprehensively in the domain of conflict prevention and crisis resolution. The issue is prominently on the policy agenda since the European Council adopted the Communication on the "EU's Comprehensive Approach to External Conflict and Crisis" in May 2014 which included an agreement to formulate an Action Plan. Several EU member states, including the Netherlands, are promoting the formulation of this Plan as it provides for an opportunity to clarify how actions in support of conflict prevention and crisis resolution can be better connected between EU institutions and EU member states and how labour can be divided more effectively. The session will be organised along one presentation and the interventions of three discussants, followed by a round table discussion where participants will be invited to share views and provide suggestions for possible further research in this domain. The outcomes of this consultative event will be presented to the Steering Group of the Knowledge Platform.

The speakers will be:

- **Volker Hauck** (Head of Programme Conflict, Security and Resilience; European Centre for Development Policy Management, Maastricht) – Presentation of the scoping study.
- **Federico Santopinto** (Head of Research; Group for Research and Information on Peace and Security, Brussels) – How ready are EU member states to act more comprehensively?

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- **Rob van den Berg** (Political Advisor, Cordaid, The Hague) – How different EU member states deal conceptually and operationally with non-state civil actors in the context of conflict prevention, crisis resolution and peacebuilding?
- **Fernanda Faria** (ECDPM Programme Associate) – The Action Plan on the Comprehensive Approach – Challenges in linking EU member states perspectives and the EU institutional mandates more effectively. Where do we stand?
- **Wiesje Elfferich** (Security Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs) – A perspective on the Comprehensive Approach from the Netherlands

A light lunch will be offered during the break.

The second session will look into the different ways the Dutch actors prepare themselves to coordinate in a comprehensive approach. The Dutch government has clearly embraced the idea of working toward a comprehensive approach (Regeerakkoord Rutte II), but it remains yet unclear how to achieve this. This comparative study looks into the different approaches used by various actors, including armed forces, governmental and non-governmental actors. Combining desk research and interviews, it aims to provide an overview of the current Dutch stakeholders and makes some suggestions of how to advance the comprehensive approach in the future.

During this session the results of the study will be presented. Afterwards a discussion will take place with some of the interviewees and the participants. The goal of this discussion is to outline options for preparation in a way which is in line with the mandates and organizational goals of the Dutch actors involved in the comprehensive approach and to discuss what can best be done in the future. As part of this discussion a recent initiative of 1GNC and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (“Common Effort 2.0”) will be shortly presented and discussed.

Main speakers/discussants are:

- **Paul van den Berg** (Cordaid) & **Marc van den Homberg** (TNO); presentation of the research results
- **1GNC / Ministry of Foreign Affairs / TNO**: presentation of Common Effort 2.0
- **Brigadier general Kees Matthijssen**: commander 11Air Mobile Brigade, former military advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Speaker / discussant from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (tbc)
- Speaker / discussant from an NGO / IO (tbc)

Given the limited number of available seats, please register as soon as possible, contacting Ms. Renu Jitan at r.jitan@thehagueinstitute.org

With kind regards,

Cordaid, TNO, NLDA and ECDPM