



# Making Prevention Possible

Annual report 2017



A Network of People  
Building Peace



**Sharon Bhagwan Rolls**  
Chair GPPAC Board

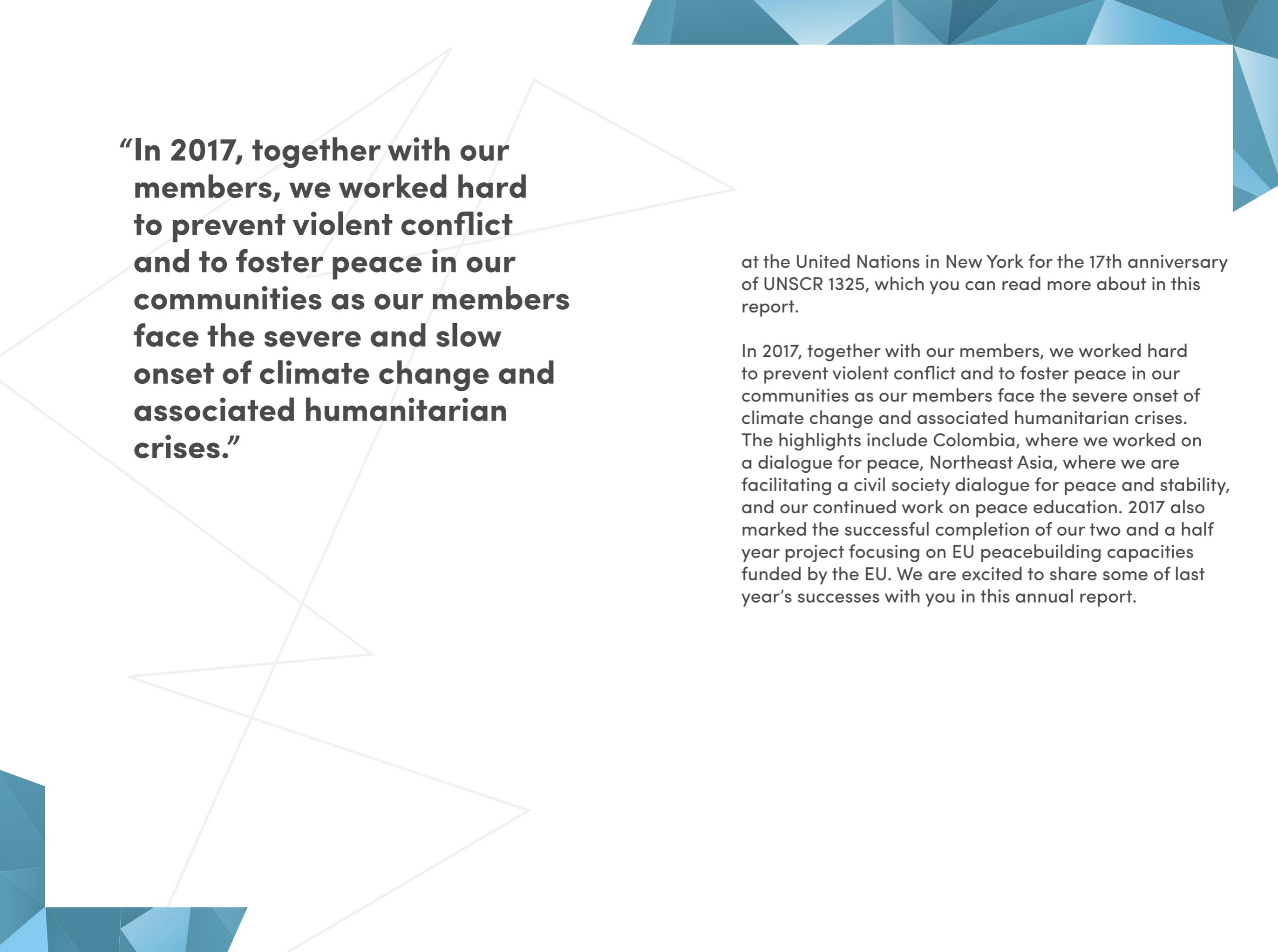
**“For us, it is vital to keep on working on demystifying prevention as well as explaining how it can be applied in practice.”**

## Introduction

**In a world where war, fear and displacement are unacceptably high, the solution is not in reacting to conflicts when they turn violent, but in preventing them. This is what we strive for at GPPAC. What we have seen in 2017, is that prevention is also high on the international agenda. United Nations Secretary General António Guterres has stressed that the priority is ‘prevention, prevention and prevention.’**

There seems to be a broad consensus about this in policy circles. During its presidency of the Security Council in March 2018, the Netherlands made an active contribution to international peace and security, focusing on not only peace missions but also by helping to prevent conflict. We welcome these developments.

It is important to note that although there is political will, no single actor can achieve this alone. It is key that national governments, international institutions and civil society organisations work together on this issue. Even though there is support for conflict prevention, it is still a poorly understood concept. For us, it is vital to keep on working on demystifying prevention as well as explaining how it can be applied in practice. This is why we continue to bring local voices and the expertise of our members to key international arenas. Examples include the Mali civil society organisations visit and exchange with the European Union, as well as our gender experts gathering



**“In 2017, together with our members, we worked hard to prevent violent conflict and to foster peace in our communities as our members face the severe and slow onset of climate change and associated humanitarian crises.”**

at the United Nations in New York for the 17th anniversary of UNSCR 1325, which you can read more about in this report.

In 2017, together with our members, we worked hard to prevent violent conflict and to foster peace in our communities as our members face the severe onset of climate change and associated humanitarian crises. The highlights include Colombia, where we worked on a dialogue for peace, Northeast Asia, where we are facilitating a civil society dialogue for peace and stability, and our continued work on peace education. 2017 also marked the successful completion of our two and a half year project focusing on EU peacebuilding capacities funded by the EU. We are excited to share some of last year’s successes with you in this annual report.



**Darynell  
Rodríguez Torres**  
Executive Director

## Working together for conflict prevention

**Conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts are needed now more than ever. Violent conflict has spiked dramatically since 2010. The global cost of violence was US\$14.67 trillion in 2017, equivalent to 12.6% of Gross World Product. It is estimated that 60% of the cases where peace agreements were reached relapse into conflict.**

The recent “Pathways for Peace” study by the UN and the World Bank suggests two main trends in the nature of current armed conflicts. First, most of the current conflicts are not between state actors, not even between a non-state actor and a government or state actor. Most of the conflicts occur now amongst non-state actors. Second, most of the victims of these violent conflicts are non-combatant civilians.

If we consider these two major trends, it is evident that conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts need to go beyond governmental actors. These efforts have to involve, and in many cases even have to be led by civil society actors because they are often at the centre of these dynamics. GPPAC’s work in 2017 focused on strengthening the capacities of civil society actors to play their part in addressing violent conflicts. We believe a whole of society approach – by which all citizens in a society feel they can and should contribute to the establishment of more peaceful societies – is necessary.

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**“A shift from reaction to prevention. If we work together, prevention is possible! ”**

In this annual report we highlight some of GPPAC’s work in different regions. Our strength resides in our ability to connect the local, national, regional and global levels of action, learn from each other to improve our practice and articulate collective actions.

Thanks to our partnerships with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with the Swedish International Development Agency, Sida, GPPAC is able to advance in the implementation of its strategic plan. Their contributions, as well as those made by other donors who support particular projects, enable us to strengthen our convening power, promote a better understanding of conflict prevention, enhance the advocacy capacities of our members and bring the voices of civil society organisations in the development of more effective and inclusive peacebuilding policies at the national, regional and global levels.

I am sure that our joint efforts will enable us to continue making an important contribution in promoting a new approach to resolve armed conflicts.

A shift from reaction to prevention. If we work together, prevention is possible!

# Impact of armed conflict worldwide

Number of conflict-related deaths in 2017:



UCDP  
(Uppsala Conflict Data Program)

Number of violent conflicts in 2017:



UCDP  
(Uppsala Conflict Data Program)

Refugees / displaced people in 2017:



Global Trends Forced Displacement in 2017, UNHCR

Global economic impact of violence in 2017:



Global Peace Index 2018, Institute for Economics & Peace

# Our highlights 2017

## Europe

Successful delivery of the EU funded two and half year project “Whole of Society Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding” (WOSCAP).



## Middle East and North Africa Syria

SyriaPPAC was created, which includes Syrian civil society organisations based in Syria, Turkey and Lebanon. The organisations decided to coordinate many of their activities in order to complement each others peacebuilding efforts.



## Latin America Colombia

In Colombia we had a project promoting intergenerational dialogue on the building of a culture of peace and empowering Colombian youth to participate in influencing policy on a national level. The project contributed to the reconstruction of the social fabric in some of the most conflict-affected regions of Colombia.



## West Africa Mali

Brought voices and recommendations from local Mali civil society organisations to key international institutions such as the United Nations and European Union.



## Southeast Asia Philippines

GPPAC Southeast Asia and the GPPAC Global Secretariat regularly engaged with representatives of the Government of the Philippines and the National Democratic Front as the two parties met this year for peace talks. Our goals in this ongoing work are to broaden support for this peace process, to increase the accountability of the different actors and to provide the possibility for civil society views to be taken up in the talks and future implementation of any agreement. GPPAC was present as an observer during the peace talks meetings held in the Netherlands.





# About us

The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), founded in 2003, is a member-led network of civil society organisations working on conflict prevention and peacebuilding around the world. GPPAC consists of fifteen regional networks of local organisations with their own priorities, character and agenda. These regional networks are represented in the International Steering Group (ISG), which sets our global priorities and course of action.

We promote a global shift in peacebuilding, from solely reacting to conflict to preventing them from turning violent. We work with different actors and bring together different groups to find peaceful solutions to conflict.

Together we support our regional networks to take joint action by facilitating regional and global exchanges: members from diverse regions meet to learn from each other's experiences. Our members also connect with other actors, including the UN, regional intergovernmental organisations, state actors, the media and academia. This has resulted in unique initiatives, showing our ability to bridge global policy making with local ownership and practice on the ground. Our [work](#) is guided by and is structured around three core strategies: enabling collaboration, improving practice, influencing policy.

Our thematic priorities include gender mainstreaming, human security, peace education, and dialogue and mediation and we strive to integrate these thematic perspectives in all our work.

*This report provides snapshots of what GPPAC does and is not a full account of the work we embarked upon and accomplished in 2017. [Read more about our work, on our website.](#)*



# Our Work

**Northeast Asia**  
Preventive action,  
Dialogue and mediation

## Ulaanbaatar Process: A civil society dialogue for peace and stability in Northeast Asia

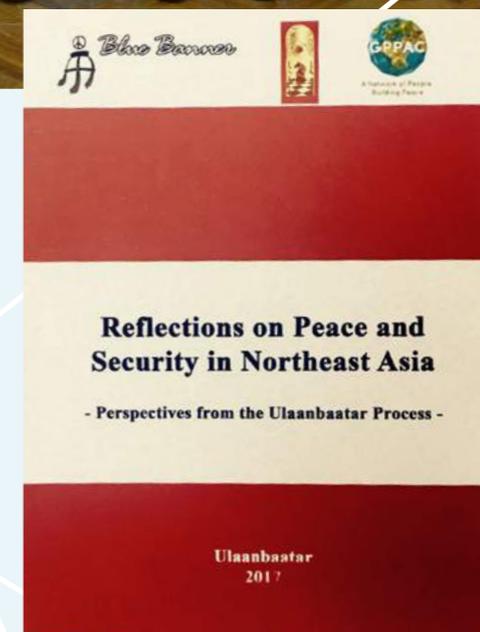
Since 2015, GPPAC Northeast Asia has been facilitating a civil society dialogue in the Korean Peninsula, usually hosted by Mongolia's capital, and therefore named the "Ulaanbaatar Process". With changes of the administrations in both the U.S. and the Republic of Korea, 2017 was a year of both challenges and opportunities for the region, marked with fierce rhetoric and difficult moments. Amidst this context, our members in Northeast Asia met for the third time around the Ulaanbaatar Process on August 29th and 30th, 2017.

The meeting provided an opportunity for sincere and open civil society dialogue on the current peace and security situation in Northeast Asia, and particularly the crisis on the Korean Peninsula. Civil society perspectives regarding the importance of dialogue and peaceful resolution of the current situation were emphasized by

participants from throughout the region including China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States.

The publication *Reflections on Peace and Security in Northeast Asia - Perspectives from the Ulaanbaatar Process* was launched at this meeting. This unique collection of essays captures the diverse opinions, concerns, tensions and contradictions of a region in turmoil at the time of the third Ulaanbaatar Process meeting. The chapters focus on Northeast Asian security and a vision for a nuclear-weapon-free zone; Korean Peninsula security issues and their impact on regional stability; and civil society dialogue and multi-track diplomacy in peacebuilding in Northeast Asia. The styles, opinions and visions resolved in this publication are as diverse as the Northeast Asian region itself and the fact that they have been offered willingly, and in good faith, is a modest yet significant testament to the success of the ongoing Ulaanbaatar Process, and a tangible outcome thereof.

*Find out more on the [Ulaanbaatar process here](#)*





Peace education,  
preventive action

## Peace education is a preventive action

**Learning to live together has become increasingly important in today's divided world. Fear of the other and the rise of populism are causing societies to fracture from within. History teaches us that these tensions can lead to violent conflicts. However, compassion and empathy for the other can be taught and nurtured. Education is the key. The line of education that leads to more peaceful societies is known under different labels in different parts of the world, however the impact remains the same: the prevention of violent conflict.**

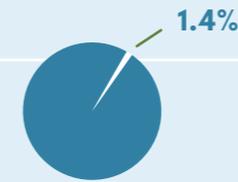
Since 2006, GPPAC members from all corners of the world have been working together to exchange information, skills, and strategies, on how best to engage and collaborate with key stakeholders in their education systems. GPPAC members have formed a Peace Education Working Group that has helped support the integration of these core skills into curriculum requirements (as is the case in Serbia, Montenegro, Australia, Kyrgyzstan, U.S., Afghanistan), into teacher training (U.S., Philippines, Ukraine, Moldova, Transnistria), and curriculum development for use across countries and regions (Ghana/West Africa, U.S., Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan).

In December 2017, the GPPAC Peace Education Working Group met in Armenia with local teachers, principals, educators, students, ministry officials and civil society. GPPAC members from Ghana, U.S., Australia, Central

Asia, Colombia and Iraq shared their lessons, approaches and successes in engaging youth and policy makers on the topic of peace education. This exchange resulted in initiatives for partnerships around curriculum sharing and possible exchanges between institutions and establishments in Armenia and Ghana, Colombia and Iraq.

One example of such cross cultural cooperation resulted from exchanges between GPPAC members in Moldova and Ukraine. In 2017, Moldovan GPPAC member Pro-Didactica, worked in schools across Moldova and the self proclaimed republic of Transnistria in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, school administrators, and teachers across the country to integrate a “culture of good neighbourhood” to help build understanding between the various cultural groups and communities. Previously, educators from both sides of the border came together and developed a common education curriculum (in Russian and Romanian). GPPAC members in Moldova and Transnistria built on this. For the first time since the violent conflict of 1992 educators from both sides of the divide are working in cooperation on developing a course for their school systems and children are being taught important social skills of intercultural communication.

## Some key facts on education and conflict:



Only of **1,4%** humanitarian aid was invested in education in 2016.

*Source: UNOCHA FTS 2016*

**x 2**

The likelihood of experiencing violent conflict **doubles** in countries with high education inequality between ethnic and religious groups.

*Source: Education Policy and Data Center Policy Brief, 2016,3*

**↓ 37%**

Greater gender equality in education decreases the likelihood of conflict by as much as **37%**.

*Source: Education Policy and Data Center Policy Brief, 2016,3*

**> 200%**

In countries with twice the levels of educational inequality, the probability of conflict **more than doubles**.

*Source: The Learning Generation, executive summary, p. 14*

**For more information on the Peace Education working group see here:**  
**<https://www.gppac.net/el/peace-education1>**



## Prevention of violent extremism in the Sahel

**West Africa**  
Lobby & advocacy,  
Peace education

The lack of sustained security and inclusion of people and communities has contributed to the proliferation of armed non-state groups in several West African states. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Head of the UN Office of West Africa and the Sahel stressed in his July 2016 report to the UN Security Council, that the rise of violent extremism is the first threat to peace in the region. To complement more immediate government-led responses, GPPAC is, through its West Africa network, developing and implementing longer term human security based strategies to prevent violent extremism.

One such strategy by the GPPAC member network West Africa Network of Peacebuilders (WANEP), is the promotion of peace education geared towards preventing violent extremism in partnership with ECOWAS. In 2017, WANEP undertook a regional analysis, and developed a regional approach for a peace education curriculum on preventing violent extremism. Having regularly engaged with ECOWAS on this issue, WANEP was requested to present this work and analysis at the ECOWAS meeting of ministers of education from the region, which gave their formal support for the development of such a curriculum, to be adopted by ECOWAS and then implemented by its member states. In 2018 the peace education curriculum for the Prevention of Violent Extremism will therefore be developed and launched together with ECOWAS.

# Dialogue for a culture of peace in Colombia

Colombia  
Dialogue and  
mediation

Since 2005 the Colombian government has engaged in peace processes with paramilitary groups and guerrillas, after fifty years of armed conflict in Colombia. The ongoing processes with the FARC and the ELN are finally showing promise of the definitive ending of the internal armed conflict. However, the legacy of violence and its deep cultural roots requires a deep cultural transformation, in order to achieve a truly stable and lasting peace.

This process faces many complex risks. Youth in marginalised regions are particularly threatened and vulnerable to several factors: breakaway groups of guerrillas not interested in the peace process, criminal bands, remnants of previous paramilitary groups, drug traffickers and illegal mining groups, among others. Poverty, inequality, unemployment and a severe lack of opportunities in these regions all contribute to deepening the problem. Colombian youth has been unenthusiastic for political participation. To achieve the needed change it is essential to learn from the experience of the past generations and from the country's historic past. It is particularly important to empower young people, the new generations of Colombians who face the challenge of developing and building a country without armed conflict and increasingly in peace.

In 2017, La Paz Querida and GPPAC launched a project to promote intergenerational dialogues on the building of a culture of peace in Colombia and to empower Colombian

youth to participate in influencing policy on a national level. It aims to reconstruct the social fabric in the most conflict-affected regions of Colombia.



*Go [here](#) for more information on the project.*



## Sharing expertise with Colombian military

### Colombia Human Security

March 2017, the 'First International Seminar on Human Security and Transitional Justice' took place in Bogotá, Colombia. The event was organised by the General Command of the Armed Forces of Colombia and addressed the challenges for the Armed Forces to consolidate a stable and lasting peace in the country. GPPAC, Interpeace and Alianza para la Paz were invited to the event to share their expertise and contribute to lasting peace in the country. GPPAC brought experience from its global network of hundreds of civil society organisations working on conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Together, GPPAC members developed the [Manual on Human Security](#), which was published in 2015. The manual covers key issues relating to conflict prevention, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, human peacekeeping aspects of military operations, security sector reform and development, community policing and restorative justice, dialogue and civil-military-police coordination.

*[Read more about the event here.](#)*

# Peacebuilding in Syria

Middle East and North Africa  
Preventive action

Since the first movements of the so-called “Arab Spring” started six years ago, the optimism emanating from the nonviolent overthrow of authoritarian regimes across the MENA region has given way to increasing instability and seemingly intractable conflict. Syria’s current civil war and tensions with its neighbours threaten to spark further conflict within and between communities in the region. The continuing restrictions on civil liberties by governments throughout the region compound the highly complex and challenging context in which our network members work. There is a strong need from civil society to advocate and lobby for improved political space. Engagement with regional intergovernmental organisations such as the League of Arab States (LAS) as means of increasing civil society access and influence is crucial. With a regional approach again key, the initial country focus in 2017 has been on Syria, given the ongoing armed conflict that has regional implications.

In April 2017, the Syrian Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (SyriaPPAC) was created during the workshop ‘Peacebuilding in Syria: Early Warning Early Response’ in Beirut, Lebanon. The workshop brought together sixteen Syrian civil society representatives and activists based in Turkey, Lebanon and Syria. The main goal of the workshop was to build the capacity of the participants. An interesting result was that the participants decided to coordinate many of their

activities as they realised that they could complement one another’s work as well as gaining access to areas that are controlled by other political groups. To formalise this collaboration, the participants decided to create SyriaPPAC, a national GPPAC network. Syria remains the focus for members in the MENA region in 2018.





Gender,  
lobby & advocacy

## Women and conflict prevention

**We are committed to the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. We place a strong emphasis on the need to recognise, highlight and involve women in active roles in conflict prevention, as part of any holistic engagement towards sustainable peace.**

Together with our gender experts, we continued to support women in peacebuilding, and ensuring that local women's voices were heard by key international actors. In October 2017, our gender experts gathered in New York for the 17th anniversary of UNSCR 1325. Through events and meetings, our experts were able to share their local stories from conflict settings with UN policy makers and civil society partners in New York.

Together with the Quaker United Nations Office, we co-hosted an event at the [Prevention Platform](#): "Reflections on the Role of Women in the Prevention of Violent Conflict". Here four of our gender experts, Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, Justine Kwachu, Natalya Martirosyan and Ana Villellas, reflected upon the main challenges they face and changes needed in order to increase meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention and resolution in their local realities.

# Economic integration to prevent conflict

## South Caucasus Dialogue and mediation

**GPPAC in the South Caucasus held a series of discussions with civil society and media representatives from Georgia and Armenia on how economic integration might help resolve the region's frozen and active conflicts and prevent re-escalation.**

With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, armed conflicts arose where newly independent states included areas that were previously either autonomous or held special status within the Soviet Union. These conflicts led to over 30,000 deaths and 1.5 million displaced people. The armed conflicts ended, but no peace treaty or other political framework resolved them, leaving them frozen.

Nearly thirty years later, these frozen conflicts remain, and their number has increased: Nagorno-Karabakh, Transnistria, Abkhazia and South Ossetia are all home to protracted conflicts, and eastern Ukraine may become one. International mediation has not solved them, and the conflict-separated nationalities have not found peaceful solutions to problems. These conflicts may resume at any moment.

The majority of the countries with frozen conflicts in their territories have expressed the wish to become EU and NATO members in the longer term. Economic integration is seen as one of the possible ways forward to deal with the frozen conflicts. In the South Caucasus, frozen

conflicts have been important drivers for countries to start the economic integration processes. The Georgia-EU Association Agreement (AA) with its Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) and Armenia's accession to the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) are two clear examples.

Despite questions about the effectiveness and efficiency of economic integration treaties to prevent conflicts in the South Caucasus, they certainly provide a chance for the secessionist regions to overcome isolation and improve their economies. There are indications that some businesses there are looking for ways to export their niche products (such as strawberries, citrus fruits, kiwi and wine in Abkhazia) to markets other than Russia. The social-economic benefits which Georgia will eventually reap from its agreement with the EU may make it attractive for the secessionist regions and contribute to a peace dialogue. Civil society organisations play a key role here. As there is little or inaccurate information about the different trade agreements, civil society organisations can ensure correct information is disseminated.

ICCN ([www.iccn.ge](http://www.iccn.ge)), our Regional Secretariat for the South Caucasus, launched the project "New re-division and diversification of economic ties in the Region of South Caucasus." The project covers Georgia and Armenia, which are members of the competing integrationist projects



and economic unions AA/DCFTA and EEU. The project seeks to strengthen conflict prevention mechanisms and infrastructures and increase access, political space and opportunities for civil society to engage in Georgia and Armenia. The project, which includes all members of the GPPAC South Caucasus network, conducts civil society dialogue, thematic group meetings, and discussions with peace journalists.

As one of the main activities, ICCN has brought together Georgian and Armenian civil society organisations and media representatives to answer questions of confidence building and conflict prevention in the region. They made recommendations about ways in which the AA/DCFTA and EEU agreements could exist side-by-side and relieve possible conflicts related to both economic and political aspects of the problem in South Caucasus.

The civil society dialogue and resulting policy recommendations contribute to the process of finding a solution for better economic integration and coexistence of the different trade agreements in the South Caucasus. By the end of the project participants will produce policy papers on salient issues regarding the economic connectivity and cohabitation of AA/DCFTA and EEU in the South Caucasus, underlining the role of civil society organisations and media in this process.

# Increasing cooperation, peace and the prevention of violent extremism

**Southeast Asia**  
Lobby & advocacy,  
dialogue  
and mediation

In 2017, our Southeast Asian members focused on three areas of work:

- increasing cooperation with ASEAN to make it more responsive to people's peace and security needs,
- developing a regional analysis and responses to prevent violent extremism, and
- jointly engaging in the Philippines Peace Process.

Approaches to peace and security in Southeast Asia are still very state-centric, with a real risk of sidelining the human security needs of people on the ground. This was witnessed, for example, in the Marawi siege in the Philippines; with the declaration of martial law; or the use of force by the Myanmar armed forces in the crisis in the Rakhine state.

With many governments closed to civil society, GPPAC Southeast Asia aims to have more responsive governments. This is also the approach towards regional bodies, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to be more inclusive of civil society. Through continued engagement, provision of timely and relevant input and the mobilisation of civil society from the region some significant steps were achieved in 2017 with the Government of the Philippines and ASEAN.

The Government of the Philippines - in particular the Department of Foreign Affairs - acknowledged the importance of civil society involvement by developing



a Terms of Reference for sustained and structural engagement with civil society when preparing its positions and engagements with ASEAN. While they still have to be signed by the highest authorities, these Terms of Reference are unique in the region and are a very significant achievement as they formally recognise and formalise civil society's role in preparing member states discussions on all issues pertaining to ASEAN. In 2018, the goal is to have them signed and to share this example of best practice with other governments and actors in the region. In addition GPPAC provided strategic input to the advisers to the ASEAN processes with the Government of the Philippines; and one of its members will serve as a formal adviser to the Malaysian delegation to the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation.

From 1971 onwards the Government of the Philippines and Communist inspired movements in the country, have been involved in an armed conflict. In 2016, under the new government of President Duterte, a new round of peace

talks, facilitated by the Royal Norwegian Government, was initiated between the government and the National Democratic Front (NDF), which represents the communist party and its armed wing. GPPAC Southeast Asia and the Global Secretariat regularly engaged with the government and NDF representatives. Our goals are to ensure broader support for this peace process in the Philippines, to increase the accountability of the actors engaged in the process, and to provide the possibility for civil society views to be taken up in the talks and future implementation of any agreement

GPPAC was present as an observer during the peace talks meetings held in the Netherlands. GPPAC also met with representatives from NDF, the Philippine government and the Norwegian mediation team, and developed several statements to encourage all parties to resume the currently stalled peace talks. While the talks remain stalled GPPAC's efforts have led to a mutual recognition of the usefulness of such engagements, acknowledging GPPAC as a relevant and constructive partner and the possible (future) role of civil society in being more inclusive and bringing about such talks to a fruitful conclusion.

Finally, the issue of violent extremism has taken a more central role globally and in shaping debates in the region, often being used as an easy shortcut to justify militarised interventions with the real risk of increasing grievances

on the ground. GPPAC in Southeast Asia developed their capacities for regional analysis on the prevention of violent extremism. This is closely linked to the global work GPPAC has initiated through its Working Group on preventing violent extremism and builds on work undertaken by GPPAC Southeast Asia regional secretariat Initiatives for International Dialogue on youth and preventing violent extremism.

GPPAC partnered with the Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process of the Philippines among others to organise a regional ASEAN conference on peace and the prevention of violent extremism during the Philippines chairmanship of ASEAN. This Conference brought together representatives from all regional governments, think tanks, the UN and ASEAN as well as was attended by the Dutch Ambassador to the Philippines and representatives from the Dutch embassies in Manila and Jakarta. GPPAC was centrally involved in this, allowing for all its regional members to take part, be speakers or facilitators in panels and developing an initial [GPPAC regional statement on Prevention of Violent Extremism](#). The joint output and recommendations of the conference were submitted to the Philippine government, the sitting Chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). [Read more](#).

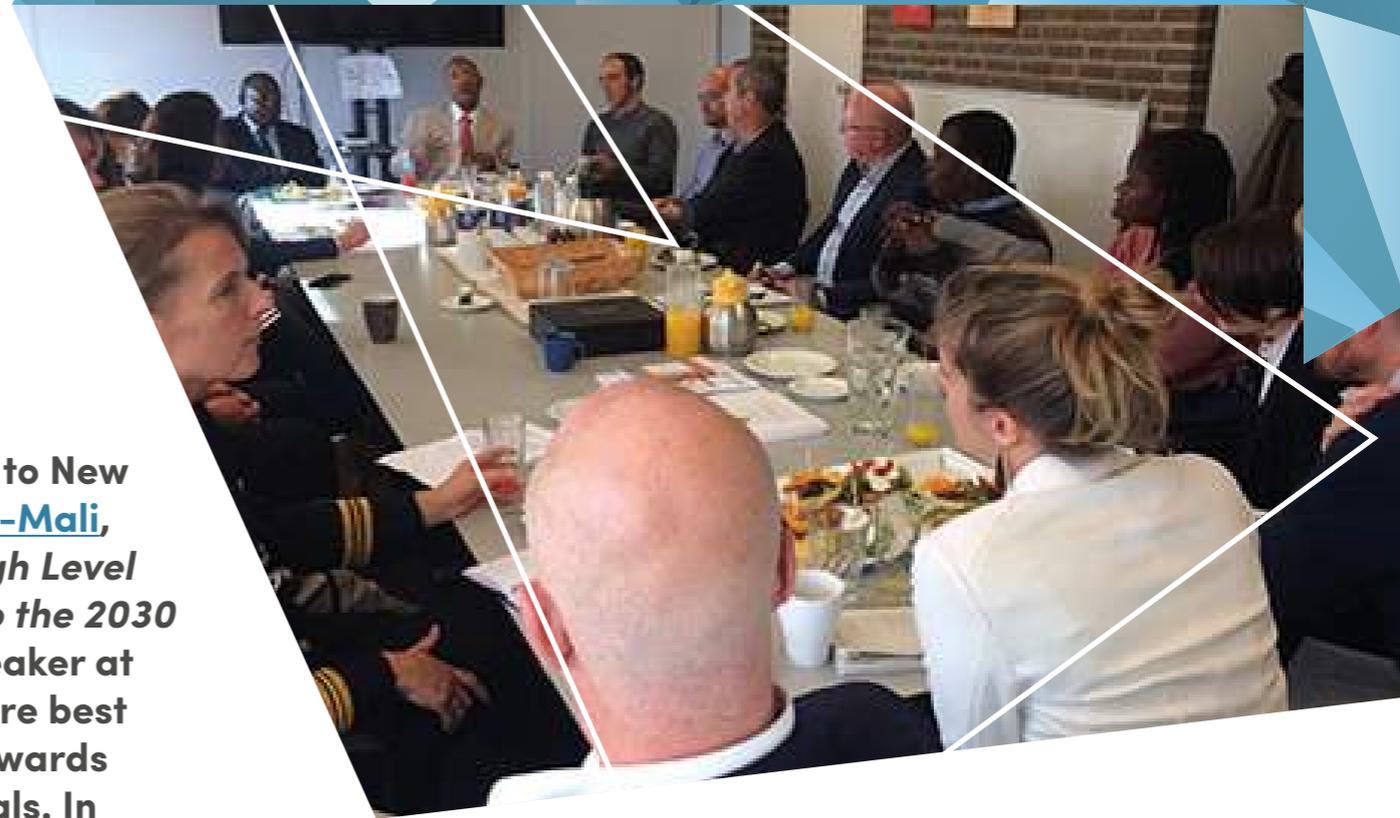
# Mali advocacy delegation to the EU

West Africa  
Lobby & advocacy

As a result of the successful Mali advocacy visit to New York in 2017, the national coordinator of [WANEP-Mali](#), Thera Boubacar, was invited to speak at the *High Level Event on Human Security and its Contribution to the 2030 Agenda*. He was the only formal civil society speaker at the event, which provided an opportunity to share best practices on how human security contributes towards implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition to this formal engagement, GPPAC organised a series of meetings with UN organisations, including UN Women. This led to the re-affirmation of the willingness to work together and to the implementation of a joint programme in Mali later in the year.

GPPAC also organised an advocacy engagement by researchers and civil society actors from Mali in Brussels and the Netherlands from 7 to 11 November 2017. The EU engagements were linked to the final WOSCAP conference, where EU's conflict prevention and peacebuilding capabilities were assessed. Mali was a case study on which both Professor Moussa Djiré, Dean of the University of Bamako, and Thera Boubacar, coordinator of WANEP-Mali participated. Key recommendations for the EU included the need for greater visibility and engagement with all local actors on the provided support to increase transparency of EU interventions as well as accountability towards and ownership by local actors and communities. GPPAC

arranged engagements with key actors working on Mali and the Sahel at the European External Action Service, the Dutch ministries as well as think tanks, academia and NGO's. This builds on advocacy capacity building that WANEP undertook with civil society at national level in Mali, ensuring the continued civil society engagements at local level (to complement the UN and EU work) and ensure there is broader understanding on how to engage the state at local level.





# Improving GPPAC training capacities for human security

## Human Security

In December 2015, GPPAC together with the Alliance for Peacebuilding and the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies launched the Handbook on Human Security – a Civil-Military-Police Curriculum. As part of the GPPAC Strategic Plan, one of our priorities is now to ensure we use, disseminate and evaluate the impact of this handbook for civil society organisations and other practitioners working on conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

To this end, the Improving Practice working group was set up in 2017, to develop GPPAC training capacities and partnerships within and beyond the network. The working group met in The Hague in October, bringing together civil society trainers that have tried and tested the Handbook on Human Security with those looking to familiarise themselves with its content for future use.

The workshop was an important opportunity for peacebuilding practitioners and trainers from around the world to share their expertise on conflict-affected regions and reduce the gap between theory and practice in the field of conflict prevention. One of the main conclusions was that the handbook provides an excellent toolkit and an extensive list of theoretical concepts for peacebuilders. Its main strength lies in the careful balance it has struck between evidence-based concepts and the flexibility with which one can deploy and adapt such concepts to different contexts.

# Peace and the Sustainable Development Goals

Lobby and  
advocacy

In September 2015, the international community adopted the Agenda 2030 which includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They build on the Millennium Development Goals, which lasted from 2000 to 2015, but are more comprehensive and inclusive. The SDGs are particularly relevant for the peacebuilding community for three reasons. First, the Agenda explicitly recognizes the intrinsic link between peace and sustainable development. Second, peace is a central topic across the Agenda as well as in a separate goal, SDG 16 on peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Finally the central role of civil society for the implementation of the SDGs - together with states and the private sector - is recognised and the need for partnerships highlighted under SDG 17.

The implementation of the SDGs provides an opportunity to strengthen conflict prevention as an important part of inclusive and sustainable development. The universal Agenda 2030 aims to be a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder process involving all segments of society and leaving no one behind. The same approach is necessary to achieve sustainable peace as recognised by the UN General Assembly and Security Council in their 'Sustaining Peace' Resolutions'. Sustaining peace and working on prevention is a continuous effort that needs to be undertaken everywhere before, during and after conflicts. This also increases policy, political and

**“The Sustainable Development Goals provide a vital opportunity for the global peacebuilding community and networks like GPPAC to really amplify the connection between peace and development”**

*Sharon Bhagwan Rolls*

operational attention to long term sustained efforts to address root causes of conflict for example through peace education.

GPPAC was part of a group of NGOs that collectively lobbied at the UN in New York and with different member states to ensure peace became an integral part of the agenda. To follow up on this, GPPAC in 2017 has supported its members in creating a stronger political commitment for inclusive, people centred implementation at local, national, regional and international level. GPPAC has raised members' awareness about and understanding of the SDGs, fostered monitoring of SDGs' implementation nationally and jointly explored opportunities to link the ongoing work of members to this framework. We featured the work and experiences of our members in working with the SDGs within our network

and in relevant policy fora, provided input into the Dutch SDG review and developed an initial background paper on engaging with the SDGs from a peacebuilding perspective. The paper gives recommendations on how CSOs can engage in SDG processes relevant to conflict prevention and peacebuilding. It is the first step in moving from awareness raising to capacity building on advocacy for SDG implementation and increased involvement in SDG related policy discussions nationally and internationally.

In 2017 we facilitated the presence of members in SDG related events such as the [Annual Forum on SDG 16+ in Georgia](#), which featured government, UN, RIGO representatives as well as civil society from across the world. This led to members from Egypt, together with other organisations from Tunisia and Ghana among others, initiating a global exchange between youth organisations working on the SDGs. As the SDGs offer a more productive and empowering platform of exchange with multiple actors and have a strong youth pillar they are seeking to consolidate this network in 2018. Duplicating and adapting the experiences of civil society in Georgia, members from Thailand developed a shadow report for the national review of SDG implementation by the Thai government, presented during the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on SDGs in New York to foster a discussion on key developmental and peace issues with

government representatives. In 2018 GPPAC will build on these initial steps and promote the link between Human Security and its inclusive people centred approach and the SDGs through a series of trainings in three regions and the presentation of their experiences at the HLPF in July 2018 and 2019 (when the peace goal will be reviewed). With the number of conflicts increasing worldwide, further fostering conflict prevention and peacebuilding through the SDGs by ensuring a truly inclusive multi-stakeholder approach based on local ownership needs to be further fostered, maintained and scrutinised to achieve the 2030 goals of ending poverty, protecting our planet and ensure prosperity for all.



### WHY CONFLICT PREVENTION?

"IN ADDITION TO THE MORAL IMPERATIVE OF SAVING LIVES AND PREVENTING HUMAN MISERY, WE KNOW THAT EVERY DOLLAR SPENT ON CONFLICT PREVENTION SAVES MORE THAN \$16 ON MITIGATING THE DAMAGE OF WAR."

Melanie Greenberg  
USA

#GPPAC4Peace  
#PeaceDay2017



"WOMEN'S ACCESS TO LOCAL POWER STRUCTURES HAS TO BE IMPROVED BY INCREASING THEIR PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORK AND COMMUNITY COHESION INITIATIVES THAT BUILD PEACE."

Pamhidzai Taka  
Southern Africa

#Beyond1325  
#Women4Peace



## Visibility

We share and give visibility to our work in many ways. In 2017, we did this through participating in online campaigns and amplifying the voices of our members on the ground. For the International Day of Peace we shared their views on why conflict prevention is important. To give more visibility to our gender experts, and their work in the field of conflict prevention and peacebuilding, we participated again in the 16 Days Campaign. Additionally, for the UNSCR 1325 week, we organised an online campaign sharing our gender experts' views on why women are key for conflict prevention and the risks and challenges women face.

In 2017, GPPAC increased its online presence. This includes both the GPPAC website and the GPPAC social media platforms. For instance, our twitter followers increased by almost a fifth and our website saw a visitor increase of 25%.

Following the trends and developments, the main focus of the past year has been on the development of more visual content, ranging from infographics to videos and animations. An example is the [GPPAC animation](#), where we explain what conflict prevention is, why it is important and what GPPAC is doing for sustainable peace worldwide.



## Enhancing EU Peacebuilding Capabilities

European Union,  
Georgia,  
Mali, Ukraine

This project demands for better and more integrated EU-wide responses to national, regional and global conflict trends are at the top of Europe's political agendas. Given the salience of these challenges, a central question is: what are the current EU civilian capabilities in the fields of conflict prevention and peacebuilding, and how can these be enhanced in order to make policies more inclusive and sustainable? To answer this question, GPPAC led the EU-funded Horizon 2020 consortium project "Whole of Society Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding" (WOSCAP).

The project delivered an assessment of the EU's peacebuilding capabilities, a catalogue of good practices, and over 150 recommendations, all of which have been captured in over thirty reports. Its key findings and results are based on a Whole-of-Society approach which combines greater inclusivity with improved integration of policy choices. Project partners conducted a comparative analysis, identifying the challenges, opportunities and risks for the EU in this field. This was done through a combination of desk and field research in case study countries: Mali, Yemen, Georgia, Ukraine, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Guatemala and Honduras. This led to several state-of-the-art academic papers, to be published in scientific journals, as well as the key findings to develop policy-oriented recommendations.

*For more information about the project, you can visit [the website](#)*



The WOSCAP project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 653866

Based on the thorough research conducted the previous year, 2017 focused on developing actionable policy recommendations to support the EU's policies for conflict prevention, and engaging on these with policy makers at the EU, Member States, and the UN. This was based on a strategy to link them to implementation of the EU's new strategic priorities and integrated approach. Draft policy recommendations were debated in a series of nine fruitful policy dialogues and roundtables, organised in and outside of the EU, including The Hague, London, Berlin, Paris, Madrid, Kiev, Tbilisi, Bamako and Sana'a. With the feedback and input from policymakers, civil society and academics, the recommendations were refined and presented at a final conference in Brussels, jointly with another Horizon 2020 project. Stakeholders supported the project's inclusive, bottom-up, and whole-of-society approach.

Engagements on good practices and lessons learned with a variety of actors contributed to better understanding of the EU's potential peacebuilding capabilities, and identified future research priorities, and explored the potential use of ICTs for peace.

Over the course of 2017, it was supported by strategic outreach efforts and engagements, in and outside of the EU. GPPAC produced several videos and animations to highlight the findings, the value of the whole-of-society approach and local ownership, covering interviews and



statements from project partners and participants of project events.

The project has been able to make a valuable and relevant contribution to the current policy and academic debates. Several key impacts have been achieved. It raised awareness and successfully mobilised around conflict challenges and potential solutions in key categories of EU intervention: multi-track diplomacy, security sector reform and governance reforms. It addressed context-specific challenges in the case study countries, also contributing to an increased accountability of EU interventions towards local populations. Finally, it established several Communities of Practice, connecting practitioners and policy makers.



# Financial report

## Donors

We gratefully acknowledge the continued support from our donors and thank them for their ongoing commitment to the work of GPPAC.

In 2017, GPPAC received funding from the following donors:

- European Commission
- Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen) / zivik
- Swedish International Development Agency (Sida)
- The Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law



The WOSCAP project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 653866

# Partnerships and alliances

**The current funding landscape for civil society worldwide is deteriorating – organisations are shutting down both in the North and in the South. GPPAC is faced with two main challenges when fundraising to sustain its network:**

1. Governments are often limited to granting funds to developing countries or fragile states on the OECD DAC list of overseas development aid recipients – conflict does not only occur in low income countries and fragile states, and civil society is under pressure – both financially and politically – in high-income countries too.
2. Fewer and fewer donors can provide core funding to civil society organisations and therefore many civil society organisations (particularly those in the global South) must survive from project to project, depending on donor priorities rather than their own. GPPAC's Global Secretariat based in The Hague strives to support its network members around the world to find appropriate funds to activate their priorities in their region through applying to appropriate grants or connecting members to relevant stakeholders.

GPPAC strives to implement fully its strategic plan 2016–2020 and support all fifteen of its regions, while providing its network members with opportunities to take part in cross-regional activities to learn from each other, exchanges practices and strengthen their capacities.

GPPAC is grateful for the continued support of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which has been supporting GPPAC since its inception in 2003. Thanks to this support our network members achieved numerous results in Eastern Europe, South Caucasus, West Africa, East and Central Africa, Middle East and North Africa and Southeast Asia in 2017. Such support enables members to meet, discuss key issues in their region, propose solutions and implement them together with key stakeholders such as governments, military, police, academia.

In 2017, the GPPAC network entered in a partnership with the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) for a period of three years. This unrestricted funding will enable all fifteen of GPPAC's regions to strengthen their work on conflict prevention and enable them to continue to build peace in their own contexts. Furthermore, cross-regional activities around human security training, the Philippines peace process, peace education, women, youth peace and security will be bolstered. GPPAC and Sida share similar approaches of local ownership first, conflict sensitivity and emphasis on inclusivity, concepts which GPPAC is excited to promote globally and regionally.

2017 also saw a short ten month project in Colombia, funded by the German Ministry of Foreign affairs through their zivik programme. The Intergenerational

Dialogues for a Culture of Peace in Colombia, was a project implemented in Colombia, with Global Secretariat support, by our newest member: La Paz Querida, a prominent network in Colombia. Thanks to Zivik's support our member reached out to fifteen municipalities most affected by conflict throughout the country and established dialogues to support community reconstruction and promote peace education.

In November 2017, the EU funded project WOSCAP ended, after two and a half years of implementation. A closing event took place in Brussels with partners from Ukraine, Mali, Georgia, Yemen, Germany, Netherlands, France, United Kingdom, Spain, to present key recommendations to EU policy makers. GPPAC thanks the EU for a very successful project and hopes for opportunities to build on the results of the project.

## Looking forward

**2018 will be a year of results for GPPAC, in which we will reap the results of our work over the past few years. The emphasis for 2018 will be on supporting our members more directly in their fundraising through webinars, in person capacity building and so forth.**

For more information on how YOU can support 200+ civil society peacebuilding organisations worldwide, contact our Coordinator Project Development [Marie-Laure Poiré](#).

# Balance sheet

Balance sheet as at December 31, 2017  
(after appropriation of the result)

Assets	December 31, 2017	December 31, 2016
<b>Tangible fixed assets</b>		
Equipment	18,474	4,684
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,474</b>	<b>4,684</b>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Receivables	452,415	485,490
Cash and cash equivalents	1,248,606	544,759
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,701,021</b>	<b>1,030,249</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,719,495</b>	<b>1,034,933</b>

(all amounts in euro)

Liabilities	December 31, 2017	December 31, 2016
<b>Reserves</b>		
Continuity reserve	114,773	106,278
Short-term reserve	652	546
<b>Total</b>	<b>115,425</b>	<b>106,824</b>
<b>Short-term liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	13,214	13,342
Taxes and social security payments	60,967	57,866
Received pre-payments donors	1,260,172	610,465
Accruals, provisions and other liabilities	269,717	246,436
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,604,070</b>	<b>928,109</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,719,495</b>	<b>1,034,933</b>

(all amounts in euro)

# Statement of income

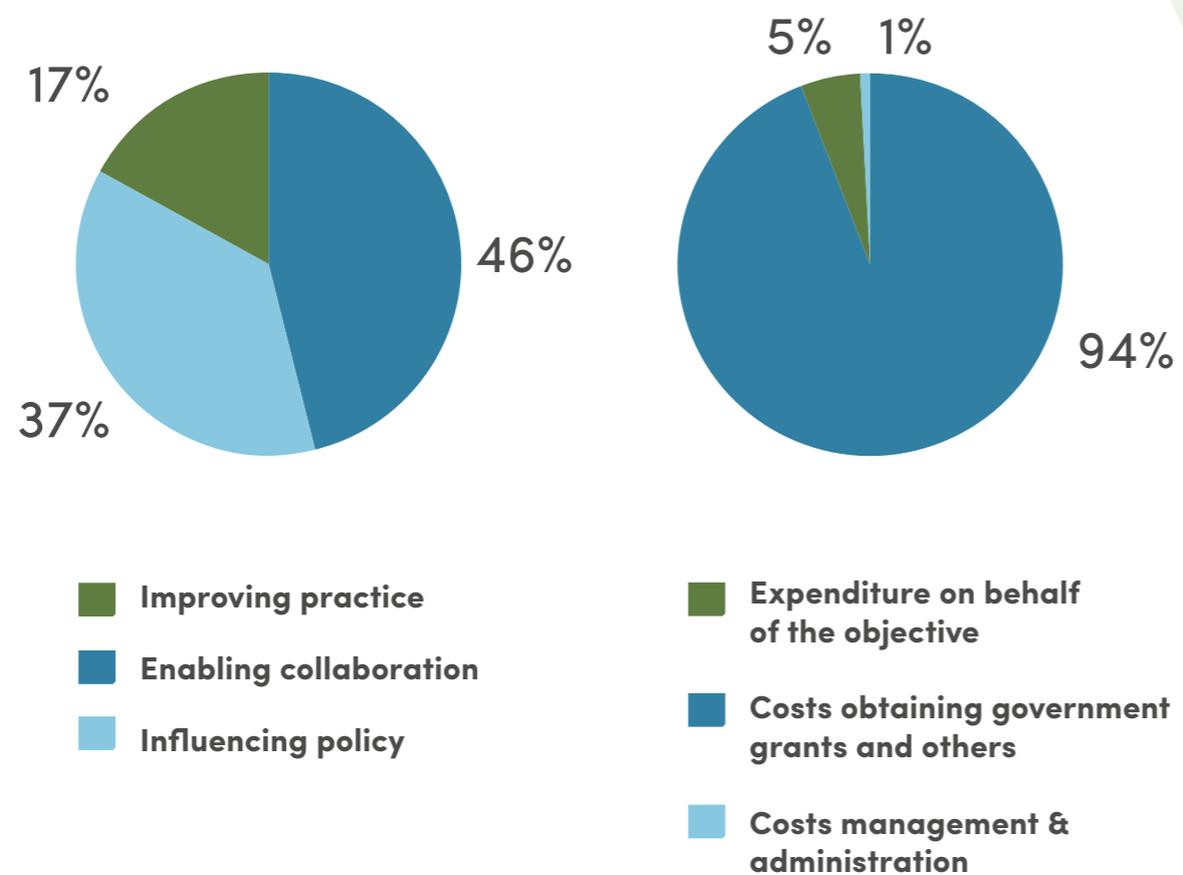
Statement of income and expenditure for the year 2017

<b>Income</b>	<b>Realisation 2017</b>	<b>Budget 2017</b>	<b>Realisation 2016</b>
Grants from governments and others	2,942,756	2,970,000	3,373,072
Income other than grants	9,118	0	14,550
<b>Sum of income</b>	<b>2,951,874</b>	<b>2,970,000</b>	<b>3,387,622</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>Expenditure on behalf of the objective</b>			
Enabling collaboration	1,280,180	1,300,000	1,350,433
Improving practice	1,016,925	1,000,000	1,158,451
Influencing policy	469,887	535,000	685,873
Online partnerships	52	0	503
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,767,044</b>	<b>2,835,000</b>	<b>3,195,260</b>
<b>Expenditure fundraising</b>			
Costs obtaining government grants and others	41,833	45,000	48,104
<b>Management &amp; administration</b>			
Costs management & administration	134,396	140,000	135,386
<b>Sum of expenses</b>	<b>2,943,273</b>	<b>3,020,000</b>	<b>3,378,750</b>
<b>Surplus/deficit</b>	<b>8,601</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50,000</b>
<b>Appropriation of result</b>			
Continuity reserve	8,495		13,055
Short-term reserve	106		4,183
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,601</b>		<b>8,872</b>

(all amounts in euro)

As some grants ended in 2017, the income of the GPPAC Foundation decreased in 2017 to EUR 2,951,874 from EUR 3,387,622 in 2016. GPPAC closed the financial year with a positive result of EUR 8,601. Accon AVM Controlepraktijk B.V. audited GPPAC's full accounts. We publish the audited accounts on our website [www.gppac.net](http://www.gppac.net).

# Expenditure per programme 2017





# Organisation & Governance

## Global Secretariat Staff

**Jenny Aulin**

Managing Adviser Human Security  
Regional Coordinator West Africa (until December 2017)

**Victoria Carreras Lloveras**

Manager Communications and Information Management

**Charlotte Crockett**

Coordinator Network Development,  
Regional Coordinator Southern Africa

**Charlotte Divin**

Coordinator Project Development,  
Regional Coordinator Northeast Asia

**Deniz Düzenli**

Communication Adviser,  
Regional Coordinator Middle East and North Africa

**Minna Hojland**

UN Liaison Officer (until August 2017)

**Kees Kolsteeg**

Finance Manager

**Paul Kosterink**

Coordinator Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

**Kristina Miletic**

Project Assistant EU Peacebuilding Review,  
Regional Coordinator Western Balkan

**Laurie Mincieli**

UN Liaison Officer (from October 2017)

**Pascal Richard**

Managing Adviser Policy and Advocacy

**Darynell Rodríguez Torres**

Executive Director, Regional Coordinator North America  
and Latin America and the Caribbean

**Maarten van Bijnen**

Online Communications Specialist

**Maja Vitas Majstorović**

Coordinator Gender,  
Regional Coordinator Eastern Europe, Caucasus

**Gabriëlla Vogelaar**

Project Coordinator EU Peacebuilding Review,  
Regional Coordinator Europe

**Interns**

**Belen Giaquinta**

Knowledge, Practice and Development

**Marina Gracioli de Paiva**

WOSCAP

**Benthe Guezen**

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

**Johanna Hilbert**

Gender

**Rick Hoefsloot**

WOSCAP

**Martha Marcinski**

Communications

**Inga Nehlsen**

Policy and Advocacy

**Marieke Peeters**

Policy and Advocacy

**Matthew Wojcik**

Knowledge, Advocacy and Practice

# Governance

**The GPPAC foundation is a Foundation under Dutch Law (stichting). The Board of the GPPAC Foundation consists of seven members.**

Members of the Board are appointed upon nomination by the GPPAC International Steering Group (ISG), and a majority of the board members must be members of the ISG. Each of the fifteen GPPAC regions is represented in the ISG, which determines joint global priorities and actions.

The GPPAC Board provides leadership and is accountable to the ISG. Members of the Board serve for a period of three years, which can be renewed once. Membership of the Board is voluntary, and does not involve any form of financial compensation, other than the reimbursement of expenses.

The Board appoints and supervises the Executive Director of the GPPAC Foundation. The Executive Director is compensated within the Terms and Conditions of Employment of the GPPAC Foundation, at a rate commensurate with the Guidelines for compensation of Directors of Charitable Organisations, established by the Netherlands Professional Association of Charitable Organisations.

The Executive Director is accountable to the GPPAC Board and takes financial and operational decisions within the policies and guidelines as set by the Board. Mr Darynell Rodríguez Torres is the director of the GPPAC Foundation. His gross salary of 2017 amounted €72,675. This is including holiday allowance but excluding pension premium. No other allowances were paid to him.

GPPAC's Chamber of Commerce (Kamer van Koophandel) number is 4121740.

## Board members

**Sharon Bhagwan Rolls**

*Chair*

Executive Director femLINKpacific, Suva, Fiji.

**Joris Voorhoeve**

*Vice Chair* (until February 2017)

Professor in Leiden in Public administration, in particular of international organisations and Lector in International Peace, Justice and Security at the Haagse Hogeschool.

**Liesbeth Reekers**

*Treasurer*

Researcher for the Dutch House of Representatives Internal Bureau for Research on Government Policy and Spending.

**Mariska van Beijnum**

*Member*

Deputy Head Conflict Research Unit, Clingendael, Netherlands Institute of International Relations, The Hague, the Netherlands

**Rob Zeldenrust**

*Vice Chair of the GPPAC Board* (from February 2017)

Chairman of the board of the Sen Foundation for Research and Education in International cooperation, chairman of the board of Unesco Centrum Nederland and vice-chair of the board of the Indonesia-Nederland Society.

**Miguel Álvarez Gándara**

*Vice Chair*

and the President of SERAPAZ, Mexico.

**Walter Shikuku Odhiambo**

*Member* (until September 2017)

**Ivana Gajovic**

*Member*

Director of Nansen Dialogue Centre Montenegro



# Organisational development

**2017 was the first year under the new management of GPPAC. From this perspective it was a year of transition and learning about the work of the different areas of the foundation, getting a better grip on the different processes and assessing what changes could be undertaken to improve the overall functioning of the organisation.**

Three priorities were identified at the beginning of the year for the organisation as a whole:

- Keeping a well functioning network and improving network governance and development at the regional level.
- Enhancing GPPAC's political influence and visibility towards the general public and specially towards key decision makers.
- Addressing the budget gap and ensuring the sustainability of the organisation by developing new projects and broadenings its donor base.

Regarding network development, efforts were made to strengthen some regional networks and to further develop our network development strategy. It is worth highlighting the transition in the East and Central African network where the regional secretariat moved from the Nairobi Peace Initiative - Africa (NPI-A) to the Centre for Conflict Resolution (CECORE) in Kampala. This is a good example of how regional network structures allow room for new leaderships to emerge while at the same

time keeping within GPPAC the wealth and expertise of organisations who contributed to its foundation. This work will continue in 2018 when we expect our International Steering Group to provide direction on how to improve our governance structures at the national, regional and global levels.

During 2017 GPPAC also advanced in terms of its visibility. There was a great number of requests for GPPAC to participate in different events and speak at different forums. Also, there were different requests by the media including some TV interviews in important media outlets. This trend suggests a growing interest in the contribution of GPPAC. However, the way in which we translate this growing visibility into greater ability to influence relevant actors in a strategic way is one of the areas that needs to be further developed in 2018.

Many of the management efforts in 2017 focused on the fundraising front. In this regard, the results were very positive, particularly thanks to the partnership agreement signed with the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) which will provide core funding to GPPAC for three years (2017, 2018 and 2019). This grant will allow us to strengthen our convening power; enhance our communication capacities to be better able to make the political case for conflict prevention and peacebuilding; empower our working groups and channel local voices to



global policy arenas.

The GPPAC Foundation will continue working to ensure we provide a greater added value to our members and to the larger peacebuilding community. One of our main goals is to connect actors and contribute to articulate collective actions. We believe that throughout 2017 we made an important contribution in this regard, making new connections and enhancing the capacities of different actors to be more effective in their conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts.





# GPPAC International Steering Group

## **Eastern and Central Africa**

[Center for Conflict Resolution \(CECORE\)](#)

## **Southern Africa**

[Ecumenical Church Leaders Forum \(ECLF\)](#)

## **West Africa**

[West Africa Network for Peacebuilding \(WANEP\)](#)

## **Latin America and the Caribbean**

[Regional Coordination for Economic and Social Research \(CRIES\)](#)

## **North America**

[Alliance for Peacebuilding \(AfP\)](#)

## **South Asia**

[Regional Centre for Strategic Studies \(RCSS\)](#)

## **The Pacific**

[femLINKpacific](#)

## **Southeast Asia**

[Initiatives for International Dialogue \(IID\)](#)

## **Northeast Asia**

[Peaceboat](#)

### **Central Asia**

[Foundation for Tolerance International \(FTI\)](#)

### **Middle East & North Africa**

[Permanent Peace Movement \(PPM\)](#)

### **Eastern Europe**

[Non-Violence International](#)

### **Caucasus**

[International Center on Conflict & Negotiation \(ICCN\)](#)

### **Western Balkans**

[Nansen Dialogue Centre Serbia](#)

### **Non-regional ISG members**

[World Vision International](#)

[World Federalist Movement](#)

[European Peacebuilding Liaison Office \(EPLO\)](#)

[United Network of Young Peacebuilders \(UNOY\)](#)

[African Center for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes \(ACCORD\)](#)

# GPPAC's International Steering Group

