

## PROGRESS IN 2017-18

- Saferworld's advocacy on Yemen contributed to the Human Rights Council Resolution in September 2017 calling for an independent investigation into the reported human rights violations in Yemen.
- We briefed the European Council Working Party on Terrorism, the European Union External Action Service and other high level EU officials on alternative approaches to preventing violent extremism. We also discussed the EU's stabilisation concept note (summary proposal) and provided comments, which were accepted, on the EU draft guidance on counterterrorism.

# POLICY CENTRES

**We work with a range of institutions and governments that are at the centre of international peacebuilding and conflict prevention, including the United Nations, European Union, and the governments of the United States, China, Sweden and the United Kingdom.**

## EU

At the EU, we briefed officials on the evolving situations in Myanmar, Uganda, Sudan, South Sudan and Yemen. We continued to promote alternative approaches to addressing conflict, including by training European delegation officials on how to better take conflict dynamics into account in their programming. Officials from the European External Action Service and the European Commission who attended our workshop on the Sustainable Development Goals then went on to highlight the important role that civil society plays in promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

## UNITED KINGDOM

In the United Kingdom we advocated for people-centred approaches to peace and security abroad, working with the government, parliament and UK-based development organisations. As co-chair of Bond's Conflict Policy Group we led on the drafting of the joint report 'State of the world's emergencies' which

helped inform parliamentarians on conflict issues. We also pushed for alternatives to hard security, such as local peacebuilding solutions to security concerns in conflict-affected contexts such as Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Yemen. Our engagement with parliament and officials included advocating for National Security

Council strategies to address the root causes of conflict, improving the effectiveness of the cross-government Conflict Stability and Security Fund, supporting DfID's approach to building stability, informing the UK's new National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, and ensuring aid effectiveness in fragile states.

## UNITED STATES

In the United States we pushed for the US government to take up people-centred approaches to conflict prevention in its foreign policy and national security strategy. We focused on the changing contexts in Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan, and

on the gender, peace and security agenda. We also advocated for the cessation of arms sales to Saudi Arabia for use in Yemen. In 2017-18, staff and partners from Saferworld's policy team and from our Kenya programme travelled to the US, along with experts on

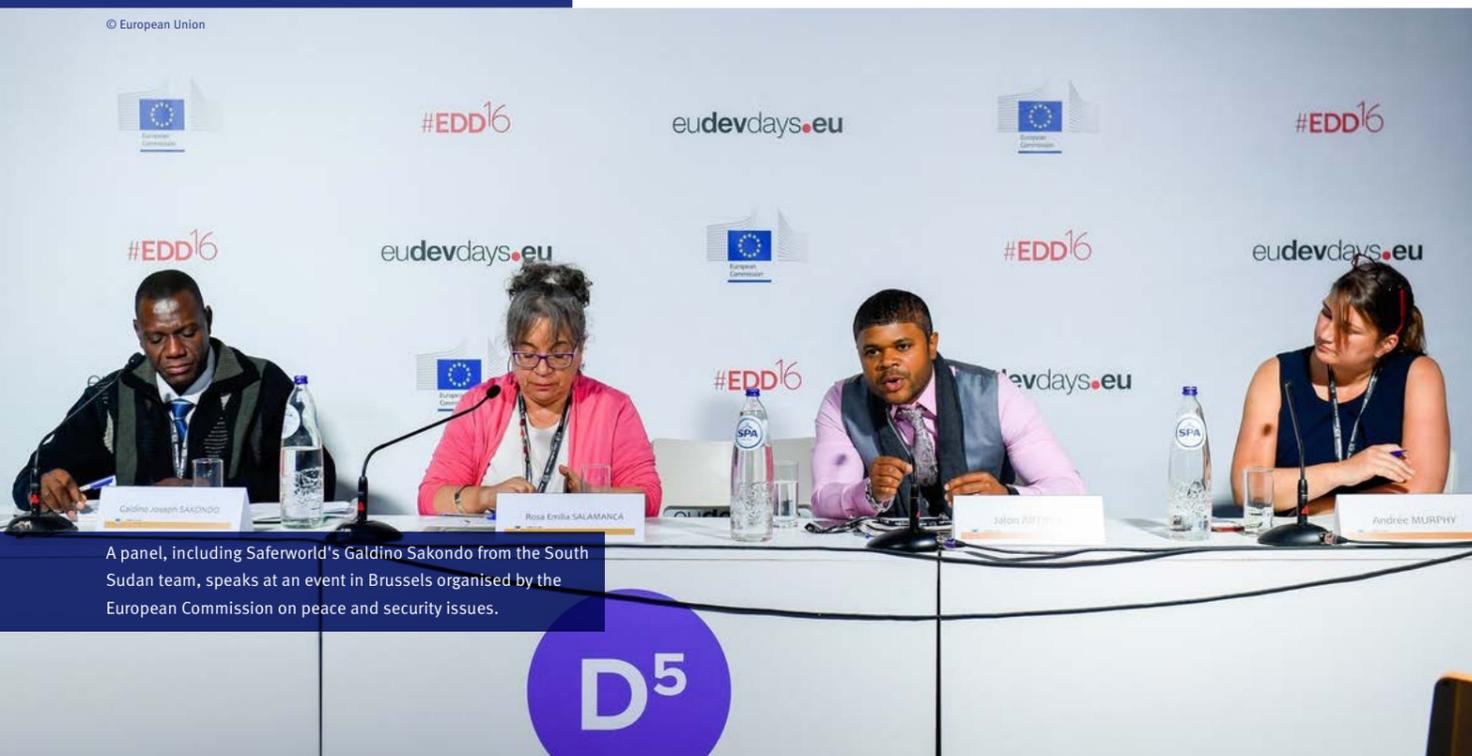
Syria, Egypt, youth, human rights and countering violent extremism. They spoke on panels and at roundtables, and they briefed policymakers, providing evidence-based research and grounded experiences that strengthened policy recommendations.

## CHINA

In China, we worked with Chinese think tanks and government officials to promote international dialogue and cooperation on export controls for conventional arms and dual-use items and technologies (those that have civilian uses but can double as weapons or weapon components). We set up a

working group of international arms experts from Asia, Europe and the US through a series of workshops and policy dialogues in Beijing and Vienna. The group discussed best practices for how industry can comply with arms export regulations, how governments can coordinate with companies and exporters to ensure rules are being followed, and

practical steps to build capacity for compliance by industry. We also conducted research and analysis on China's political, economic and security engagement in Africa, and the peace and security implications of the China-led 'Belt and Road Initiative' – a \$1 trillion development campaign focused on infrastructure.



A panel, including Saferworld's Galdino Sakondo from the South Sudan team, speaks at an event in Brussels organised by the European Commission on peace and security issues.

“As a major power whose presence is increasingly felt in fragile and conflict-affected countries, cooperation with China is needed now more than ever to ensure its engagement overseas helps to promote, rather than undermine peace.”

Bernardo Mariani, head of China programme