



NGO seminar on civil-military relations

In collaboration with ICVA

DAY ONE

3 December 2007, 9.00 - 17.30

Trends in national, EU, UN and NATO policy and practice.
Lessons learned from NGO operational strategies at field level.

DAY TWO

4 December 2007, 9.00 - 13.30

NGO advocacy strategies at field, national and international levels.

VENUE

Maison des Associations Internationales,
Rue Washington 40, 1050, Bruxelles

REGISTRATION

Tel: +32 (0)2 541 1360

Fax: +32 (0)2 534 9953

e-mail: stagiaire@ngovoice.org

www.ngovoice.org

EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Humanitarian Aid

Supported by the European Commission through
its Humanitarian Aid department

NGO seminar on civil-military relations

Humanitarian agencies are confronted by manifold challenges in their relations with different military actors, including international peace operations, state militaries and non-state armed groups. In recent years, 'civil-military relations' has been often neglected in European and international NGO advocacy and learning initiatives.

For NGOs, their negotiations with armed groups are often devolved to field staff, local partners and beneficiary communities. This delegation of responsibility involves complex issues of risk management and protection that are often poorly understood at present. Furthermore, there are often striking gaps between agency practice on the ground and the principles articulated in UN humanitarian guidelines.

This seminar will explore two themes: NGO policy and advocacy work on CIVMIL, and NGO operational strategies on CIVMIL at field level. Expert speakers from the field level and headquarters will share lessons learned and reflect on knowledge or other gaps relating to policy and practice.

Objectives

Operational learning

- To share learning and identify best practices in NGO CIVMIL operational strategies.
- To inform initiatives to develop improved international standards and operational guidelines on CIVMIL.

Advocacy

- To identify best practices in NGO advocacy strategies at national, regional and international levels.
- To promote more effective and joined-up NGO advocacy.