

PRESS RELEASE
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European Union Webinar \ **Reflections on the approach to DDR with the United Nations**

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BICC, together with the Department of Peace Operations (DPO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) supported the European Union in organising a webinar to share some of the lessons learned connected to the ongoing revision process of the UN Integrated DDR Standards (IDDRS) in December 2020.

In the context of a project funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, the peace and conflict research institute BICC (Bonn International Center for Conversion) is currently providing support to the United Nations in the revision of the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards (IDDRS), originally published by the UN Inter-Agency Working Group on DDR (IAWG) in 2006. The IDDRS represent the agreed policies and procedures of the United Nations for preparing, executing and monitoring disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR).

In connection to this project, BICC assisted in the organisation of an online meeting held by the External Action Service of the European Union, EEAS (which was hosted by the German Permanent Representation to the EU) on 9 December 2020. The webinar was the first of a series of meetings which shall contribute to the revision of the European Union DDR Policy—the strategic approach to support to DDR, which was collectively developed by the Council of the European Union and the European Commission in December 2006. The webinar provided the IAWG-co-chairs, the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as well as the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) and BICC with the opportunity to share lessons learned in the ongoing UN IDDRS revision process. The webinar included presentations on the evolution of UN's DDR approach during the past decade and the evolving contexts in which DDR is being implemented in. The online meeting also provided all stakeholders with the opportunity to reflect upon the specific role of the EU and its possible engagement to DDR processes across the globe.

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