

Common Effort, a short introduction

What is Common Effort?

- In 2010 First (German/Netherlands) Corps (1GNC) initiated an **exercise for civil-military cooperation** to strengthen **stability, safety and security** in a **comprehensive** way.
- Every year development workers, diplomats, think tank experts and military meet to **practice comprehensive cooperation** on the basis of an existing country or region facing challenges with stability, safety and security.
- In 2015 participants established the **Common Effort Community**. To date more than 50 organizations are member of the Common Effort Community.
- The Common Effort Community provides a **platform** for organizations that share the idea of a **comprehensive approach** to improve stability, safety and security.

Improving stability, safety and security through civil-military cooperation

- Common Effort is both a **training platform** as well as a **platform for knowledge-sharing and exchanging of experiences** with the comprehensive approach.
- The Common Effort Community identifies and organizes **effective and innovative approaches and activities** that contribute to preventing or resolving of conflicts.
- Through its **expertise and experience** the Common Effort Community aims to support and inspire the **security and development efforts** of **Germany** and **the Netherlands** and other partners.
- Common Effort closely **coordinates** with local and international stakeholders in order to **avoid duplication** and **create synergies** with new and existing initiatives.

Next three year focus on Sahel region

- Common Effort recently **reshaped its agenda** by introducing a **multi-year regional focus** in line with the **policy priorities** on foreign relations, security and development of **Germany** and **the Netherlands**. This will unlock the full potential of the Common Effort Community.
- From 2019 Common Effort will focus on the **Sahel region**, a region that has become a foreign policy, security and development priority for many European countries, including Germany and the Netherlands.
- Extreme poverty, lack of governance and lack of socio-economic perspective for young people have led to instability, irregular migration, cross-border crime and an increase of violent extremism in the Sahel region.
- On 7 February 2019 1GNC organized a **knowledge development workshop** on the Sahel. Besides conflict dynamics, the foreign policy, security and development efforts of **Germany, Netherlands, France and EU** were discussed to further shape the agenda of the annual Common Effort meeting.
- The **annual Common Effort meeting** takes place from **14-18 October 2019** in **Berlin**. Participants can sign up for different events such as the **exercise, expert meetings and a High Level event** depending on their area of interest and level of expertise.
- Further information: <https://www.common-effort.org/>

Common Effort Community



Common Effort Community Statement

WE

as signatories and observers to this statement launching the Common Effort Community, coming from government, civil society, the military and private sector in Germany and the Netherlands as well as others interested from within the UN and other countries

*

are convinced that it is our common concern to contribute to a safe and secure world in which men and women live with dignity enjoying their universal human rights

*

are aware that conflicts and fragility generally result from a complicated interplay of diverse, but often interrelated factors, such as economic (lack of jobs and income), political, social, cultural and religious aspects. Recent history shows that this interplay can easily lead to a lack of identity amongst youth, poor basic services, weak state structures, unable or unwilling governments, which eventually can generate fundamentalism and extremism

*

conclude that sustainable solutions for fragility and conflict can only be achieved with a comprehensive, whole-of-society approach, comprising a wide range of governmental and non-governmental actors, internationally as well as in the country at stake; and that the UN, the international civil society and the international military organisations that work in the field of humanitarian aid, reconstruction, development and peace building should interact in an effective manner, while respecting each other's mandate, in order to address the multiple dimensions of fragility and conflict

*

intend to build and expand relevant networks to combine and coordinate efforts, expertise or experience; to **train, learn and share knowledge and experiences** to improve our understanding of fragility and conflict, including also local security dynamics and perceptions of civilians in conflict areas, which will also enhance our strategies in the field of Protection of Civilians; **to develop and evaluate our concepts and approaches** by formulating and implementing yearly Action Plans that translate this Statement into concrete joint actions, wherever needed and whenever possible within the capacities and mandates of each and every signatory; **to promote public and political support** in Germany, The Netherlands as well as in other countries and with international forums like NATO, EU and the UN for the Integrated (comprehensive) Approach.

Members of the Common Effort Community

- 1 (German/Netherlands) Corps
- 1 CMI Commando
- Auswärtiges Amt
- Berlin-Institut für Bevölkerung und Entwicklung
- Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ)
- Bundesakademie für Sicherheitspolitik (BAKS)
- Bundesanstalt Technisches Hilfswerk (THW)
- Bureau für Zeitgeschehen
- CARE NL
- Civil-Military Cooperation Centre of Excellence (CCOE)
- Compumatica secure networks
- Cordaid
- Deutsches Rotes Kreuz – Bundesverband (Observer)
- Deutsches Rotes Kreuz – NordrheinWestfalen (Observer)
- Dutch Cyber Warfare Community (DCWC)
- Euro-Mediterranean-Arabischer Länderverein (EMA)
- Gender Concerns Institute
- Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)
- Haus Rissen Hamburg
- HIVOS
- Human Security Collective
- International Bundeswehr Civil Military Cooperation Centre Nienburg
- Institut für Friedenssicherungsrecht und Völkerrecht (IFHV)
- International Centre for Counter-Terrorism (ICCT)
- KARAMA Europe (Observer)
- Kinderberg International
- Korps Nationale Politie
- Mediators beyond Borders International (MBBI)
- Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken
- Ministerie van Defensie
- Ministerie van Justitie en Veiligheid
- Netherlands-African Business Council (NABC)
- Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD)
- Netherlands Defence Academy
- Netherlands Helsinki Committee
- OXFAM Novib
- PAX
- Rebuild and Relief International (RRI) (Rebuild Iraq Recruitment Programme RIRP)
- Relief Base
- Rode Kruis (Observer)
- Spark
- Springfactor Advisory Group
- Stichting Functioneel Specialisten Fragiele Staten (SFSFS)
- The Hague Institute for Innovation of Law (HiIL)
- The Hague Academy for Local Governance
- The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies (HCSS)
- The Hague Institute of Global Justice
- T.M.C. Asser Institute
- TNO - Innovation for Life
- University of Groningen
- Universiteit Twente – Kenniscentrum Risicomanagement en Veiligheid
- Universiteit Utrecht

- Van Vollenhoven Instituut voor Recht, Bestuur en Samenleving (VVI), Universiteit Leiden
- VNG International
- WO=MEN, Dutch Gender Platform
- Zentrum für Internationale Friedenseinsätze (ZIF)