

# Robert Kluijver Resume – December 2025

## Profile

Culturally sensitive analyst of international development with more than twenty-five years of field experience in conflict or post-conflict settings in Afghanistan, South and Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Expert in civil society development, strategic communications and policy advice. Worked for many different institutions including UN (FAO & DPPA), EU (EEAS & CSDP), The World Bank, NGOs (MSF, INSO), and donor organisations (Soros, Hivos, Mondriaan). Doctor in International Relations associated with the Centre for International Research (CERI) of Sciences Po/CNRS, lecturer at Sciences Po, visiting researcher at Leiden University. Polyglot.

## Personal Information

Date/Place of Birth: 1 February 1968 in Nicosia, Cyprus  
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Nationality: Netherlands

## Highlights of Professional Experience

04/2018 – now: **Researcher**, Centre for International Studies (CERI), Paris. Activities have included: PhD field research, publication and defense; guest lectures at universities (in Zurich, Mogadishu, Puntland and online); media interviews and publication of articles on current issues in the Horn of Africa.

11/2023 – 07/2024: **Senior Strategic Communications Expert** and Head of Communications, Strategy and Resource Mobilization Unit at FAO Afghanistan, based in Kabul. Tasks included media outreach, civil society relations (local NGOs, students at Kabul University and other institutions, local rural development organizations), donor reporting, developing new communication products, developing social media strategies, preparing presentations for senior staff, analysis of programme impact, and supervision of the communications team.

09/2020 – 08/2023: **Independent consultant** based in Brussels. Notable assignments included

- Lead Writer, Counterpart International on a 25M\$ USAID proposal for a civil society activity in Iraq.
- Final Editing and workshop presentation, Particip GmbH on a conflict analysis of Somalia for the European External Action Service, exploring options for engaging Al Shabaab in dialogue.
- Lead consultant, Cultural Relations Platform, on a cultural sector mapping for EU Delegation in Sudan.
- Lead consultant, Aleph Strategies on a cultural sector mapping in Somali-speaking regions for SDC.

01/2010 – 06/2022: **Lecturer**, Sciences Po, Paris. Courses taught: 'Lessons (Not) Learnt in Afghanistan' and 'Contemporary Art & Geopolitics in the Arab World'; and 'Somalia in the Horn of Africa'.

04/2016 – 04/2018: **Deputy Director Research and Analysis**, International NGO Safety Organisation, Nairobi and Hargeisa, Somaliland. Tasks: analyse the evolving safety and access context for NGOs in Somalia and publish regular and topical reports about it; perform field visits meeting local authorities & making assessments; data analysis, chart making, GIS; train Somali analysts; provide tailored advice to NGOs upon demand.

05/2007 – 08/2014: **Independent Curator** specializing in contemporary art from the Arab world & Indian Ocean region. Activities: established Gemak, a centre for art and politics in The Hague; exhibitions in the Netherlands, France, Germany, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and India; in-depth research of the Gulf art world, also for NYU Abu Dhabi; membership of commissions allocating funds and residencies to artists; program evaluation (Arts Collaboratory); publication of catalogues, websites, online reviews, artists websites; etc.

09/2012 – 06/2013: **Senior Expert**, EU Technical Assistance Mission to the Ministry of Interior in **Yemen**

Work with Yemeni counterparts at the Ministry of Interior on security sector reform plans; involve Yemeni civil society and media; coordinate with EU member states and the international community; report on the process.

01/2004 – 03/2006: **Country Director Afghanistan**, Open Society Institute (now OSF). 1.5 M\$/year grants allocation and management in the field of civil society development, with a focus on women's rights, judicial reform, open media and contemporary culture; shape OSI strategy and presence in Afghanistan.

06/2003 – 03/2006: **Executive Director**, Foundation for Culture and Civil Society, Kabul. Set up what soon became the biggest civil society development hub in Afghanistan, with a cultural center in Kabul and regional hubs in seven locations, a nationwide small grants program funded by the EC, elections awareness campaigns, media production facilities, civil society advocacy in Afghanistan and abroad.

01/2003 – 06/2003: **Consultant** for The World Bank, Afghanistan. Investigate local public administrative structures in view of subsequent reform.

07/2001 – 01/2003: **Civil and Political Affairs Officer**, UN Assistance Mission Afghanistan. Report on social and political developments in and around Afghanistan; set up and manage UN field offices in Peshawar, Quetta, Kabul and Kandahar; support Human Rights and Civil Service Commissions and other Afghan state organs; organize and supervise the first electoral process (Loya Jirga) in Southwest Afghanistan and Kabul.

03/2000 – 11/2000: **Programme Coordinator**, SPACH, Afghanistan. Set up an office in Taliban Afghanistan, liaise with the authorities and work with Afghan professionals on cultural preservation activities and mapping. Extensive travels through the country, became fluent in Dari.

03/1997 – 09/1997 : **Logistician/Administrator**, Médecins Sans Frontières, Tajikistan. Manage a small mission of MSF France in the mountainous region of Gorno-Badakhshan, in a post-conflict setting, with four international and sixteen local staff.

### **Educational Background**

- PhD degree in Political Science/International Relations from Sciences Po Paris, 2023. Subject of dissertation: "The State in Somalia. Between Self-Governance and International Order".
- Master's degree in Post-soviet Studies at Sciences Po, Paris, 1999. Subject of thesis: "L'Historiographie Tadjike dans son Contexte Contemporain".
- Master's degree in International Political Economy at the University of Amsterdam, 1996. Subject of thesis: "Awakening from the Mexican Dream. The EZLN and Mexico's Integration into the First World".

### **Languages**

- Mother tongues: English, French and Dutch
- Fully fluent: Spanish, Russian and Farsi/Dari
- Basic to intermediate level (also reading): Arabic, Swahili & Somali

### **Hostile Environment training** certificates obtained in:

- 2014: one week of EU-certified training with Parachutists in Livorno, Italy
- 2017: 4 days with International NGO Safety Organisation in Hargeisa, Somaliland