

## Debating the New Deal Monitoring Report

### A Joint IDPS and AfDB side Event

#### AfDB Annual Meetings

25<sup>th</sup> May 2015, Abidjan

16:30-18:00

#### Background

Development effectiveness in fragile states has been a concern of national and international partners for a long time. One important reason was the recognition that despite some progress, most Fragile and Conflict-Affected States (FCAS) had persistently been off-track to meet the MDGs. Several initiatives were developed to address some of the obstacles to effective engagement in such contexts. These included the [Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations](#) (Fragile States Principles), adopted in 2007, which OECD-DAC members committed to follow when engaging in fragile states.

Whilst comprehensive, aimed at promoting “whole-of-government” approaches by development partners and based on the best knowledge and experience available at the time, the Fragile States Principles were not the result of a jointly-owned effort with concerned partner countries.

At the 3rd High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra, Ghana in 2008, a number of fragile states called for a dialogue in which they could have an equal voice with development partners in establishing peacebuilding and statebuilding priorities. The [International Dialogue](#) on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (the International Dialogue) was thus created in 2008, comprising a group of fragile states (later adopting the name “g7+”), civil society representatives and development partners, with a mandate to develop a set of peacebuilding and statebuilding objectives and an action plan for effective engagement in fragile states. It is currently co-chaired by the Minister for International Development Cooperation of Sweden (representing INCAF donors) and the Minister of Finance of Sierra Leone (representing the g7+).

#### The New Deal

In 2011, the International Dialogue launched the [New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States](#) (New Deal), which, at the 4<sup>th</sup> High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, was endorsed by over 40 states and organisations, including the UN Development Group following the strong encouragement by the UN Secretary General. This was particularly important in broadening the ownership of the New Deal beyond OECD donors and recipient countries.

Through the New Deal, development partners committed themselves to supporting country-owned, country-led transitions out of fragility, upholding and adopting aid effectiveness in fragile states as a way of channelling aid (TRUST). Fragile states governments in turn committed themselves to consultative, inclusive planning processes that were contextually defined (FOCUS). Both parties committed themselves to pursuing the five Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals (PSGs) to guide development efforts in countries affected by conflict and fragility.

1. **Inclusive Politics** - Foster inclusive political settlements and conflict resolution,
2. **Security** - Establish and strengthen people’s security
3. **Justice** - Address injustices and increase people’s access to justice;
4. **Economic Foundations** - Generate employment and improve livelihoods and

**5. Revenues & Services** - Manage revenue and build capacity for accountable and fair service delivery.

Since its launch, the New Deal is being implemented in 7 pilot countries and has been used to guide international and national efforts to improve cooperation in fragile contexts.

**The New Deal Monitoring Report: What does it say?**

In 2014, the International Dialogue published its first report on progress in New Deal implementation in the 7 pilot countries; the results of which were collectively endorsed by all three constituencies of the International Dialogue. Based on a survey of g7+ countries and INCAF donor agencies, focusing in particular on the extent to which the FOCUS and TRUST principles have changed behaviours and practice in pilot countries amongst development partners, governments, and Civil Society, the New Deal Monitoring Report, the subject of today’s discussion, concluded that results so far have been mixed. Whilst it must be acknowledged that real change takes time, the New Deal has already induced some significant changes and the beginnings of perceptible progress that need to be documented and shared. Donors and countries are beginning to adapt their systems; there is more dialogue between them and within the country.

Whilst this is to be celebrated, in many of the New Deal pilot countries themselves, implementation of some aspects of the New Deal framework has been stalled, or not yet induced the much needed shift in behaviour in line with the ambitions of the PSGs. Progress has not been systematic or joined up – inclusion remains elusive and trust between donors and country governments, and between country governments and civil societies continues to be a challenge. How this translates: many donors continue to be reluctant to invest in systems and capacity building, to pooling risks and only a very small proportion of ODA is going towards the PSGs. For country governments, there is a poor integration of the PSGs or the results of fragility assessments into national planning processes, and into compacts, to which donors in turn sign up to. The design of planning processes in many g7+ countries does not yet reflect the inclusive ambitions of the New Deal.

FRAGILITY ASSESSMENTS	TRANSPARENCY
ONE VISION / ONE PLAN	RISK SHARING
COMPACTS	USE OF COUNTRY SYSTEMS
USE OF PSGs TO MONITOR	STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES
SUPPORT TO POLITICAL DIALOGUE	TIMELY / PREDICTABLE AID

The report calls for three improvements

- i. Orienting political dialogue, country plans and implementation modalities towards the PSGs;
- ii. Agreeing on a few desired results for building core national capacities for the immediate and short term;
- iii. Linking desired results to new approaches for identifying and managing risk jointly on the ground.

The report also emphasises the need to integrate the New Deal into peacebuilding processes at the early stages, to plan for peace before the conflict ends, to build the PSGs into peace agreements, giving sufficient attention to PSG 1 (Inclusive Politics) in the immediate post-conflict period, clear prioritisation of post-conflict interventions and stronger co-operation with non-State actors who have been undertaking vital support roles during the conflict.

These conclusions and the report’s overall findings have been endorsed by members of the International Dialogue. They provide evidence that the Dialogue has been able to collectively monitor progress on New Deal implementation and come up with a tool that can improve dialogue and cooperation.

### **Frank Discussion called for – True Dialogue**

To continue progress, a frank discussion is needed. A first step could be to sensitize all stakeholders, current and potential, about what the New Deal is. This means a dialogue on both a global and a national level and for partners to agree on how to improve implementation. It should include high level political stakeholders and governments, in both donor countries, and fragile and conflict affected countries, but also other stakeholders, throughout society, including both non state and private actors, as well as non OECD providers of development assistance and investors. A basic premise of the New Deal is to improve state-society relations and building trust. This should be a guiding principle, shaping the investment and implementation of all the PSGs. Trust comes with inclusivity. Political settlements that are perceived as mutually acceptable have been shown to be a vital component for peacebuilding. Perceived exclusion, on the other hand, may trigger conflict.

### **High Level Panel Discussion: Objectives**

- Sensitisation about the New Deal to a wider audience beyond core ID stakeholder – in the room and outside the room
- Share with stakeholders challenges, gaps and progress to be made – identified by the Report
- Each constituency to articulate what it will do to further improve New Deal implementation in the new global context of emerging post 2015 agenda

### **Panel Members**

- **Minister Marah**, Minister of Finance of Sierra Leone and co-Chair of the International Dialogue
- **Minister Lövin**, Minister for International Development Cooperation of Sweden and co-Chair of the International Dialogue
- **Minister Kamitatu**, Minister of Planning of DRC (and former co-Chair of the International Dialogue) (tbc)
- **Minister Hussein Abdi Halane**, Finance Minister of Somalia (tbc)
- **Emilia Pires**, G7+ Special Envoy (and former co-Chair of the International Dialogue) (tbc)
- **Sibry Tabsoba**, Director, AfDB
- **Denisa- Elena Ionete**, Head of Unit - Fragility and Resilience, DG DEVCO, European Commission
- **Paul Okumo**, Head of Secretariat, Africa Platform (tbc)
- **Moderator**: AfDB

### **Participants**

High level participants from countries affected by conflict and fragility (of the g7+) donor countries, as well as representatives from the UN, EU, World Bank, African Development Bank and civil society organisations, all of which make up the International Dialogue