International Dialogue on Peacebuilding & Statebuilding

Note from the co-chairs of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding

PROMOTING PEACE IN THE POST- 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

About this note

This note proposes that the post-2015 development agenda confirms peace as a key pillar to eradicate poverty and to realize global development prospects.

As co-chairs of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (the "International Dialogue"), we find that the on-going implementation of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States (the "New Deal") provides valuable and inspiring lessons on peacebuilding and statebuilding, which should be reflected in the post-2015 framework.

This note builds on the practical experiences of countries affected by conflict and fragility and on the evidence of their negative impact for sustainable development. The facts speak for themselves. It is estimated that by 2015 half of the world's people living on less than $1.25 a day will live in states affected by conflict and fragility. This underlines what is already stated in the United Nations Millennium Declaration: Peace matters if we want to move forward on the development agenda. It is imperative that we ensure this relationship between peace and development is reflected in the post-2015 framework.

As co-chairs of the International Dialogue, we encourage all actors to play an active role in promoting peacebuilding and statebuilding as elements within the post-2015 development agenda. Specifically, we ask that the proposed goals 10 and 11 from the Report of the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which call for "Good Governance and Effective Institutions"(Goal 10) and "Stable and Peaceful Societies"(Goal 11) be given careful consideration when designing the post-2015 framework. We believe that goals on peacebuilding and statebuilding and the voice of the g7+ are crucial for ensuring inclusive country-led and country-owned transitions out of conflict and towards resilience.

This note follows on the High-Level Panel Report and is inspired by previous work by both the International Dialogue and the UN supported regional and thematic consultations on the post-2015 development agenda (Liberia, Panama, Timor Leste, Finland) and thought pieces from the UN Peacebuilding Support Office.

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1.   PEACE IS A UNIVERSAL GOAL

"While our specific needs and priorities may differ, we all envision better lives for our people, based upon human security. The post-2015 global development framework must seek to enhance the social contract by promoting integrated action in four major areas not adequately addressed by the MDGs – inclusive economic growth, state effectiveness, peace and justice, and climate change and environmental management." The Dili Consensus. [i]

Peace is a pre-requiste for sustainable development for the following four reasons:

1. *Efforts for development are fragmentary unless there is peace*, since conflict erodes the trust between states and societies. This is seen clearly by the lack of achievement in terms of meeting the targets of MDGs in conflict-affected and post conflict countries. According to the 2011 World Development Report: "Researchers estimate the costs of civil wars to range from 1.6 percentage to 2.3 percentage of GDP per year of violence. For the average country affected by violence, these effects, compounded over time, can cost the equivalent of up to 30 years of missing GDP growth." [ii]These numbers represent growth baselines compiled over a period of 50 years and are cross-country in nature. They prove that the status quo for international development is not an option. Innovation is needed.

2. *Ensuring peace is critical to development*. Freedom from conflict and violence is in itself an important development outcome, but peace also underpins the achievement of other global development goals like poverty eradication, socio-economic development and gender equality. If the post-2015 development framework is to be universally relevant for all countries and peoples around the world, it must seek to address the drivers of conflict and violence, which have been the main development constraint for the 1.5 billion people who live in conflict affected countries.

3. Conflict and insecurity create challenges that have an *impact on a regional and global scale*. Conflict can create transnational challenges by destabilizing neighbouring countries and creating environments where illicit trade, and other global and regional problems prosper. Tanzania is a case in point. Although it is making strides in its march towards development, it is estimated that Tanzania loses 0.7 percent of GDP every year for each neighbour in conflict. [iii]

4. *Resolving conflict requires global action* to combat it effectively. In today's world, we cannot overlook the global factors that drive conflict and violence around the world, including illicit flows of drugs, arms, and money, exploitation and mismanagement of natural resources, human trafficking, transnational crime, resource scarcity and price shocks. In a globalized world, no single country can prevent illicit flows. The international community must mobilize to overcome these impediments to peace. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) estimates that US $50 billion of illicit funds flow out of Africa annually. That is twice the amount it receives in aid. By curbing these elements of illicit activities, nations will be empowered to heighten their development effort, using national resources.

2.   PEACEBUILDING AND STATEBUILDING ARE THE FOUNDATIONS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

There is increasing knowledge and recognition around what it takes to build peaceful, growing states. The experience of countries that have successfully escaped cycles of violence and instability, and are now firmly on the path towards development and resilience – including a number of g7+ countries and other conflict affected countries – shows that peace and development need to happen concurrently, are mutually reinforcing, and depend on a number of key dimensions.

Firstly, peace and development depend on an effective social contract between a state and its citizens, which requires the existence of space for inclusive political participation. Secondly, they require a safe and enabling environment for people to access equitable opportunities (e.g. jobs, justice and the rule of law, security) and for the private sector – a key engine of growth, job creation and revenue generation - to thrive. Thirdly, capable state institutions are needed to ensure that basic services such as those mentioned above are provided in a sustainable and fair manner.[iv]

> *"When we talk about peacebuilding and statebuilding we are talking about inclusive politics, and having the necessary state apparatus to deliver basic services such as health and education, foster economic empowerment and promote sustainable development. We are talking about building and strengthening the social contract between governments and their people; so that the political and policy dialogue can include as many people as possible… We are also talking about ensuring the institutions of the state can deliver services to the people. It means that we as states can manage our own resources and revenues, continue to improve service delivery, build or strengthen our institutions and enhance citizen/state."*
> H.E. Emilia Pires, Meeting of the High Level Panel on the post-2015, Liberia, November 2012

In other words, there can be no development without peace and no peace without development, and there can be neither without effective, inclusive and responsive state institutions.

There is already broad international political recognition of the fact that peacebuilding and statebuilding need to be adequately addressed in the post-2015 development agenda:

- The Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit, the 2010 MDG Summit, the UN Declaration on the Rule of Law and other intergovernmental agreements recognize the intrinsic and mutually reinforcing relationships among development, security, human rights, the rule of law and inclusive politics.
- The *New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States* (November 2011) sets out five key goals for building peaceful states. Eighteen conflict-affected countries and their development partners are now developing indicators to measure progress against these goals.
- More recently, the Dili Consensus (February 2013) and the conclusions of the global UN consultations in Liberia (November 2012), Panama (January 2013), and Finland (March 2013) reaffirmed the global relevance of these issues and the need for collective action to address them.

3.   PEACE SHOULD FEATURE PROMINENTLY IN THE POST 2015 FRAMEWORK

We believe that the new post-2015 goals should have a focus on achieving peace and addressing the core dimensions outlined above i.e. effective state institutions. At the same time, other development goals on, for instance, economic growth, social inclusion and social development and environmental sustainability could integrate dimensions – in the form of targets and indicators - related to promoting peace.

We support the pursuit of global universal development goals that can promote and enable the development of national frameworks. But as stated in the Dili Consensus, national ownership of the development agenda is imperative. National development frameworks must reflect national priorities and circumstances. They should be aligned with, but not be subordinated to global goals.

4.   GOALS, PRIORITIES AND INDICATORS

Goals and indicators that draw on the language and principles of the Millennium Declaration, the New Deal and the Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals are currently being developed by the International Dialogue and the g7+. These efforts will play a critical role in benchmarking and monitoring New Deal progress in country-led and country owned development processes. They are also essential to collecting quantitative data that will aid the path towards developing stable, growing and resilient states. This ongoing work stream is also in line with the High Level Panel's call for a data revolution with the goal of making sustainable development more effective and responsive to citizens.

As co-chairs of the International Dialogue, we encourage broad global support for peace as a key pillar in the post-2015 development agenda.

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[i] The Dili International Conference on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, 26th-28th February 2013.
[ii] World Development Report (2011), p. 65.
[iii] World Development Report (2011), p. 5
[iv] New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States – Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals; Reshaping the global partnership for development: new approaches drawing on experiences from fragile and conflict affected countries, a background paper for the meeting of the High Level Panel on the Post 2015 Development Agenda, Bali, 26-27 March 2013, presented by H.E. Emilia Pires, Minister of Finance, Timor Leste.