



2018 Fragility Forum

High Level Panel: “*Prevention of violent conflict, How can bilateral and multilateral actors work better together: Operational perspectives on World Bank-UN report on Pathways for Peace*”.

Washington DC, 6 March 2018

Presentation of H.E. Deqa Yasin Hagi Yusuf, Minister of Women and Human Rights Development, Government of Somalia (representing the g7+)

Excellencies, Madam Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- It gives me great pleasure to address you today on behalf of the Government of Somalia and the g7+ constituency – a group of countries with first-hand experience of dealing with the challenges of peace-building and conflict prevention that are the object of the “Pathways for Peace” report.
- In the eight years since the g7+ was established, I am pleased to note that an increasingly broad and solid consensus has been evolving around conflict prevention and peace-building that have been at the core of this group’s mission. Country ownership, the indispensable role of the State, and the need for sustained, inclusive, flexible and integrated approaches to making and building peace are and should be at the core of this

consensus. Recent history in Somalia provides an example that progress on these issues can be achieved in even the most challenging, most conflict-affected settings.

- The g7+ group I am representing believes that the Pathways for Peace report is an important new milestone in the consolidation of this consensus on prevention as the best way to support sustainable peace. The report makes a valuable contribution to the knowledge base around these matters and reaffirms the importance of such factors as inclusive political settlements, national leadership, and coherence between the conflict prevention and peace-building actions of national and international actors.
- As Somalia, we are particularly pleased to see that the report acknowledges that conflict prevention means investing in inclusivity and the role of women, youth and human rights. Amongst other achievements the New Deal in Somalia provided for an inclusive framework, which enabled civil society to claim space in the dialogue on our country's peace-building and development priorities. However, integrating women's specific priorities posed a challenge because gender was considered a cross-cutting issue in the New Deal framework, providing few incentives for concrete follow-up. We have addressed this gap by making gender equality and youth central priorities in our current National Development Plan and it is our hope that this report can help us take these key elements of conflict prevention further.
- Looking at the findings of this report, we, the g7+ and our partners (donors and CSOs) should become even more confident on the relevance of principles of inclusivity and other elements of the New Deal that we endorsed 7 years ago in Busan. The five goals of the New Deal resonate with the main messages of the Pathway for Peace report. Its FOCUS and

TRUST principles provide important guidelines for intervention in conflict affected societies. In my own country, Somalia, the Government used the New Deal to deliver results and laid an important foundation for managing peace-building and humanitarian intervention. It also allowed us to develop our own National Development Plan, naturally concluding our work in the New Deal Compact framework.

We believe that this timely publication provides an important milestone in how we think about international peace-building, state-building and development.

Please allow me to share several points from our perspective on the findings of the report:

- Having experienced and having been living in conflict, we the g7+ group believe that conflict is one of humanities' greatest challenges. Irrespective of whether peace accompanies development and vice versa we need peace in our countries. We need all development, diplomatic, security and humanitarian actors to work together to tackle this critical challenge.
- The prevention agenda cannot and should not be treated as a project or series of projects. It should rather be treated as investment in the potential of states and societies to become resilient and be allowed to develop prevention based policies rather than response/reactionary based ones.
- National dialogue to forge reconciliation is critical to addressing the different types of conflicts we are facing. In our experience, creating the conditions for effective reconciliation and meaningful national dialogue based on the needs of specific countries and

contexts is a key determinant of the trajectories of countries experiencing conflict or recovering from it.

- Given the centrality of gender equality, youth participation and human rights for conflict prevention, my government is eager that the prevention agenda does not only ‘mainstream’ these issues. As we have learned from our own experience with the New Deal, such mainstreaming can easily lead us to neglect these critical components of conflict prevention. Dedicated strategies, resources and attention are needed to advance women’s and youth participation for sustainable peace. We would be interested to hear more about what our partners are planning to do to follow-up on the report’s key messages regarding youth and women.

I would like to conclude by reiterating that the g7+ countries are in the frontline of facing this challenge, but as this report also points out, this is a global priority which affects us all. We are in this together.

Thank you very much.