



Concept Note for Participants: Steering Group Meeting of the International Dialogue

Document 01

INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE STEERING GROUP MEETING
25 May 2015, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire



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Abidjan 25 May, 2015

This will be the first Steering Group meeting led by the new co-Chair team. The meeting takes place in very interesting times and against a backdrop of a number of multilateral processes that might considerably change both our views of peacebuilding and statebuilding and the way we will approach support to fragile states in the future.

- **The New Deal trial period expire 2015.** The International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (International Dialogue) launched the New Deal in 2011 as a vision for a new way of engaging in fragile states. The International Dialogue should suggest how to move it forward.
- The July meeting in Addis Ababa on **Financing for Development (FFD)** will contribute to a framework for implementation of **the new development goals, the SDGs**, that will be agreed in September in New York. The new goals will be more ambitious than ever and will require more efforts from all stakeholders for their implementation.
- **Climate change will affect us** all and must be factored in. The High level Conference in Paris in December, POC 21, will be an opportunity to put the equation on peace and climate change high on the agenda.

At the same time, the number of conflicts in the world is on the increase and the world has not seen as many refugees and as much human suffering since the Second World War. No country is insulated from the risk of conflict, violence and instability. **The role of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding is more important than ever.**

Last year, the Ebola outbreak and the humanitarian crisis in three member states of the International Dialogue dominated the discussion and led to a massive international operation. This year EU and the World Bank have held high level international meetings on the recovery from the crisis. Under the Mano River Union umbrella representatives of the three countries have worked hard to elaborate Ebola recovery plans further with the aim of impressing a UN organized donor's conference in July.

During this Steering Group-meeting of the International Dialogue the three most affected members – Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea – will be invited to **explain how their respective recovery plans in particular will strengthen resilience against future crises**, how they will restore trust and how they will support peace- and statebuilding efforts.

Members of the International Dialogue have during the last couple of years come together and, so far successfully, argued for the inclusion of support to fragile states in the new development goals, the SDGs. The result as of today is Goal 16 of the Open Working Group: “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”. The next step will be to **make sure that the g7+ countries have a strong voice in the discussions leading up to the Addis meeting in July.**

Preparations for the Addis conference are on-going but there is still a window of opportunity to influence the outcome document. The Financing for Development and goal 16 has been put on the agenda for the upcoming steering group meeting with the purpose to increase the knowledge of the process ahead of us and to ask participants to give the g7+ countries a stronger voice at the remaining meetings leading up to Addis

and at the conference itself. **It is in all our interests to have a common vision for the implementation of the future development goals.**

The “Fragile-to-Fragile” (F2F) initiative has showed effective and should be supported. A representative from the g7+ countries will brief members of the Steering Group and seek further support during a working lunch. The discussion could also include Public Private Partnership and other examples of support. Input from Steering Group members will be valuable.

It is at the core of the International Dialogue to **improve ways of support for members of the Dialogue to deliver on the Peace and Statebuilding Goals (PSGs) at country level.** The co-Chairs of the Implementation Working Group (IWG) will brief participants on what came out on this issue during the IWG-meeting that took place immediately before the Steering Group. Somalia will be brought up as an example of cooperation at country level that has led to some tangible results. Somalia was only three years ago considered a failed state but has today a future that looks brighter than in a long time, maybe ever. To a large extent that brighter future is the result of a strong New Deal implementation where Somali partners have worked closely with international donors and others. **There is a lot to learn from the Somalia process** for stakeholders in other New Deal pilot countries. The Steering Group should come up with concrete measures and commitments that would improve the implementation of New Deal.

During the meeting, the **International Dialogue Secretariat will update members** on on-going processes and results so far such as the independent evaluation of the New Deal and the International Dialogue, the planned high level visits, the communication strategy, the work plan, the New Deal Helpdesk and budget issues.

It is the ambition and the hope of the co-Chairs that the upcoming Steering Group meeting will have the distinct character of a Steering Group with participation at senior level with the aim of progressing discussions and to make decisions and commitments that will carry the important work of the International Dialogue forward.