Concept Note

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20th INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE STEERING GROUP MEETING
20 April 2017, Washington D.C, U.S.A
Introduction
The 20th Steering Group meeting of the International Dialogue will take place in Washington D.C. on 20 April 2017, on the margins of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Spring Meeting. By this time, the long-awaited International Dialogue Strategy will have been endorsed by members. Against the backdrop of the 2030 Agenda and the UN focus on prevention, peacebuilding and sustaining peace, the International Dialogue Strategy for 2017-21 outlines how members will – individually and collectively – work to ensure that the New Deal principles, as reaffirmed in the Stockholm Declaration, are used to inspire and guide policies, practices, planning and political decision-making about support to peacebuilding, statebuilding and conflict prevention in g7+ countries, as well as global policy thinking on these and related issues.

At the meeting, members will also have the opportunity to hear updates from each other about developments in this field (e.g. UN Sustaining Peace and Prevention Agenda, Financing fragility and peacebuilding, SDG 16, the Famine/Fragility Nexus), all of which are likely to shape the environments in which they operate. These updates, the core outcomes outlined in the Strategy and the outcome of the deliberations of the Implementation Working Group meeting (held the day before), will be used to set clear strategic priorities and a clear work plan to take them forward.

The added value of the International Dialogue lies in its capacity to convene its members at all political levels to influence policy and practice, and to serve as a platform for mutual accountability and peer-learning on collectively agreed-upon commitments.

This meeting will be an important opportunity for members to chart the way forward in concrete terms and spell out how the Strategy will be operationalised to enable the Dialogue to further shape fast-evolving global and country-level processes, with which it must engage, if it is to remain relevant.

Purpose
The purpose of this meeting is for members to agree on priority actions which they will – individually and collectively – undertake to operationalise the Strategy, and to achieve the outcomes outlined within it. To do this, members will share, listen to, and discuss updates on the broad landscape, and then discuss and agree upon strategic priorities for the partnership to deliver, in areas where it has contribution and on which it can collaborate, at global and country level, in relation to a shared calendar.

Members will also be called upon to agree on the role they will play, and that of their secretariats, notably the International Dialogue Secretariat, in enabling them to deliver on collective strategic priorities. In addition, members will hear back from the IWG and will discuss and agree on the scope and remit of the work of the Implementation Working Group (IWG), its ways of working, and on how it differs from, reinforces, and contributes to the work of the Steering Group.† Steering Group members will also be asked to consider and agree upon how the currently-funded work plan commitments (2017) of the International Dialogue and its Secretariat will be integrated into the new work plan cycle.

The meeting will also be an opportunity for IWG members and the Secretariats to provide narrative updates of ongoing work and, in addition, in the case of the IDPS Secretariat, to provide a financial update.

† The IWG, in the context of the new Strategy, will have a more prominent role to play in shaping the implementation of the New Deal at country level.
Objectives
The objectives of the meeting are as follows:

1. To discuss the emerging global and county-level landscape and agree on opportunities for IDPS to collectively shape it.
2. To discuss and agree on thematic priorities, including engagement with the UN Sustaining Peace Agenda, collaboration with the PBSO/PBF processes, development finance (private sector investment), and Use of Country Systems. This includes agreement on priorities for joint action through a shared political calendar of global and country-level events and processes.
3. To discuss and agree on how members will activate accountability within the partnership. This includes an opportunity for members to showcase the actions within their agencies/governments to take the New Deal forward.
4. To discuss and agree on the work plan for the International Dialogue platform for 2017-18.
5. To agree on focus countries where there will be concentrated International Dialogue collective action for the work plan period. To agree on where there will be in-country mechanisms – including the preliminary designation of INCAF focal points in those countries, and to agree on how the in-country mechanisms will function.
6. To discuss and agree on the role that the IWG will play in delivering on the IDPS work plan: its work priorities and scope. This includes the role of its members, and its relationship and collaboration with the Steering Group and IDPS members in g7+ countries.
7. To have a preliminary discussion on the next Global Meeting (agenda, purpose, intended outcome and timetable for preparation).