June 2016 IWG Meeting Summary Records
Document 1

IMPLEMENTATION WORKING GROUP MEETING
19 April 2017, Washington D.C., U.S.A
Implementation Working Group meeting
International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding
1-2 June 2016
World Bank offices, Nairobi, Kenya

Key decisions

- The IWG will transition from the current work plan to newly agreed areas of focus: support to Fragility Assessments and Compacts, and ensuring their linkages to other FOCUS instruments (national planning, compacts) and political commitments, providing guidance on integrating SDGs and New Deal at country level, and guidance on transitions.
- The IWG will support g7+ focal points and the wider constituencies / country teams in implementing the New Deal through the mobilisation of financial and political resources. It will also seek to support a replication of the International Dialogue structure at national level through support to g7+, CSPPS and INCAF focal points.
- The IWG will provide technical support to New Deal implementation in real time, responding to country demands, in keeping with agreed priorities, and supporting the sharing of different approaches and models (rather than generic guidance) and supporting peer learning and Fragile-to-Fragile support.
- The IWG should be a repository of knowledge and lessons learnt on New Deal implementation.
- The secretariat will draft and circulate new Terms of Reference for the IWG for approval.

1. Opening Session

This meeting was co-chaired for the first time by members of the International Dialogue’s three constituencies. Melissa Brown (USAID/INCAF) and Erin McCandless (CSPPS) were joined by Abie Kamara (Sierra Leone/g7+) who stood in for Mustafa Aria (Afghanistan). The co-chairs noted that since the last meeting in May 2015, the International Dialogue has undergone a number of internal reflection processes which have generated renewed high-level commitment to implementing the New Deal. The Stockholm Declaration (April 2016), the g7+ Kabul Communiqué (March 2016) and the Independent Review all called for greater emphasis on New Deal implementation, and an enhanced role for the IWG.

This meeting was an opportunity to define what role the IWG should play in this reconfigured Dialogue, focused on replicating the Dialogue structure at country level, improving New Deal implementation and determining what structures / mechanisms need to be put in place to ensure that the Dialogue is fit-for-purpose at country level.

Conclusions

- The summary records from the previous IWG meeting in Abidjan (May 2015) were accepted, following integration of comments from constituencies.
- The agenda for this meeting was agreed.

2. Review of Mandate and Work plan

The purpose of this session was to inform participants of the progress of the IWG since Abidjan, and of the current plans to revise the Terms of Reference of the IWG in the light of the renewal of the mandate of the International Dialogue (ID).

The ID Secretariat presented an update on IWG activities since Abidjan. The IWG produced and circulated written guidance on Country Dialogues as a methodology to further New Deal implementation, with an emphasis on Country Dialogues for Use of Country Systems. Beyond written guidance, the secretariat endeavoured to showcase learning from practical experience of members, to ensure that centralised guidance was informed by countries’ experience of implementing the New Deal. The secretariat also worked on developing and presenting a practical methodology for country dialogues on Use of Country Systems.
Systems, and has worked with country focal points (Somalia, Afghanistan) to conduct pilot country dialogues in 2016. The New Deal monitoring was postponed for 2015, in agreements with the co-chairs, because of the limited capacity to implement this exercise, and the concomitance of the Independent Review. Finally, the Approach to Crisis paper has been revised to integrate comments from constituencies, and will be re-circulated following the IWG meeting with a view to finalising it.

The ID Secretariat also presented an analysis of the proposed changes to the IWG Terms of reference. Major areas of change have been highlighted: a tri-partite chairing arrangement, increased focus on responding to country needs, stronger internal communication and a membership reflecting the need for collective investment in New Deal implementation.

Finally, the secretariat presented a strategy document produced in preparation of the Stockholm global meeting. In Stockholm, the mandate of the International Dialogue was renewed for another 5 years. This mandate, which still needs to be refined, will reflect the need for an increased focus on making a difference at country level, which may have implications for the work of the IWG. The strategy also suggests a focus on a few, selected countries and themes in order to demonstrate a proof-of-concept for the New Deal. The importance of policy work at the global level is also highlighted, and the formation of a Policy Working Group is suggested (although the IWG cannot decide on this). The details of this strategy were to be discussed in the following Future of the Dialogue meeting (3-4 June).

This session focussed on laying the scene for the whole meeting, and while questions of clarification were welcome, the discussion was carried forward to the next sessions.

Conclusion | Next Steps

- The activities to be carried forward by the IWG should reflect both the expectations of the wider group on the IWG, and its capacity to effectively implement them
- The work of the IWG should be seen as providing concrete, practical support to countries in the implementation of the New Deal. While written guidance has been important in the inception of the New Deal, practical accompaniment in key activities (such as Fragility assessments, and ensuring they link to planning and political commitments, including in compacts) is now viewed as key.
- The mandate of the Dialogue, and the IWG, should integrate strong considerations of gender.
- The activities of the IWG should also support greater visibility for the Dialogue and the New Deal at country level.

3. Looking back, looking forward: the independent review, the SDGs and the Stockholm declaration: implications for the IWG

The chair set the objectives of the session: to ensure that all members are informed of what different review processes have said about what the New Deal implementation should become, and to discuss and agree on their implications for the mandate and the work of the IWG.

The chair invited speakers to lead on a series of presentations to be made on the Stockholm Declaration, the g7+ Kabul Communiqué and the conclusions of the g7+ technical meeting (30-31 May 2016), the findings of the Independent Review, the reflection on the links between the SDGs and the New Deal, and the gender commitments of the International Dialogue.

Recent documents adopted by the Dialogue, or its constituencies, broadly align and make actionable commitments. The Independent Review also suggests specific changes to be adopted by the International Dialogue, which the revised strategy is taking into account. The g7+ secretariat also reported the outcome of their technical meeting discussions (30-31 May 2016), which called for specific support to g7+ focal points in carrying out New Deal activities, in particular Fragility Assessments and the setting up of Compacts.
Discussion

- While the Independent Review has been published and launched, the case studies still need to be reviewed by country focal points in order to be endorsed and published.
- The SDGs are discussed globally, at a political level. However, the IWG must ensure that the New Deal implementation builds strong link with SDG processes – and a link between technical and political discussions must be maintained.
- The guidance produced ensures consistency in approaches, but New Deal implementers require more practical, country specific support.
- It is recognised that the objectives for the Dialogue moving forward are ambitious and far-reaching. There is, however, a concern that internal communication and cohesion needs to be strengthened, and that all the existing constituencies are fully supported before reaching out to external actors. Ongoing inclusive country dialogue amongst dialogue constituencies on New Deal implementation is seen as essential to consolidate the existing processes.

Conclusion | Next Steps

- Generic, global guidance has had some use, but to the demand is now clearly for guidance to focus on specific country contexts to respond to focal points demands for practical support including, in particular:
  - Fragility assessments, and their links to political commitments, including Compacts, and planning processes, including national development plans (1 vision 1 plan).
  - Support in implementing SDGs through New Deal principles at country level are a key priority for g7+ countries.
  - Agile and timely responses to country needs are of key importance. This requires some forward planning to anticipate needs.

4. Country level implementation: status of country implementation

In order to inform IWG discussions from a country-level perspective, participants shared their experiences of ND implementation at country level. They specifically answered requests to explain how each country is structured to lead the New Deal, the status of FOCUS instruments (such as the conduct of a Fragility Assessment or the establishment of a Compact) in their respective countries and how they are sequenced to support overall strategy of ND implementation, how TRUST principles are implemented and how constituent members of the Dialogue can work together constructively to identify how to overcome, and find solutions for sources of resistance, what their current plans are for integrating the SDGs in national development plans and links with the PSGs and how the IWG, as a group, could support them.

They then discussed priorities for New Deal implementation going forward, and the specific role for the IWG in support of these processes.

Conclusion | Next Steps

- The principal role of the g7+ in New Deal implementation was acknowledged. The IWG should come in support of g7+ processes, and be more engaged, particularly at the Chair level.
- At country level, the Dialogue tri-partite structure should be replicated, first through the coming together of the g7+ focal point with a focal point from the Civil Society platform and a donor focal point, with the goal of building inter-constituency engagement and cohesion. While g7+ and CSPPS leads are usually clearly identified, this is rarely the case on the INCAF side. The meeting urged that this brought up in the next meeting of INCAF in late June 2016. This tripartite structure would be critical in driving the New Deal forward, and should be able to engage with existing in country coordination mechanisms.
- For most members, financial resources have been identified as an issue when it comes to implementing key elements of the New Deal (in particular Fragility Assessments). Whilst a New Deal support facility, run by UNDP and funded by 6 development partners exists, it need not be viewed as the only source of funding. It was acknowledged that the relationship with UNDP needs to be further elaborated. One of the roles for the IWG could be to advocate on behalf of g7+ countries to ensure that adequate
resources for implementation are made available and/or to map existing resources – including UNDP as a target but going beyond and reaching out to other sources of funding.

- g7+ countries are aiming to integrate the SDGs in national planning processes through New Deal principles. This area needs more attention and reflection – how it can occur – a process started by the ad hoc working group. Facilitating in country New Deal/SDG alignment, by documenting experiences of alignment and sharing them between g7+ countries, will be critical.
- Supporting Fragility assessments, compact development and their integration into planning processes, are deemed to be the most useful and necessary focus of support for the g7+ focal points and country teams.
- This should go beyond further written guidance, but should capture and make available the experience of each country.
- Fragile-to-Fragile support should be privileged, rather than the use of external consultants who know little about the New Deal and/or the countries concerned.
- The IWG should be a repository of lessons learnt and knowledge about New Deal implementation.
- The IWG can help facilitate the discussion about New Deal implementation amongst actors: to ensure that the needs of g7+ focal points are brought forward, that donor approaches are in line with the New Deal, that civil society voices are heard.
- Peer learning is a key mechanism to share knowledge and experience amongst g7+ countries, but also for INCAF and Civil society. The IWG should support opportunities for peer learning and prioritize opportunities for peer-to-peer support.

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**Day 2**

5. **Introductory remarks and conclusions from day 1**

The secretariat consolidated the discussions from day 1. The recommendations for the role of the IWG were grouped into 5 areas of focus, and 3 items on ways of working:

**Areas of focus**

1. **Advocacy**: for mobilising resources – including political, technical and financial – in support of especially around fragility assessment and compacts, and the implementation of SDGs through New Deal principles. This might feed into the work of a policy advocacy group (if such a group was formed).

2. **Fragility assessments and linking them to other FOCUS instruments, especially compacts and planning processes**: accompanying visits, missions at opportune moments – communication about what Dialogue members/constituencies are doing (g7+ secretariat and IWG). Ensuring that Fragility Assessments are linked to other New Deal elements, and SDGs are implemented through New Deal principles.

3. **Monitoring and implementation** Including New Deal and gender commitment where we can really mobilise – especially in relation to counties where there is concrete commitment – including Security Council Resolution 1325.

4. **SDG implementation aligned with the New Deal**: Share across the group experiences. Might be necessary to develop some kind of guidance (synergies with SC Res. 1325 and beyond) that offers models (based on existing country experiences) to support countries in thinking through options.

5. **Specific guidance and transition** – New Deal as an approach to Crisis, and applying New Deal principles through political transitions.

**Ways of working**

- **Real time** – the ability of this group to seize opportunities, to develop a capacity for real-time reactivity. This may be developed through a closer cooperation with UNDP, to influence their capacity to implement actions rapidly.

- **Task force within IWG** – making use of the diversity of expertise and backgrounds within the IWG to drive forward specific activities through temporary, action oriented task teams.
• Phone calls between Co-Chairs and secretariats, to maintain regular conversations on a formal and informal basis

Members agreed that in order to demonstrate progress on the ground and implement the Stockholm commitment of driving the New Deal forward, two priority areas should be the focus

1. **concrete actions on Fragility Assessments and links with other FOCUS instruments, including Compacts and 1 vision 1 plan, or National Planning processes**

2. **SDG/New Deal alignment should be supported through written guidance as well as country-specific accompaniment.**

These are not purely technical matters, and the IWG would need to work politically, and **members would have to be supported through advocacy**, and linking country level implementation with political work on implementing the Stockholm declaration. A **third area of focus would be to provide guidance for managing transitions**, in specific countries. This would have to be driven forward by a specific group, with interest and expertise in the subject.

The discussion highlighted the need to focus specifically on the areas of added value for the IWG as a group. While all the areas of focus identified are important, some can be carried out by g7+ focal points, or by the Dialogue at the global/political level.

**Conclusion | Next Steps**

- The areas of focus for the IWG will be on driving Fragility Assessments and Compacts forward, ensuring links across New Deal instruments including national planning processes, supporting efforts to ensure that the SDGs are implemented through New Deal principles. A third area of focus on managing transitions will be managed by a small task team of interested and engaged members.

- Gender should be mainstreamed in the areas of focus.

- Similarly, advocacy should not be a specific, distinct area of focus but working politically, including using advocacy methods, should guide IWG’s involvement in the selected areas of focus.

**6. Applying the areas of focus on concrete situations at country level**

In order to identify concrete ways in which the identified areas of focus for the IWG can translate into concrete actions in support of the New Deal in g7+ countries, groups were asked to apply the identified areas of focus to their respective specific countries, and define what would be required for the IWGs to support areas of focus in terms of structure at the country level, as well as resourcing.

The New Deal needs to make demonstrable progress at country level, to communicate about its proof of concept. This would mean focussing on key New Deal milestones in commonly identified countries, in order to galvanise support and commitment around the implementation of the New Deal.

**Conclusion | Next Steps**

- These areas of focus are the right ones. However, they should be understood in each specific country context, and reflect concrete demands from country focal points.

- While global advocacy is outside the scope of the IWG, there is a need to work politically at country level to mobilise resources and commitments around the New Deal.

- In terms of practical support to New Deal implementation (especially area of focus 2 and 4) Fragile-to-Fragile cooperation and peer learning are a good methodology, and should be supported by the IWG.

- The question of replicating the Dialogue structure at country level was a major area of discussion should not be seen as single template to be applied across countries. This should be adapted to country contexts. However, there is a need for a semi-formal structure, as a minimum, to support the g7+ focal point, capacity building activities to ensure Civil Society voices are heard, and mechanisms in place to ensure donor engagement and common purpose. This structure should have clearly identified members from each constituency. INCAF will be asked to consider nominating a donor focal point to support this structure at country level, and further monitoring of the effectiveness of each country’ arrangements will be conducted.
7. Monitoring report

The purpose of this session was to agree on a process for the next exercise of monitoring. The secretariat presented a proposal for conducting the 2016 exercise of New Deal monitoring. This exercise is important for the Dialogue to learn from New Deal implementation, identify success and challenges. The proposal was to gather a task team to learn from the previous monitoring exercise, revise the methodology and decide on ways forward for implementing the 2016 round of monitoring, with a view to presenting preliminary result by the end of the year.

Conclusion | Next Steps
- In the light of the renewed 5 year mandate for the International Dialogue, the current workload and capacity issues and the renewed focus for the IWG and the Dialogue as a whole, it was decided to postpone the monitoring exercise to 2017, as a mid-term review for the Dialogue mandate.
- A proposal was also made for the monitoring to be conducted as an ongoing activity, to measure progress in real time on the Stockholm commitments and against an agreed work plan.

8. The Work Plan

The areas of focus identified will help determine a specific role for the IWG, contributing to the activities of the constituencies’ secretariats, and the New Deal actors at national level. Existing activities (on communication, Country Dialogues, engagement with the private sector) will be folded into the revised work plan to ensure smooth transition.

Conclusion | Next Steps
- The secretariat will harmonise the current work plan with the newly agreed areas of focus for the IWG.
- A period of transition is necessary to refocus the work of the IWG, and to align the newly decided activities with existing ones.
- Coordination with co-Chairs and other secretariats and members should be a key consideration. The Dialogue secretariat will provide a document outlining key decisions taken at this IWG meeting to feed into the INCAF task team discussions (end June 2016).
- The work plan will also take the UNDP work plan into account, and seek linkages and complementarity of action.

9. Closing remarks and conclusions

Conclusion | Next Steps
- The secretariat will draft and circulate new Terms of Reference for the IWG reflecting the discussions of this meeting.
- The secretariat will integrate the agreed areas of focus (1) Fragility assessments and compacts, ensuring links across New Deal instruments including national planning processes, 2) SDG/New Deal alignments and 3) guidance on transitions) into a work plan, transitioning from current activities to these areas of focus to be made available within 8 weeks of the meeting.
- While there were no definitive conclusions on a template Dialogue structure at country level, the IWG should work to support g7+ focal points. INCAF have been asked to designate focal points at the country level to form a tri-partite, semi-formal support structure for New Deal processes.
- Membership for the IWG should be linked to the capacity to invest time and effort in implementing the work plan.
- The co-chairs of the IWG will need to be renewed for INCAF and the g7+. Internal consultations should be carried out for both constituencies on how to fill this role. In coordination with the secretariats of g7+ and INCAF, the Dialogue secretariat should send out a communication about how to procedurally go about this.