

STOCKHOLM DECLARATION

Addressing Fragility and Building Peace in a Changing World

A. Preamble

As a result of efforts made to meet the Millennium Development Goals, extreme poverty has declined significantly over the last two decades in most developing regions. Today, however, an increasing number of violent conflicts, climate-related crises, natural shocks and migration flows are posing formidable global challenges that are transforming the global landscape and threatening sustainable human development. The increasing concentration of extreme poverty in fragile and conflict-affected environments is heightening human suffering, and stretched budgets are gradually being used to address protracted crises instead of contributing to long-term peacebuilding or sustainable development. Today's humanitarian and refugee crises have shown that if we are to reverse the trend of increasing numbers of protracted humanitarian crises caused by violent conflict, we, now more than ever, need to have a long-term view that focuses more on prevention, by addressing the root causes and the drivers of fragility and conflict.

Together, in the coming weeks and months, the international community must seize the opportunity to spearhead genuine change in the way we address these multiple challenges. The newly adopted 2030 Agenda is comprehensive and ambitious. Never before has there been consensus within the international community that violence and conflict are inherent development challenges. The upcoming World Humanitarian Summit offers a unique chance to rally the world around the UN Secretary-General's Agenda for Humanity and its five core responsibilities for "one humanity: shared responsibility" to prevent and end conflicts, deliver and finance aid differently, and to leave no-one behind. The international community must mobilise the political will to reach these ambitious goals and to marshal resources to end fragility and violent conflicts.

The explicit recognition of peace, the reduction of violence, and the need for inclusive societies in the Sustainable Development Goals, confirms the premise of the *New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States*: that peacebuilding and statebuilding are integral to sustainable development and should remain at the core of our shared approach. Much has been achieved since the New Deal was endorsed in 2011, yet as the Independent Review of the New Deal has shown, much remains to be done to translate policy commitments into concrete results on the ground.

Recognising the urgency of these challenges, and building on the momentum around the 2030 Agenda, members of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding gathered in Stockholm on 5 April 2016 to renew their commitment to the principles of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States: its five Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals as well as FOCUS and TRUST. As members of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding we agree to:

- **strengthen** the International Dialogue's commitment to peacebuilding, statebuilding and conflict prevention by addressing the root causes of violence, conflict, and fragility, and by improving our systems to ensure inclusion and accountability and to rebuild trust between state and citizens;

- **use** the New Deal principles to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in fragile and conflict-affected situations;
- **provide** smarter, more effective, and more targeted development support in fragile and conflict-affected situations, especially in protracted humanitarian crises and in g7+ countries; and
- **strengthen and expand** partnerships to improve responses to conflict by forging broader, deeper and more effective coalitions for peacebuilding and statebuilding.

B. Commitments

The International Dialogue must adapt to our changing world. Business as usual is not an option. Inclusive political leadership in all of our member countries is crucial. Long-term development should replace short-term project-based solutions. Development support must be invested in innovative, efficient, and accountable ways and leverage other sources of finance for building sustainable peace. To achieve this ambition, the International Dialogue will concentrate its efforts on the following:

Addressing the root causes of fragility, conflict and violence: At the root of conflict and fragility lie injustice, human rights violations, inequality, exclusion, poverty, poor management of natural resources and the absence of inclusive political settlements and capable institutions. Supporting transitions out of fragility requires political and not just technical responses. It is crucial for these processes to be grounded in indigenous contexts. They must be locally driven, locally owned and locally led. There can be no sustainable peace without the meaningful inclusion of civil society, and a particular focus is needed to ensure gender-sensitivity and women's effective participation in peace processes and peacebuilding.

Therefore, the International Dialogue commits to:

- **accelerating and improving** the implementation of the New Deal's Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals and using them as tools to guide our interventions to address the root causes of fragility, conflict and violence;
- **advancing** the UN Secretary-General's Agenda for Humanity, as a way to transcend the divide between humanitarian and development actors to achieve collective outcomes supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in fragile and conflict affected contexts.
- **identifying and addressing** obstacles to the implementation of New Deal principles, and difficulties in operationalising country-led fragility assessments;
- **strengthening** gender approaches and women's active participation in peacebuilding by linking the implementation of the New Deal to the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions.
- **recognising and harnessing** the positive potential of youth for peacebuilding and statebuilding by aligning the implementation of the New Deal with UNSCR 2250;
- **developing** coherent approaches to make politics inclusive; and

- **building** effective mechanisms for conflict resolution and reconciliation.

Contributing to implementing the 2030 Agenda by using New Deal principles: The New Deal is a key framework for achieving resilience and development results in fragile and conflict-affected environments and for meeting the commitment to ‘leaving no one behind’. The New Deal provides a unique platform for political, economic, and social reforms by strengthening dialogue between national authorities and development partners and by including civil society. The International Dialogue will:

- make concerted political and financial efforts to **operationalise and implement** the 2030 Agenda in line with the New Deal principles and taking into consideration the specific context of countries in fragile situations;
- **strengthen** multi-stakeholder dialogue at country level.
- **streamline** bureaucratic procedures to increase timely delivery of development support; and
- **support** the creation of capacities by national statistical agencies, ministries and other stakeholders to produce data to monitor progress.

Using development aid in more innovative ways to better respond to protracted crises: Development aid must be more diversified to meet new demands. Using country systems, for example, is a crucial principle of the aid effectiveness agenda and key for state ownership of the development agenda. It can determine a country’s leadership and thus contribute to the legitimacy of state institutions, an important element for statebuilding. The International Dialogue will therefore:

- **aim to** increase the proportion of country programmable aid in countries most in need, including those affected by fragility, violence and conflict;
- **strengthen** national public financial management systems and adopt proven risk management strategies in order to reduce fiduciary risks so that the wider use of country systems becomes possible;
- **implement** the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, including by scaling up the levels of development support invested in domestic resource mobilisation by 2020, with a special focus on tackling tax evasion schemes in line with the Addis Ababa Tax Initiative; and
- **make** relevant development aid conflict-sensitive, based on a rigorous analysis of conflict and fragility drivers and ‘do no harm’ principles.

Wider and stronger partnerships: Achieving sustainable peace and development in conflict-affected countries requires the International Community to work together like never before, with new partnerships and in new ways that reinforce mutual accountability and transparency. The International Dialogue will therefore:

- **support** peer learning, exchange and cooperation between countries affected by conflict and fragility on how to build resilience after a crisis and how to manage complex aid relationships, beginning with existing mechanisms, such as the g7+ countries' 'Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation' initiative;
- **expand** its capacity to build partnerships and to work more coherently with existing forums, other bi-lateral and multilateral actors, regional organisations, new development partners, humanitarian actors, the private sector and countries affected by conflict currently outside the g7+ network;
- **promote** closer collaboration and work in more complementary ways with the UN peacebuilding architecture; and
- **work more closely** with development and humanitarian actors and promote increased incorporation of conflict-sensitive and longer-term development approaches and financing into humanitarian operations in protracted crisis situations, to achieve context-appropriate collective outcomes.

C. The future of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding

We also take the opportunity today, in Stockholm, to commit ourselves to the continuation of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding – a unique, multi-stakeholder coalition.

The entire international system set up to deal with conflict and fragility has changed. The landmark adoption of a global Agenda 2030 and the UN's stated ambition to improve its peacebuilding approach coincides with the end of the trial period of the New Deal. The International Dialogue will take advantage of this unparalleled opportunity for genuine transformation in countries affected by conflict and fragility. Building on the experience gained and lessons learned, the International Dialogue will strive to become a robust network of countries, organizations, and forums committed to finding new and better ways of building peace and preventing conflict. It will also be open to new members united in their desire to build sustainable peace and prevent conflict, and will seek to increase its relevance both inside countries grappling with conflict and fragility and at global policy levels.

The International Dialogue will strengthen its comparative advantage as a distinctive forum where development work and diplomatic efforts come together to prevent conflict and build sustainable peace. Guided by the firm belief that addressing the root causes of conflict and fragility must be a priority and that this is, first and foremost, a country-level process that must be owned and led by local actors, with the support of development partners and other external actors, the International Dialogue will continue to bring together countries seeking to move beyond fragility and conflict, their development partners, and civil society representatives committed to supporting their efforts. To this end, the International Dialogue will step up its support to peacebuilding and statebuilding at the national level and, at the same time, increase its active participation in global policy discussions on peacebuilding and statebuilding in fragile and conflict-affected countries.

Members of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, who gathered in Stockholm on 5 April 2016, took note of the communiqué from the g7+ Ministerial Meeting in Kabul, held on 23-24 March, and of the possibility of holding the next Global Meeting of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding in the Central African Republic.