



MEETING BRIEF

International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding: Peace and Development in the Post-2015 Development Framework

It will be difficult for fragile states to achieve peace, stability and sustainable development unless institutional silos containing security, diplomacy, and development are broken down. This was the key conclusion at a policy forum at the International Peace Institute (IPI) on April 22, 2013, organized by the Permanent Mission of Timor-Leste to the UN, the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN, and IPI.

The forum explored how lessons from the “New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States” and the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding can inform the post-2015 development agenda. The co-chairs of the International Dialogue, Timor-Leste’s Minister of Finance Emilia Pires and Denmark’s Minister for Development Cooperation Christian Friis Bach, offered the following insights:

1. The g7+ and the New Deal are **country-driven**; states voluntarily join and conduct their own fragility assessments that open important conversations on how best to use limited funds. The International Dialogue provides an **equal platform** for g7+ states and donor countries. Development partners can improve implementation by adhering to national priorities and plans and supporting national ownership and leadership.
2. The g7+ countries are pushing forward the New Deal, but donors and international organizations are not delivering fast enough. More risk analysis is needed to develop better **risk management** tools. Donors can be transparent about risks while stressing the necessity of engaging in fragile states. For example, allowing the government of **Somalia** to drive priorities and deliver aid, even in its infancy, is critical for long-term legitimacy and capacity-building especially in rural regions.
3. While donors have a great deal of technical expertise, fragile states are the experts when it comes to conflict. **Fragile-fragile cooperation**, not just South-South cooperation, is needed to further develop this expertise and new development approaches. For instance, through the International Dialogue, fragile states are testing their own **indicators**.
4. When guided by the New Deal, development partners can contribute to building the **social contract** between citizens and the state. For example, in **Afghanistan**, increases in education and school enrollment have improved citizens’ perception of the government.
5. **Civil society** and **private sector** engagement is crucial in fragile states. An inclusive approach can best address security and development challenges. Participants agreed that the post-2015 process is already more consultative than the creation of the Millennium Development Goals.

According to the discussion, some donor states once believed it was too dangerous to combine security and development work. Today, many believe the risk of *not* engaging fragile states is far greater than the risk of doing so. A video recording of the forum is available [here](#).

– Andrea Ó Súilleabháin