

## FOCUS SESSION 6:

### Leading Transitions from Conflict and Fragility: What to expect from the New Deal and the Peace- and State-building Goals (PSGs)?

15 April, 8:00am – 9:15am, Room Montenejo 2

#### Speakers/Panelists:

- **H.E. Emilia Pires**, Minister of Finance of Timor Leste & co-Chair of the International Dialogue
- **H.E. Pekka Haavisto**, Minister for International Development of Finland and co-Chair of the International Dialogue
- **H.E. Florence Limbio**, Minister of Planning, Central African Republic
- **H.E. Célestin Vunabandi**, Minister of Planning, Democratic Republic of Congo
- **Ms. Nancy Lindborg**, Assistant Administrator, United States Agency for International Development
- **Mr. Martin Dahinden**, State Secretary and Director General, Swiss Development Cooperation Agency
- **Mr. Diakalia Ouattara**, Secretary-General, Forum national sur la dette et la pauvreté (FNPD)

#### Conclusions and key messages:

The session was live streamed on YouTube and can be viewed at the [OECD-on-Development channel](#).

#### **Challenges and progress was discussed in the following key areas:**

**Post 2015 process:** If the 5 PSGs are not taken into account, the international community might lose development gains. Development, security and government with local ownership at the core are essential for the 2015 framework.

**Civil Society:** At times, there is insufficient collaboration between development actors. There is an urgent need to work together better. It is important to not only measure and consider the fragility of states but to reflect the fragility of societies.

**Country ownership:** Countries are often not in the driver's seat and the New Deal has not improved local ownership. Country ownership is essential to if the New Deal is supposed to work. Mutual accountability must also be emphasised.

**Changes in donor behaviour:** The New Deal has led to improved partnerships among all development partners but more needs to be done.

**Inclusive Politics:** An inclusive process including government, civil society and the private sector, is needed to ensure a sufficiently broad base for positive change.

**Media:** The media plays a fundamental role in the dissemination of the New Deal to civil society and other national actors; close collaboration with the media is needed.

**Finances:** The label “fragile state” labels a country high risk and complicates the receipt of aid flows. ODA is still the core financing source for fragile countries. Mechanisms of New Deal don’t work if aid is bound to conditionalities.

#### **Success stories:**

**Timor Leste:** Timor Leste has been one of the first test cases for the New Deal and the New Deal has been a formula that works and has helped the country transition out of fragility.

**Central African Republic:** The New Deal has not been able to be implemented due to the ongoing crisis. A New Deal roadmap has been drafted and sensitisation of the civil society, the religious platforms and the private sector on the New Deal has taken place. The New Deal framework has helped to attract and mobilise the international community and represents a first step to a peaceful transition process.

**Democratic Republic of the Congo:** The New Deal implementation process has been participative and inclusive. It strengthened dialogue and alignment between different actors. A lot of collaboration has taken place at national level. The National Stabilisation Plan (STAREC) was already in place when the New Deal was signed but without any evaluation mechanism. Alignment with the PSGs helps to evaluate progress of STAREC.

#### **Relevance of the New Deal to other countries:**

New Deal framework can be applied in every country. It is important, though, to not consider it as a template that can be rolled out everywhere. The specifics of every context should always be taken into account.

**Myanmar:** New Deal and International Dialogue could be relevant for trust-building, transparency, accountability, and country ownership for the country’s transition process. The PSGs would be a good vehicle to lead the country’s transition. For the future transition process, it will be important to strengthen development and accountability of government structures and to create an enabling environment for civil society to participate.

**Middle Income Countries (MIC) (e.g. Arab MIC):** New Deal is relevant for those MICs that have experience with conflict and fragility. Through the PSGs the New Deal sets out different visions of how the state and the society relate. State legitimacy and inclusive politics are just as relevant in MICs as in LICs. Fragility Assessments demonstrate a very useful tool to identify drivers of fragility or unrest that can be applied in MIC as well.