

Side Events

How Can the Sustainable Development Goals Be Realised in Fragile Contexts?

Wednesday, 30 November 2016 – 14:30 – 15:30

Objective:

- To discuss how to ensure that countries facing conflict and fragility are not left behind and are able to realize the SDGs.
- To share their different experiences (country government, donor and civil society) of implementing the New Deal since it was endorsed at the Busan High Level Forum in 2011
- To reflect on how the New Deal can be used in contexts of conflict and fragility to enable countries to realize their SDG ambitions, and what needs to happen to make this a reality.
- To discuss how a multi-stakeholder partnership model such as the International Dialogue can support the ambition of SDG 17 in delivering the 2030 Agenda.

Participants:

Moderator:

- **Mr Jonathan Glennie**, Director of Sustainable Development Research at Ipsos MORI/The Guardian.

Panelists:

- **H.E. Isabella Lovin**, Minister of International Development Co-operation and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister, Sweden. Co-Chair of the International Dialogue.
- **H.E. Abdullahi Ali**, Deputy Minister of Planning and International Co-operation, Somalia.
- **Mr Magdy Martinez-Soliman**, ASG United Nations, and UNDP Assistant Administrator.
- **Mr Saroj Jha**, Senior Director for the Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group, World Bank.
- **Dr. Erin McCandless**, Co-Chair of the New Deal Implementation Working Group.

Key issues discussed:

The Role of the State in implementing the New Deal: Somalia's Experience

- After more than 20 years of conflict leading to damaged institutions and negatively affecting the Somali people, in late 2012 the Government of Somalia committed to implementing the New Deal process and principles towards establishing an inclusive single framework for all international development interventions within the country.
- Endorsed in Brussels in 2013, the government has taken advantage of the New Deal in rebuilding its institutional capacity, starting by the Federal Government, through an inclusive state-led process engaging Somali experts and working jointly with development partners.

- Within this context, the New Deal provided an opportunity to enhance the capacity of human resources through trainings on programme design and financing, and to bring back qualified Somali experts from all over the world in order to successfully prepare the National Plan; a product of the New Deal.

Emerging global challenges necessitate policy coherence and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda

- Given the evolution and new architecture of global development co-operation, finding new ways of intervention tailored to the situation and challenges of fragile contexts should be in the forefront of discussions on effective development co-operation.
- The 2030 Agenda represents a single framework that encompasses all countries and addresses all policy areas.
- Policy coherence and coordination among development partners is key.
- Several global challenges are currently emerging and developing with a very fast pace placing severe risks/threats on the global community.
- Climate change and its impact on sustainable agriculture and water supply; increased number of countries in conflict and fragility; migration flows; human suffering and political instability are pressing global challenges that call for dedicated efforts by the global community towards conflict prevention on all fronts.
- There is a need for inclusive policy, democracy and respect of human rights.

How the New Deal can help to achieve the 2030 Agenda –

- The New Deal is a channel through which the concerns of countries affected by conflict and fragility were infused into the 2030 Agenda. *
- New Deal remains relevant. Commitment to New Deal reaffirmed by over 50 countries and organisations in Stockholm Declaration (April 2016)
- In order to enable progress towards the MDGs, 3 main principles were developed at the heart of the New Deal, namely; Trust, Focus and PeaceBuilding and State building Goals (PSGs). Principles have been translated to inclusive dialogue around the development priorities that need to be first addressed within the larger framework of the SDGs.
- The New Deal played a crucial role as an enabler for capacity recovery in countries affected by conflict and fragility
- Fragility assessments upon which a country-led one vision one plan is developed along with a country compact to implement the plan are instruments that support inclusive and participatory political dialogue.
- The 2030 Agenda makes development co-operation even more complex. Development partners now have to think about not leaving behind countries in fragile situations but also to not leaving those living in them on the extreme end of the spectrum.

Panellists' comments or questions raised / interventions from the floor:-

- methods of data collection in fragile states and capacity building to governments on data analysis will be a challenge for Monitoring of SDGs
- mechanisms for effective involvement of CSOs and giving them a space to operate within conflict and political oppression is a big challenge in fragile contexts
- inclusion of local capacities and human resources especially women in the rebuilding process.
- Need to strengthen the health systems and improve the institutional structure in order to achieve health related SDGs – this is not just about SDG16 but all SDGs
- economic sanctions in fragile contexts, can have negative impact on the population and civil servants of states in conflict should be considered as a red flag to international organizations and the global community.

- Can improving refugees' access to education in fragile contexts, can be considered as part of development cooperation?
- How can the New Deal be relevant beyond G7+ countries –eg Syria

Responses from panellists

- Data collection mechanisms in fragile states will have to be improved, in order to show cracks of fragility and be able to decide where interventions are needed.
- Somalia's efforts to collect data directly from different strata of the community through a civil survey with 5000 Somali participants highlighted, using some indicators as proxy was among the techniques followed to gather the needed information.
- Somalia experience of addressing gender issues, including the design of capacity building programmes specifically for women in public administration. In the Ministry of Planning and International Co-operation, 45% of staff are women. Somalia working on transferring their experience in gender inclusion to other ministries and government agencies and sustainable capacity building via training of trainers, creating positive multiplier learning effects.
- On education for refugees in contexts of fragility, the World Bank highlighted efforts in collaboration with the UN through a financing initiative to provide education for all Lebanese and Syrian refugee children by the end of 2016-2017 school year was highlighted.

Conclusions by panellists and next steps:

- Fragility can put a break on sustainable development.
- 2030 Agenda challenges countries and the global community to formulate policies that LNOB.
- For countries in conflict and fragility to realise the SDGs, conflict prevention (core ambition of Stockholm Declaration), gathering evidence/data and analysing key challenges in order to convert them to implementable plans, is key.
- Affected countries are part of the process - their voice is being heard but International dialogue must not be instead of local and national dialogue
- An integrated approach within which political and financing instruments are all working together is needed (New Deal)
- Yet must allocate more financial resources to ensure inclusion of CSOs, women and youth,
- More South-South Co-operation is needed, bringing countries together for mutual learning and sharing their experiences.