

Proposed work programme of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding in 2010/11

This note lays out key areas for future work for the International Dialogue in 2010-11. The areas identified are based on key findings from the consultations on peacebuilding and statebuilding and agreement reached at the first meeting of the International Dialogue in April 2010 in Dili, Timor-Leste. Section two of this document outlines how to operationalise and deliver the work. Section 3 sets out a roadmap with key milestones between the first meeting of the Dili International Dialogue and the High Level Forum in South Korea in November 2011.

I. Areas of work for the International Dialogue in 2010 and 2011

1) International Objectives on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding

An agreed output for the International Dialogue is the development of a set of international objectives on peacebuilding and statebuilding. Following the consultations carried out in seven countries and the endorsement of the Dili Declaration there is an emerging consensus around a number of common priority goals. As set out in the International Dialogue Concept Note (April 2009), a set of international goals for peacebuilding and statebuilding, building on country-level experiences and identified priorities, could help to:

- Generate consensus on the general areas where immediate progress is important, in order to support linkages between traditional peace and security concerns with sustainable development and humanitarian objectives;
- Generate coherence and better co-ordination and sequencing in international responses (development, diplomatic, and defence) to situations of conflict and fragility;
- Allow participating countries and organisations to demonstrate and track progress and results against other priorities beyond the MDGs; and
- Provide a framework of support for specific country-level objectives, to be agreed upon voluntarily by a host country.

Next steps in the preparation of international goals could include:

- Developing a first draft of international peacebuilding and statebuilding goals on the basis of agreements at the Dili International Dialogue meeting.
- Developing indicators to track progress against and results against these goals.
- Consultations on the draft objectives at international, regional and country level.

The work on the preparation of international objectives will be overseen by the International Dialogue Steering Group and advanced with support of the International Dialogue Expert Panel.

2) Addressing key challenges in support of peacebuilding and statebuilding

2.1 External assistance and capacity development

Based on the challenges identified in the country consultations the aim of this workstream is to develop recommendations for improving and harmonising external assistance (including south-south co-operation) to capacity development, and avoiding unintended effects on partner country capacity. Key outputs would include:

- In-country joint reviews of the impact of development partners' hiring and procurement procedures on the local economy and labour market, as well as local capacity (as agreed in the Dili Declaration Actions).
- Recommendations/guidelines on strengthening the effectiveness of technical co-operation in fragile contexts based on country lessons and experiences. This could also cover South-South co-operation and the role of diaspora, for example.

- A code of conduct on the employment of national staff by donors to avoid negative effects on government capacity and the local labour market. This could include recommendations/good practice on salary top up and project implementation units (PIUs).

2.2 Innovative aid instruments and flexibility of funding

The aim of this workstream is to improve the way external assistance is delivered in situations of very weak implementation capacity to ensure both, support to the delivery of services and development of capacity and country systems. Key outputs would include:

- A review of experiences with instruments and approaches which propose transitional solutions to support direct delivery of services while at the same time developing capacity in situations of weak implementation capacity (e.g. the GEMAP in Liberia).
- A set of recommendations/principles that can guide funding decisions and choice of instruments at the country level, enable more rapid and flexible funding to be made available for key peacebuilding and statebuilding activities, and improve the government-donor dialogue around specific funding instruments to decrease transaction costs and maximise delivery.
- Lessons and recommendations on the use and strengthening of country systems in conflict-affected and fragile situations (in collaboration with the Global Partnership on Country Systems hosted by the OECD Working Party on Aid Effectiveness).

2.3 Planning processes in fragile and conflict-affected states

The aim of this workstream is to improve strategic planning processes to ensure the preparation of unified plans which include clearly prioritised and sequenced peacebuilding and statebuilding objectives. Key outputs would include:

- A review of existing planning processes and frameworks and lessons on integrating and prioritising peacebuilding and statebuilding objectives.
- Recommendations/guidelines for improving government-donor planning processes and preparation of planning frameworks to ensure integration and prioritisation of peacebuilding and statebuilding objectives and reduce duplication/fragmentation of plans.
- Recommendations on prioritisation and sequencing of objectives and on managing trade-offs between short- and longer-term peacebuilding and statebuilding objectives.

2.4 Political Dialogue

The aim of this workstream is to identify how political dialogue mechanisms and political processes in-country can be strengthened to contribute to the development of constructive state-society relations. Particular attention will be given to the role of civil society, media and women's organisation. Related to this, the workstream will examine what support external actors can give to these processes. Key outputs would include:

- A review of experiences with political dialogue mechanisms and the role of external assistance.
- Sharing of experiences and proposed next steps to deliver the Dili Declaration Action on developing a long-term vision at country-level to guide the development transformation.
- Recommendations/guidelines for strengthening political dialogue and political processes in conflict-affected and fragile states.

3) International Action Plan on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding

As agreed in Dili, an International Action Plan on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding will be developed to respond to the goals and challenges identified in national consultations. The Action Plan will give special attention to the four areas described above and will build on the recommendations/guidelines developed as part of the International Dialogue workprogramme. The Action Plan would consist of a set of principles and commitments for developing countries, development partners and civil society organisations. It would be endorsed at the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in South Korea in November 2011.

II. Ways of working

1) Working Groups

In order to advance the implementation of the International Dialogue work programme it is proposed to set up four working groups which are open to interested countries, development partners and civil society organisations. Working groups will be co-chaired by a developing country and a development partner. Working group participants should have experience and knowledge of the subject matter. If required, the working group will invite external experts. Working groups should build partnerships with and draw on work undertaken by existing networks and organisations, such as the Peacebuilding Commission, the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness, the International Network on Conflict and Fragility etc. Major analytical work carried out in-between working group meetings should be overseen by a small reference group of interested participating countries and organisations.

2) High-level Advisory Panel

A high-level advisory panel consisting of leading academics and practitioners in various fields of peacebuilding and statebuilding will be established. The panel will provide advice and guidance in the preparation of international goals on peacebuilding and statebuilding and the International Action Plan on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding. Resources permitting, the expert panel will meet physically, as and when required, and it will be called upon to provide written inputs and comments on documents on a regular basis.

3) The International Dialogue Secretariat

The International Dialogue Secretariat will continue to support the Co-Chairs and Steering Group in moving work forward. Pending the availability of sufficient resources, the Secretariat will also provide support to the working group Chairs, including support in preparing the detailed work programme, commissioning relevant studies, preparing key documents for discussion during meetings, supporting the organisation of meetings. It is expected that working group chairs will make sufficient resources available to lead and advance the delivery of the agreed workprogramme.

III. Timeline

2010		
Agreement on Work Programme	International Dialogue members will be requested to endorse proposed work programme and express interest in co-chairing, or participating in working groups.	June
Constitution of Working Groups	Working Group Co-Chairs and members for working groups will be identified.	July
Preparatory work	Working Group Co-chairs and International Dialogue Secretariat with the Steering Group will prepare the first working group meetings.	July - September
First meeting of the Working Groups	The first meeting will allow the sharing of country-experiences, discussion of existing evidence/policies, and agreement on the envisaged outputs of the working group.	November
2011		
Second Meeting of the Working Groups	The second meeting of the working groups will review and discuss draft products (e.g. recommendations/guidelines/code of conduct).	March
Second Meeting of the International Dialogue	Draft products prepared by the working groups will be presented for discussion and endorsement. The meeting would also agree on the structure and key message for the International Action Plan.	May
Preparation of International Action Plan	Building on agreement at the second global meeting, an International Action Plan will be prepared	May - August
HLF 4	The International Action Plan will be fed into HLF4	December

