

Dili Declaration

A new vision for peacebuilding and statebuilding

Preamble

We, the representatives of developing countries, bilateral and multilateral partners and civil society, met in Dili on 9-10 April 2010. We welcome the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding as an innovation in the international system where countries experiencing conflict and fragility and development partners can jointly shape and guide international assistance to support peacebuilding and statebuilding.

This Declaration builds on the g7+¹ statement agreed in Dili on 8 April 2010 (see Annex). We reaffirm our commitment to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations and the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA).

Conflict and fragility are major obstacles for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We recognize that it will be extremely difficult to achieve the MDGs in most fragile and conflict-affected states by 2015. We urgently need to address conflict and fragility by supporting country-led peacebuilding and statebuilding processes. To improve the impact of our efforts we will take immediate actions and develop an International Action Plan on peacebuilding and statebuilding.

Peacebuilding and statebuilding goals

Our collective vision is to end and prevent conflict and to contribute to the development of capable, accountable states which respond to the expectations and needs of their populations, in particular the needs of vulnerable and excluded groups, women, youth and children. We recognize the centrality of state-society relations in supporting the development of capable, accountable and responsive states. This will require sustained efforts by all stakeholders to improve governance, strengthen economic and social development, and promote peace and security as outlined in the statement by the g7+.

In order to translate this vision into reality and to guide our collective engagement, we identify the following peacebuilding and statebuilding goals, as stepping stones to achieve progress on development:

- Foster inclusive political settlements and processes, and inclusive political dialogue.
- Establish and strengthen basic safety and security.
- Achieve peaceful resolution of conflicts and access to justice.
- Develop effective and accountable government institutions to facilitate service delivery.
- Create the foundations for inclusive economic development, including sustainable livelihoods, employment and effective management of natural resources.
- Develop social capacities for reconciliation and peaceful coexistence.
- Foster regional stability and co-operation.

We recognize that priorities to achieve these goals will be different in each country. They should be set at country level through a process that engages all stakeholders, especially women and civil society.

Challenges to achieving peacebuilding and statebuilding goals

Among the challenges identified through national consultations, we are particularly concerned about:

- Lack of a shared vision for change among key stakeholders that is based on consultations with citizens and civil society. Lack of context and conflict analysis.
- Lack of trust between developing countries and development partners.
- Too many overlapping plans and weak alignment of donors behind a unified national plan. Lack of agreement on the need to address shifting short-term and long-term priorities at the same time.
- Approaches which focus on the capital and certain regions, creating pockets of exclusion and engaging only a few central state actors in the executive.
- Insufficient attention to the protection of women and children from armed conflict and to the participation of women in peacebuilding and statebuilding.

¹ The g7+ is an open grouping of countries experiencing conflict and fragility. It was established in 2008 and comprises the following countries: Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Liberia, Nepal, the Solomon Islands, Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Timor-Leste.

- Insufficient attention to economic growth and job creation, particularly for youth.
- Unrealistic timeframes for reform, weak capacity to implement plans and limited effectiveness of capacity development approaches.
- The need to strengthen linkages between development, security, justice and good governance.
- Lack of data and reliable statistics to inform planning for peacebuilding and statebuilding.
- Insufficient flexibility, speed and predictability of transition financing and limited effectiveness of existing instruments.

Actions for effective support to peacebuilding and statebuilding

The following actions can help accelerate progress on peacebuilding and statebuilding and deepen the implementation of the Paris Declaration, the AAA and the Principles for Good International Engagement if implemented today. Beginning now, we commit ourselves to:

1. Set up a mechanism to enable the g7+ partner country meetings to continue.
2. Formulate international peacebuilding and statebuilding goals based on this Declaration.
3. Develop a long-term vision at country-level to guide the development transformation.
4. Ensure that national development plans integrate peacebuilding and statebuilding goals, set clear priorities that can adapt to evolving circumstances.
5. Map the allocation of in-country government and international resources across regions and social groups to ensure equity and prevent exclusion.
6. Initiate 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.
7. Initiate discussion with expert institutions on the development of national statistical capacities.
8. Where the UN does not have a lead coordination mandate, agree a lead development partner co-ordination arrangement at country-level to drive co-operation and policy dialogue with government on development priorities, and establish clear terms of reference to deliver on the arrangement, in line with the Paris Declaration and AAA.

We will report back on the status of delivering these actions at the next meeting of the International Dialogue early in 2011.

An International Action Plan on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding

Delivering more effective support to peacebuilding and statebuilding will require a change in approach. To this end we commit to develop an International Action Plan between now and the Fourth High Level Forum (HLF 4). This plan will respond to the goals and challenges identified in the national consultations. We also agree that the Action Plan will give special attention to four areas and focus specifically on the relevance to fragile and conflict-affected states:

1. **Capacity development:** Develop recommendations for improving and harmonising support to capacity development, recognizing the critical contribution of South-South co-operation. Recommendations will also address how to avoid policies that undermine the capacity of developing countries and support statebuilding.
2. **Aid instruments:** Improve the way aid is delivered to ensure rapid and flexible delivery and transition towards government led delivery through country systems.
3. **Planning processes:** Improve the process for ensuring that developing countries peacebuilding and statebuilding priorities and constraints are identified, that feasible plans are prepared and that development partners align to them.
4. **Political Dialogue:** Improve the way peacebuilding and statebuilding are part of political dialogue between developing countries and development partners, and how political dialogue in-country can ensure better state-society relations and the building of trust between state and citizens. This could address the role of media and communications at the national, sub-national and global levels.

Particular attention will be given to the issue of gender equality and the role of women, and the potential of youth in all of the areas above. We will deliver this work programme through a range of mechanisms to be further defined. Participation in these mechanisms will include developing countries, development partners and civil society.

We will work through the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding to deliver this International Action Plan at HLF 4 in the Republic of Korea in November 2011.

Informing other processes and increasing participation

We will feed the results from the International Dialogue country consultations and this meeting into other on-going processes to improve the impact on peacebuilding and statebuilding. This will include the Peacebuilding Commission Review, the implementation of the UN Secretary General's Report on Peacebuilding, the MDG Review Summit and the OECD International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF).

We commit to continue this dialogue and to expand participation to other countries and stakeholders.

Dili, Timor-Leste
10 April 2010

Annex: Statement by the g7+

**April 9, 2010
Dili, Timor-Leste**

We, the representatives from Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Nepal, the Solomon Islands, Sierra Leone, Southern Sudan and Timor-Leste, assembled for the g7+ Country Partners Meeting, gathered, to signify the will of fragile States to reduce poverty, deter conflict and provide better conditions for the people of our nations.

We thank the international community for giving us the space to conduct this dialogue, to share our experiences and learn from our lessons. This gives us a stronger voice to speak to the international community about our needs and circumstances.

Therefore, we recognise that to assist the development partners in designing their assistance to fragile States, we must take leadership and express a **strong long term vision**. **This vision** should be reflected in our national plans, which must guide donor intervention in our countries. We should also recognise that this transformation is a long process that takes time and requires flexible approaches which are sensitive to the stages of fragility and political context. The long term vision will be set out in our development plans, frameworks and strategies. These plans will prioritise the following areas:

1. Governance

- **Political**
- **Public administration and decentralisation**
- **Economic, financial**

Fragile nations recognise the need for good governance that empowers its people through open and transparent public administration and financial management, political representation and leadership. It is through the principles of good governance that effective and efficient public administration can be achieved. Leadership and effective systems of political empowerment are also essential to ensure development and social inclusion. There is recognition that democracy must be implemented in accordance with local circumstances.

It was agreed that in some fragile nations the needs of good governance require the implementation of a program of decentralisation to bring service delivery and representation closer to citizens.

2. Economic Development

- **Infrastructure development (highlighting roads, telecommunications, transport, energy)**
- **Natural resource management**
- **Land issues and agriculture**
- **Poverty reduction**
- **Environment and climate change**
- **Job creation**

With widespread poverty experienced by our nations and as a root cause of our conflicts, we agree that economic development is central to our stable futures. To achieve economic development, the importance of infrastructure development is a priority. Among infrastructure needs connectivity through telecommunications, quality roads, water and sanitation, and electricity and energy are basic requirements for our development.

Greater emphasis must be focussed on aid effectiveness which can contribute to these core infrastructure needs that will deliver immediate relief and economic development.

3. Human and Social Development

- **Health**
- **Education**
- **Human resources, capacity**
- **Vulnerable citizens**
- **Gender equality**

Our societies can not develop without basic conditions that allow our citizens a good quality of life that sustains the human and collective spirit. Education, health, water and sanitation, gender equality and job creation are fundamental to human and social development. Effective programs that protect and strengthen the most vulnerable and reach the most remote and inaccessible areas are critical to both sustainability and stability.

Aid must be distributed fairly across the country to reduce the risk of conflict and ensure social inclusion and a common national identity that is respected by international partners.

4. Security

- **Conflict resolution and prevention**
- **Reconciliation**
- **Social inclusion**
- **Peace building, dialogue**
- **Rule of law**

There was a shared recognition that without security there can be no development. We acknowledge that we have a responsibility to address and resolve our internal conflicts. Common to the experiences of fragile States is the occurrence of conflict and the existence of latent tensions and disagreement.

We have all dealt with what have often seemed intractable problems and social division. We acknowledged these problems and agreed on the approaches that are necessary to bring peace and security. This includes the need for reconciliation, social inclusion, dialogue, the institution of the rule of law and for an honest examination of the root causes of conflict and our national mentality. There must be recognition that a change of national mentality is a long process that takes time. As we have all experienced conflict, there was agreement that we can learn from our individual and collective experiences and discuss together how we addressed our problems.

Resolution of conflict takes time due to the internal dynamic and complexities of our country circumstances. Security and stability require integration of all groups in society which should engage in a process of self-examination leading to a common purpose. International partners must integrate their intervention accordingly.

Action must be taken to operationalize these priorities. **There is a strong spirit of solidarity between our countries and strong desire to continue to work together in the g7+ group of fragile States** to share experiences, challenges, failures and successes to make a rapid transition to sustainable peace, development and to bring tangible results for the people of all our nations.

We believe this dialogue between fragile States has provided clarity in our shared challenges in nation building. We recognise our collective responsibility given the urgency of the situation, and given the conflict effect, we are the furthest away from reaching the MDGs and we recognize we will not achieve them within the current time frame.

In order to work effectively with donors, fragile nations must develop and communicate their own planning, programs, models and strategies of development through strong leadership. The fragile nations acknowledge that each country must take ownership by developing these frameworks to address individual circumstances and within the national context. We recognise that ownership comes with a responsibility to define our needs and be accountable for delivery. We want donors to adhere to this principle and align accordingly.

When considering these circumstances, we agree there are common themes through shared characteristics and challenges amongst fragile States. All must be addressed with action and aid assistance that is effective.

We recognise fragile States are in a transitional stage and in order to further explore the above themes and to discuss our common and collective issues, **it is necessary for the g7+ Country Partner Meetings to continue**. It is through this dialogue and institutional grouping that we can discuss our priorities and our approaches and in doing so, allow for empowered and effective communication with the donor communities.

We believe fragile States are characterized and classified through the lens of the developed rather than through the eyes of the developing; and that in order to make long lasting change and implement the principles of good engagement; the national context must guide each distinctive path to sustainable development and donors must harmonize first to this concept and then implement without undue process. Although we all accept international standards, the donor community must be aware of our conditions and needs. That is why, we must give ourselves a transitional period to reinforce our capabilities and systems and not have complex and slow procedural requirements and conditions imposed upon us.

Fragile nations, above all States, understand the meaning of urgent action, that a Government's responsibility to respond quickly and address the needs of the people is a priority which often requires swift, immediate, and decisive responses to avoid potential or escalating threats to national stability. International partnerships are critical at this time. **A two prong approach is necessary which requires flexibility in systems and untying restraints** which could prevent aid delivery while establishing medium to long term planning.

We realise the need to have a collective voice as member countries in a formal forum that is supported and accepted by the international community.