

Principles for Fragile States and Situations

The Fragile States Principles (FSPs) provide a set of guidelines for actors involved in development co-operation, peacebuilding, statebuilding and security in situations of conflict and fragility. Widely accepted as a point of reference, the FSPs were first adopted by OECD ministers in 2007.

These principles were established because the deep-seated challenges of fragile states require different responses than those applied in more stable countries. These states face severe development challenges such as insecurity, weak capacity to deliver basic state functions, sometimes weak accountability, chronic humanitarian crises and persistent social tensions.

Monitoring the implementation of the Fragile States Principles

FSP implementation is monitored through a survey that countries in fragile situations choose to take part in. Through national consultations, the survey aims to take stock of international engagement and its impact in participating countries. The consultations provide the opportunity to:

- ✓ **Catalyse a qualitative dialogue among stakeholders** representing the national government, local authorities, civil society organisations, regional bodies and international actors across diplomacy, defence and development.
- ✓ **Develop a common diagnosis** on the impact of international engagement, assessing what does and does not work on the ground.
- ✓ **Identify priority actions required** by government and international partners respectively for improved impact.

The results of the survey are published in a global report and a series of country reports (available at: www.fsprinciples.org).



The Fragile States Principles are designed to:



Guide international engagement in fragile states as a whole, including security, diplomacy, development co-operation, peacebuilding, humanitarian action, trade, investment and migration policies and programmes. Policy coherence is a make-or-break imperative in situations of conflict and fragility where the critical path is narrow and challenges interlinked.



Complement the commitments set out in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005), which highlights the need to adapt principles of aid effectiveness to the particular context of fragile states. An innovative and proactive approach to national ownership and to use of country systems, in particular, may be needed.

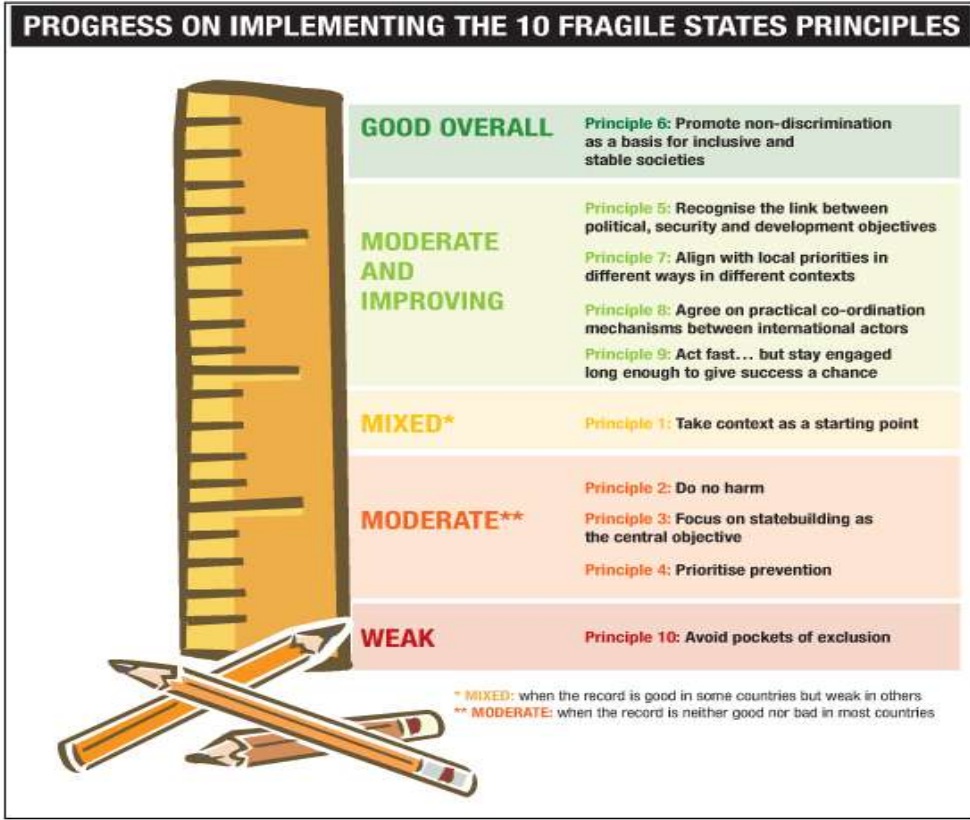


Provide a point of reference in virtually all policy and position papers adopted by the OECD countries on fragile states since their endorsement in 2007.

THE 2011 SURVEY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAGILE STATES PRINCIPLES

Countries in fragile situations have been invited to take part in the second round of the Survey in 2011 to report back at the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Korea (November 2011). Fourteen countries and regions (from six in 2009) have decided to take part in the 2011 Survey: [Burundi](#), [Central African Republic](#), [Chad](#), [Comoros](#), [Cote d'Ivoire](#), [Democratic Republic of Congo](#), [Guinea-Bissau](#), [Haiti](#), [Liberia](#), [Sierra Leone](#), [Southern Sudan](#), [Timor-Leste](#), [Togo](#) and [Tonga](#). As all 14 countries and regions are also taking part in the Paris Declaration Monitoring Survey, the two surveys are designed to be complementary and will be carried out in coordination.

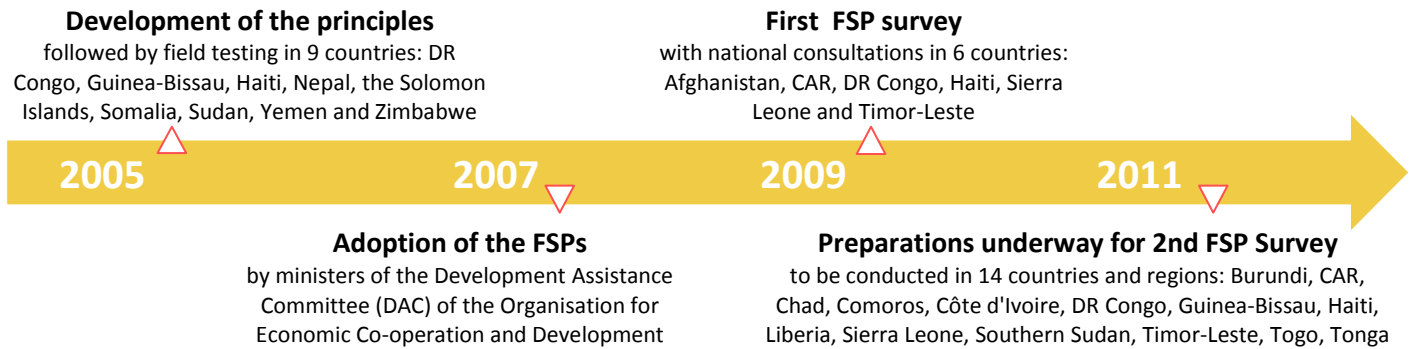
For more information, please contact the FSP Survey Secretariat: fsprinciples@oecd.org / +33 1 4524 9312.



2009 FSP Survey: mixed results
 The country-specific diagnoses and priority actions resulting from the 2009 survey varied widely across countries. The overall picture presented mixed results (see figure).

The results from the 2009 FSP Survey were launched at the Directors meeting of the OECD DAC International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF), at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, DC, and at the French Institute for International Relations (IFRI) in Paris.

It was welcomed as providing “**much-needed evidence from the ground**” and making “**a contribution to closing the policy-practice gap**”.



WHAT IS A FRAGILE STATE?

A state with weak capacity to carry out the basic state functions of governing a population and its territory and that lacks the ability or political will to develop mutually constructive and reinforcing relations with society.

Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations

1. Take context as the starting point
2. Ensure all activities do no harm
3. Focus on state building as the central objective
4. Prioritise prevention
5. Recognise the links between political, security and development objectives
6. Promote non discrimination as a basis for inclusive and stable societies
7. Align with local priorities in different ways and in different contexts
8. Agree on practical co-ordination mechanisms between international actors
9. Act fast... but stay engaged long enough to give success a chance
10. Avoid pockets of exclusion (“aid orphans”)