

**Launch of the OECD Flagship Report**  
**‘States of Fragility 2016: A Violent World**  
**Side-event at the Nairobi HLM2, 30<sup>th</sup> November**

**Speaking Points**

It is a real honour to co-host the launch of this excellent flagship report with my esteemed colleagues from the OECD. I also want to welcome the presence of Ms Maria del Carmen Naser de Ramos, Vice Minister of International Cooperation and Promotion from the Republic of Honduras who is joining me on the podium today.

Ireland has long supported the International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) and the ground-breaking work they carry out on peace, security, governance and development effectiveness. I congratulate them on this impressive piece of work which advances our understanding of the complexities of violence and how we should address its causes and effects. This is a subject of direct importance to me as Ireland’s Minister for the Diaspora and International Development, but also as the political representative for Donegal, a border county which has been directly affected for decades by the divisions on our island.

Knowing the work of INCAF, when we were asked to support the development of this flagship States of Fragility Report we did not hesitate in our response.

The report shines a necessary light on violence and conflict and their impact on development. Violence is very often at the heart of fragility. Sustainable Development Goal 16 on the *promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, the provision of access to justice for all, and building*

*effective and accountable institutions at all levels* has for the first time, brought it into the global development framework.

But the face of violence is evolving rapidly and we continue to struggle to fully comprehend its effects in all their complexity. This report brings together various strands of recent research and analyses the nature, prevalence and trends of conflict and violence today.

Ireland's foreign and international development policies reinforce our commitment to contribute to international peace, security, human rights and sustainable development. A key objective includes the sharing of our own experience of peace and reconciliation from the island of Ireland. Our own experience reinforces the view that the sooner affected communities are engaged the deeper the reconciliation and peace process will be – a theme echoed in the report being launched today.

In our own attempt to better understand the dynamic between conflict and fragility we have worked to build stronger coordination across government to guide a more coherent and comprehensive approach to regions and countries affected by conflict and fragility. We aim to target resources in a sustained and predictable manner to address the underlying causes of conflict and fragility. And we also recognise the importance of prevention, early warning and preparedness.

We know that preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of crises will contribute to building a sustainable, peaceful and inclusive world for generations to come. This focus on prevention is a key recommendation emerging from The States of Fragility report. It says that 'Investing in prevention saves lives, resources and money'. This is not only logical- it is simply more effective. A prevention culture must permeate all levels of aid

planning and decision making, including investment in resolving the root causes of conflict and early engagement in emerging crises.

In the spirit of this High Level Meeting and the importance of development effectiveness, I stress that Ireland also works to ensure that we recognise and support national leadership, ownership and country owned plans, and work hand in hand with partners in the international community to help facilitate a strengthening of national systems and institutions where possible.

In this most dynamic and challenging of times globally, Ireland continues to adapt to ongoing and emerging policy issues and challenges including migration, internal displacement and forgotten crises. The States of Fragility Report not only provides a stark reminder of those challenges and the impact on all countries of increased violence and insecurity but also offers solutions.

It demonstrates that development, peace and security efforts in the developing world have not kept pace with the new reality of violence and that we need to dedicate more resources and attention to addressing conflict; we need to put people – especially youth and women - at the centre of our efforts, and we need to draw lessons from innovative ideas that are helping stem violence in different parts of the world.

I would like to make special mention today of gender based violence. Ireland's policy for international development recognises gender-based violence as a fundamental abuse of human rights which has serious impacts on women's health, well-being and livelihoods. As a result, my Government has prioritised policy development, funding and research to address GBV.

The President of Ireland delivered a powerful address on gender based violence in emergencies during the World Humanitarian Summit. In his speech he

referred to Ireland's commitment and experience in prioritising gender based violence in humanitarian action through political leadership, through changing attitudes and behaviours, and the need to systematically integrate protection and gender based violence initiatives in all humanitarian interventions.

We must all continue to promote this message at every turn.

Ireland will continue to play its part. The analysis and evidence in this report will certainly inform our policy and programming as we strengthen our resolve to build a sustainable, peaceful and inclusive world for generations to come.

Many thanks and I will now hand the podium back to the Deputy Secretary General of the OECD, Doug Frantz.