

Kinshasa Statement

Preamble

We, representatives of partner and donor countries involved in the Round Table 7 at the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, have met in Kinshasa on 1 and 2 July to discuss matters related to aid and development effectiveness in situations of fragility and conflict. We recognise the need for an adapted development partnership in situations of fragility and conflict. We, the participants in the Kinshasa meeting undertake to establish and develop a strong and inclusive partnership including civil society beyond Accra. The meeting in Kinshasa provides an important step towards this objective.

Partnerships

Successful development co-operation in situations of fragility and conflict is based on open and honest dialogue between donors and partner countries. We agree that mutual trust and accountability is required between developing country governments and donors, and crucially at country level between developing country governments and their citizens. Partners need to be prepared to address sensitive issues and to reinforce the accountability of governments to their population. Free media and access to information and sharing of information play a critical role in this regard.

We support the resolution in the AAA to strengthen country owned development processes. However, we recognise that in situations of fragility and conflict, where realising full ownership can be challenging, government leadership over priorities and policy direction is an important first step towards ownership.

We recognise the challenge of applying the Paris Declaration in situations of protracted crisis. Beyond Accra, we agree to examine how external action and regional organisations can promote development in such situations.

Monitoring the Principles

We agree on the necessity to monitor implementation of the Fragile States Principles. This is an important basis for mutual accountability which complements the Paris Declaration.

Following Accra, we agree to start piloting this monitoring on a voluntary basis. Countries wishing to monitor implementation are invited to volunteer at the Accra Round Table 7.

We will agree on appropriate methodology, based on work currently being undertaken, seeking to complement Paris Declaration monitoring. This needs to look at how to include civil society in the process and take account of gender issues. The same applies to crosscutting issues such as environment and HIV/AIDS.

Peacebuilding and state building

We agree on the fundamental importance of peace building and state building in situations of fragility and conflict. State building is about strengthening state-society relations and working with all three branches of government (executive, judiciary, legislative) and civil society. State building takes place at all levels of government - from local to national.

We agree on the need to launch an international dialogue on objectives for peace building and state building. Such objectives can serve as an international reference point to generate support at country level to address causes of fragility and conflict, including for example natural resource management. We will use this process to bring together different policy communities in order to strengthen coherent responses beyond aid.

The RT7 co-chairs will present the options for developing this dialogue and seek endorsement at Accra. Options could include a joint venture between partner countries and donors, supported by the DAC Secretariat or a process led by the UN or by regional organisations. Any process should involve government, DAC and non-DAC donors and civil society.

At country level, peace building and state building objectives are currently not sufficiently integrated into national development plans. We resolve to strengthen joint partner country – donor strategic frameworks or Compacts, to integrate peace building and state building with development objectives and to set up appropriate mechanisms to jointly monitor progress. We will support the UN to effectively facilitate this process.

Improving the delivery of international assistance

We do recognise that there is a need to reform the way in which the international community and partner country governments work together to respond to early recovery. The UN's leadership in this period is crucial. However, it needs to build its capacity to ensure appropriate and consistent quality leadership.

There is a need to avoid a proliferation of funding systems, particularly in the early recovery phase. Existing mechanisms such as MDTFs require improvement to better facilitate rapid and flexible delivery. Donors undertake to work on flexible and rapid funding modalities that support a coherent strategy. We call for the establishment of a joint mechanism to take forward this dialogue.

Transition strategies from humanitarian relief to development need to be managed carefully in order not to undermine government legitimacy. We also need clear strategies for how to deal with the transition towards national systems and capacities.

We need to strengthen the link between joint assessments, programming and implementation and ensure the timely availability of funds.

Kinshasa, 2 July 2008