

# INCAF ROOM DOCUMENT 3:

## Preliminary Findings from Timor-Leste, Haiti and DRC

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## MONITORING THE PRINCIPLES FOR GOOD INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT IN FRAGILE STATES AND SITUATIONS

### PRELIMINARY FINDINGS FROM CONSULTATION MEETINGS ON THE PRINCIPLES FOR GOOD INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT IN FRAGILE STATES AND SITUATIONS IN TIMOR-LESTE, HAITI AND THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Preliminary findings include the following:

#### **Statebuilding**

1. Interpretations of statebuilding vary. In Timor-Leste, the statebuilding challenge was considered to be state capacity development; in Haiti, a weak social contract and rural exclusion; in DRC, multiple priorities were identified including justice, decentralization and public administration reform. In all three meetings, free and fair elections were seen as a source of legitimacy, but the performance of the state in delivering key services and the state's "moral authority" are the key to legitimacy over time. Decentralisation was a key political dynamic in all cases.

#### **Security**

2. Despite advances in peacebuilding and democratization, a premature shift away from security concerns was raised as a danger in all cases. Maintaining a credible rapid response was a consistent theme. In Timor-Leste, the International Stabilisation Force could help ensure peaceful elections in 2012; in Haiti, successful efforts at curbing crime in Port-au-Prince need be consolidated by efforts to reform the justice sector. In DRC, a sustained approach to security system reform and early planning for a hand-back of security functions from MONUC to the state would be required.

#### **Capacity development**

3. International capacity development efforts have been judged to be piecemeal and undermining of the state in some cases. Circumstances in all three cases are now thought to be more conducive overall to alignment of technical assistance to national priorities than current donor practice suggests. Common issues include limited incentives for international advisers to adopt capacity development approaches, salary differentials between national and international staff and brain drain. The capacity constraints are stark: 83 percent of Haitians with higher education live outside Haiti; one in two adults in Timor-Leste is literate.

#### **Aid Effectiveness**

4. All cases raised the opportunity and challenge of channeling more aid through government systems, which, if weak, could be strengthened if used. The approach of using Parallel Implementation Units to "get the job done" must be complemented by a longer-term plan that involves building national capacity. In the absence of strong government leadership, a division of labour by sector, with one donor as focal point, was called for.

#### **Exclusion**

5. In all three countries there is increasing concern over under-investment in rural areas and in youth. In Haiti, the diagnosis was that the rural majority was excluded; in Timor-Leste, 51 percent of the population is under 18 years old; in DRC, there are strong concerns about some provinces being 'aid orphans'. Participants generally pointed to government's responsibility to ensure a fair allocation of resources geographically and across social groups. Increased transparency of aid allocations would be an important part of the overall resource picture.

#### **Mutual Accountability.**

6. Discussions in all three meetings took place in a spirit of mutual accountability. Actions both for international actors and for partner governments were discussed.