

Fragility

Small Group B, Policy Dialogue on Development Co-operation

The Policy Dialogue on Development Co-operation, to be held in Mexico City on 28-29 September 2009, will include Small Group discussions on triangular co-operation. This document provides background information on fragility, which will be the focus of Small Group B, chaired by the Inter-American Development Bank. The objectives and structure of the session are spelled out in the *Annotated Agenda*.

a. Triangular co-operation in situations of fragility – an emerging issue

With global concern about fragility and conflict on the rise, more and more countries from beyond the DAC membership group have joined international peace operations and long-term efforts to build peaceful and resilient states. Support from countries like Brazil, China, India, Mexico, South Africa and Russia includes a wide range of activities: contributing troops to peace missions (e.g. Brazil in Haiti), or providing development or technical assistance to countries in situations of fragility and conflict (e.g. South Africa in Sierra Leone). The abovementioned countries are also involved in shaping international policies and operational strategies in such situations, for example through their engagement in the UN Security Council, the Peacebuilding Commission or the African Union.

Many emerging providers of development assistance have very recent experience with conflict, regional instability and fragility. Consequently, they have valuable and highly relevant experience in peacebuilding, national reconciliation and institution-building to share with many of today's conflict-affected or fragile countries. Often, their regional presence and the institutional set up of their external co-operation allows for more coherent interventions across security, development and diplomacy.

Partnerships that combine the experience, knowledge and complementary resources of providers of South-South co-operation and DAC donors could lead to more effective support to peacebuilding and statebuilding processes. To date, however, the opportunities and limitations for such triangular co-operation have not been fully explored.

b. Key Questions

- What role can triangular co-operation play in situations of fragility and conflict and what comparative advantages does it offer?
- How do the modalities of triangular co-operation, for example in the recruitment of personnel, compare to those used by DAC donors?
- Are there specific areas in support of peacebuilding and statebuilding that are well-suited to triangular co-operation? How feasible is cooperation in the following areas?
 - Justice and security are fundamental to help establish of peaceful states and underpin economic growth and sustainable livelihoods.
 - Local service delivery and efforts to build the capacity and legitimacy of local governance are important to enhance long-term statebuilding efforts.
 - Public sector capacity development and administrative reform. In many fragile states, the capacity of the public sector is weak.
 - The reduction of armed violence.
- What are the lessons from existing cases of triangular co-operation? What are the obstacles to more effective triangular co-operation?

Annex: Examples of triangular co-operation in situations of fragility

1) Japan, South Africa, DRC: Capacity Building on Law and Justice.

Since 2004, Japan and South Africa have jointly supported capacity development in the area of security architecture transformation. In 2004, 33 policemen and election commissioners from DRC were trained with the assistance of South African authorities in order to become trainers back in their country. Building on their expertise and training, a series of training courses were subsequently implemented by JICA in collaboration with the UN mission in DRC (MONUC). The total number of the participants who benefited from these training so far amounts to more than 7000 since the programme has started in 2004.

2) Brazil, Canada, Norway, IDB, Haiti: Security and development in Haiti

The project “Honour and Respect for Bel Air”, aims to promote security and development in the neighbourhood of Bel Air, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. It is led by the Brazilian NGO Viva Rio with the support of the Brazilian government, Canada, Norway and international organisations. Viva Rio’s mission in Bel Air is to reduce armed violence and promote urban rehabilitation, focusing on ensuring security, development and human rights of inhabitants. The areas of intervention are diverse, including water supply, solid waste management and education. Viva Rio aims to associate its activities with peace-keeping purposes, women empowerment and youth education.