



COMMUNIQUE

Africa Regional Meeting on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding in Africa

Addis Ababa, 7-9 September 2011

We, the African Development Bank, UN Economic Commission for Africa, African Union Commission, and the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, organized the Africa Regional Meeting on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, which was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 7 to 9 September 2011, under the theme “The Road to Busan.” Our goal was to consult with African governments, regional and international organizations, and civil society on the main challenges in peace- and statebuilding, promote broader collaboration, and propose some recommendations that could feed into the different international forums that address these issues. Most immediately, we seek to shape the agenda for the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4), scheduled for November this year.

The conference:

Acknowledged the Government of Ethiopia and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa for hosting the meeting and the Dutch government for their support, which made the meeting possible.

Recognized that fragile states are off-track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and that aid is not delivering good enough results in these contexts. We must revitalize and implement existing commitments and sustain the political momentum to reform the aid agenda, with specific focus on conflict-affected and fragile states. Building on the Monrovia Road Map, we have identified new priorities and emphasized many existing commitments:

- We need new peace- and statebuilding goals, as an interim to the Millennium Development Goals, and targets and indicators to guide global aid and country level action.
- We also need stronger ownership, leadership and transparency from fragile countries in assessing their situation of fragility and to develop visions and plans to build peace and legitimate and accountable states.
- The way we deliver aid must be better tailored to fragile states. Specifically, we need to respond faster and in a more flexible and predictable manner to opportunities to build peace and the legitimacy of the state.
- We need shared assessments and management of risks to support transitions out of fragility and increase our investment in country systems and local capacities.

- And we need country-level compacts to focus our joint work on critical peacebuilding and statebuilding priorities and to hold each other accountable.

Furthermore, the conference:

Argued that in Africa, we cannot expect stability without creating jobs. The issues of security, development and economic opportunities are intrinsically intertwined, particularly when considering the young people who make up such a large part of our populations.

Emphasized the new opportunities emerging to push for change in the way aid is delivered in conflict-affected and fragile countries and in the way national and international partners collaborate in such contexts. Youth and civil society are actively engaged, as reflected by the popular movements in North Africa, and from groups of countries like the g7+. We must do more to engage women. New donors and increased opportunities for South-South co-operation are also contributing to new ways of looking at and supporting conflict-affected and fragile countries.

Reaffirmed that there is already work underway to improve the way aid is delivered in conflict-affected and fragile countries, including that of the African Development Bank, UN Economic Commission for Africa, African Union Commission, International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development International Network on Conflict and Fragility, World Bank, United Nations, and the g7+.

Stressed that now the challenge and ambition is to implement the guidance and commitments at the country level – to deliver better results in conflict-affected and fragile countries.

Called upon the governments, organizations and other participants in the conference to carry the message forward in the lead-up to Busan and bring the recommendations to life in all our work in fragile and conflict-affected environments.