



## Helping the g7+ Lead in the Post-2015 Peace and Stability Agenda

### Time Is Running Out To Make Peace and Stability a Pillar of the Post-2015 Agenda

While the High Level Panel Report placed the peace and stability agenda high on the priorities of the post-2015 framework -- and numerous countries supported a peace and stability goal and related targets at the UNGA meetings in September -- there is no guarantee that these issues will remain strong as the negotiating process becomes increasingly fragmented, polarized, and political. The upcoming AU meeting in January 2014, and the Open Working Group meeting in February 2014, are key events in shaping the future of a peace and stability stream in the post-2015 agenda.

Opposition to a peace and stability agenda centers on concerns about:<sup>1</sup>

- 1) Finance: Will peace and stability draw resources away from other post-2015 goals;
- 2) Domestic politics: many countries with high violence rates will resist being labeled "fragile" or conflict affected;
- 3) Security Council: some states worry that including a peace and stability agenda will bring development under the ambit of the UN Security Council
- 4) Western Agenda: the peace and stability agenda is often seen as being driven by wealthy Northern states;
- 5) Sovereignty: the issues of legitimate and open governance contemplated in the peace and stability agenda is threatening for many countries;
- 6) Measuring progress: the peace and security sector is difficult to define and measure. There is need for increased awareness about how to develop indicators that go beyond general measures of development, that reflect how sectoral efforts interact with drivers of destructive conflict and fragility and contribute to peacebuilding and statebuilding.

None of these concerns is insurmountable, but it will require concerted, coordinated effort to persuade member states to include a strong peace and stability component in the post-2015 framework. Once the Open Working Group meeting ends in February, drafting will begin for a report to be presented at the September 2014 General Assembly. The framing of the peace and stability goals and targets in this document will be extremely important in the negotiations moving forward. The negotiations themselves promise to be highly complex and fractured, as states supportive of a peace and stability agenda horse trade on a wide range of issues to come up with the final shape of the post-MDGs.

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<sup>1</sup> From forthcoming November 2013 Discussion Paper by World Vision International

## **A Peace and Stability Agenda Will Not Succeed without Strong g7+ Support**

A peace and stability agenda in the post-2015 framework will not be possible without the strong support of the g7+ countries. The g7+ have a tremendously strong moral and political voice on peace and stability, and it is within the g7+ countries that the most innovative and effective peacebuilding and statebuilding processes are taking place. The IDPS represents a framework for demonstrating how peacebuilding and development, along with inclusive governance, can move countries from fragility to resilience. The New Deal provides a roadmap for how a peace and stability agenda deeply connected to a development agenda might be framed, and the innovative indicators being developed in the New Deal pilot states discredits the idea that peace and stability cannot be measured.

The g7+ are the strongest champions of a peace and stability agenda, with a legitimate voice that can offset concerns that this agenda is being driven solely by Western powers. If the g7+ countries do not support a peace and security agenda, other countries may reason that the issue is not important enough for them to support, either. It would be an immeasurable political loss to the process if the g7+ were not to take up this challenge -- and the post-2015 agenda could lose a tremendous amount of power and legitimacy if peace and stability were to drop from the framework as a key organizing principle.

## **The Challenges Are Daunting, but the International Civil Society Community Can Help**

The international civil society community – with membership from g7+, southern and northern countries – recognizes the barriers to engaging forcefully and effectively in the fractious post-2015 debate. However, the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding – along with its component members<sup>2</sup> – stands ready to offer technical assistance to the g7+ secretariat, the IDPS secretariat, or individual g7+ member states for the remainder of the negotiation process. The CSPSS can help with:

- 1) Mapping:** The CSPSS and its members can keep a running map of which countries are supporters, defenders, neutrals or "blockers" of the peace and stability agenda, and advise the g7+ on negotiating strategies for each bloc or individual state;
- 2) Technical Papers:** The CSPSS and its members can draft memoranda and policy briefs on key areas of strategy and implementation on all areas of the peace and stability agenda;

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<sup>2</sup> The Political Strategy Working Group of the CSPSS coordinates the activity of the Platform around post-2015 issues. Individual members of the CSPSS are also deeply engaged in advocacy, including the African Civil Society Platform, SaferWorld, World Vision, Conciliation Resources, the Global Partnerships for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, and many others. Local civil society organizations in the IDPS pilot states, and other conflict affected states, are also playing a vital role by gathering information in their own sectors about the links between peacebuilding and development. Experts from conflict affected states who are serving on committees of the IDPS are also very compelling voices in the post-2015 debates.

- 3) **Providing Forums for Discussion and Platforms for g7+ Voices:** The CSPSS and its members can arrange side events at key meetings and organize independent meetings at strategic points in the negotiation process, to highlight voices of government leaders and civil society actors from g7+ countries;
- 4) **Linking Peace and Stability with Other Goals:** In addition to the two proposed High Level Panel goals which the g7+ has recognized as vital, peace and stability need to be woven throughout the other post-2015 goals and targets, with negotiations often turning on how coalitions develop between sectors. The CSPSS and its members can help provide links with other communities, and can draft concept papers on how peace and stability fit into other substantive areas of the post-2015 framework, and specifically with respect to the other development goals;
- 5) **Lobbying Individual States:** The CSPSS and its members can use their relationships with member states to lobby in New York, and in capitals around the world, for a peace and security agenda;
- 6) **Further Developing Indicators:** The CSPSS can help further develop and refine the indicators coming out of the IDPS process, to address the concern that peace and stability cannot be measured sufficiently;
- 7) **Helping "Universalize" the Peace and Security Agenda:** The CSPSS can take the lessons being learned in g7+ countries, and translate them into a universal agenda that can be embraced by all member states.

#### **Conclusion:**

The next few months can determine the shape of the world's development for the next fifteen years. The g7+ countries are leaders with a strong moral voice and political standing to champion the peace and stability agenda. The challenges are high, but an outcome that will affect the lives of more than 1.5 billion people in fragile states – and billions more throughout the world – is worth fighting for. The civil society community stands ready to assist, and to lend its voice and skills to this critical set of issues.