



INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE UPDATE, JUNE 2012

Dear Colleagues,

It has been a while since we have last been in touch with you all. We would like to up-date you on some of the recent developments, including the discussions that took place during our last International Dialogue Steering Group meeting on 8 June, and up-coming key events. We would also like your feed-back on a number of issues outlined below.

Our top-line message is that we must focus all our efforts to speed up and scale up New Deal implementation at the country level. This is the responsibility of each of us as countries and organizations that have signed up to the New Deal and it must be our priority in the next few months.

1. Steering Group meeting, 8 June

The last Steering Group meeting took place on 8 June in Nairobi. Kindly find the summary record of the meeting attached. Key issues discussed included the renewal of the Dialogue mandate and governance structure, progress with the 2012 work-programme, the next global Dialogue meeting, and funding needs.

- On the Dialogue mandate and governance structure, Afghanistan, Canada and a representative from CSO will lead on a process to consult with all the Dialogue members and other partners with the aim to present a concrete proposal for a renewed mandate and governance before the next global Dialogue meeting later this year. Once the consultation process is launched, we encourage all of you to actively participate in the process to redefine the Dialogue mandate and governance structure and share your expectations and views on the Dialogue, what it should do, and how it should work.

In Nairobi we agreed on a formal process to renew the membership of the Steering Group. We are aware that some of you have already expressed their interest in being part of the Steering Group. Kindly find attached the proposal made by the Dialogue Co-chairs, which was accepted by the Steering Group.

- We would like to invite those of you who wish to be considered for membership in the Steering Group, including current members, to send a formal expression of interest to the Dialogue Co-chair who represent your constituency, via the Dialogue Secretariat, by the end of July. We would like to highlight that a key criteria for membership will be the capacity to engage with the Steering Group at strategic and decision-making level. Kindly ensure that in your expression of interest you clearly explain how you meet the other criteria specified in the attached Co-chairs proposal on the Steering Group. Based on the process agreed on 8 June, we will propose a final list of Steering Group members by the end of August.

Lastly, discussions have commenced regarding the location for the 3rd International Dialogue meeting currently set to take place in the last quarter of 2012. A number of g7+ member countries have offered to host the meeting and the International Dialogue and g7+ Secretariats are currently reviewing these options. We seek to have a final date and location for the next International Dialogue meeting as soon as possible.

You will find more detailed information about these points and the others outlined below in the Steering Group summary record.

2. Progress with the 2012 work-programme¹

As you know, key areas identified for joint work under the umbrella of the International Dialogue for 2012 were: a) the finalization of tools to facilitate New Deal implementation and the identification of options to provide direct country support; b) the development of indicators for the PSGs and the piloting of the fragility spectrum; c) the agreement on a political strategy to promote the PSGs within international fora and to inform the post-2015 development framework.

Work has since progressed in the three areas:

- The New Deal implementation working group, co-chaired by Afghanistan and Australia, met in March 2012 in Copenhagen and has agreed to produce a simple tool kit to support New Deal implementation, communication material on the New Deal, and has proposed options for direct country support. This work was presented at the Steering Group meeting on 8 June, where the role of this group going forward was discussed and agreed. (see Steering Group summary record). In addition, the g7+ Secretariat has produced a series of 1-page Peer Learning Papers and has drafted a New Deal Implementation Matrix to provide a snapshot of current New Deal related activities taking place in country. These can be found on the g7+ website - www.g7plus.org - and on the New Deal web-site - www.newdealforpeace.org .

- The indicators group, co-chaired by DRC and PBSO, met in Copenhagen, followed by a smaller group meeting in Paris on 14-15 May, by a g7+ meeting in Dili, and a full working group meeting in Nairobi on 6-7 June. Progress was presented at the 8 June Steering Group meeting. The group has been working on the indicators and on the fragility spectrum. The Co-chairs highlighted that a sequenced approach, i.e. focusing on the roll out of the fragility assessments at the country level, followed by working group discussions and consultations on indicators would not allow delivering on the New Deal commitment to develop PSGs indicators by September 2012. A new proposal for how to advance the work and a revised timeline with suggested deliverables for September 2012 will be produced for consideration by Steering Group members by 29 June. This should combine the country level roll out of the fragility assessment (and identification of suitable indicators) with consultations at the global level (see Steering Group summary record).

- On the political strategy, consultations have taken place in New York between the g7+ and key stakeholders, including g7+ ambassadors. The result of these consultations and of a discussion on 7 June at the margins of the Steering Group suggest that more dissemination work with key UN groupings and members is required before going for a formal resolution by the UN General Assembly, and to be better positioned to inform on-going work on the post-2015 development framework. The general agreement is that the process needs to be led by g7+. The agreed next step is a g7+ led side event with support from international partners at the margins of the September UN General Assembly. The g7+ Secretariat will share their plans for the event and the overall political strategy to promote the PSGs in the next couple of weeks.

- Once plans for the September UNGA side event are advanced, we encourage you all to promote the highest possible participation in the UNGA side event from your countries and organizations. Your continued effort will also be required to continue to disseminate the PSGs and contribute to the post-2015 discussions through your network and participation in high level events and processes. As agreed by the Steering Group, key messages and communication material will be made available to you and your teams.

Lastly, options for reporting on the New Deal implementation have been discussed at the 8 June Steering Group. A small team will make a proposal based on the monitoring mechanism of the Global Partnership for Development, which will be launched at the end of June. We will keep you informed on progress.

3. New Deal implementation

As we have mentioned at the beginning of this message, New Deal implementation is our common priority. We would like to hear from you what more and what else we can do to support and speed up country level implementation.

¹ The Dialogue 2012 Work-programme was discussed at the January Steering Group meeting and finalized in January 2012.

As you will have heard, Liberia, Sweden, and the United States have announced in April that they will work together to implement the New Deal in Liberia.² We understand that several other countries are be considering or have begun piloting the New Deal and look forward to more information at this regard.

We are pleased to inform you that a web-site dedicated to the New Deal has been set up in April, on the occasion of the high-level side event during the IFIs spring meeting. The dedicated site - www.newdeal4peace.org - will be a key vehicle to share information and support your work on New Deal implementation. We would also draw your attention to the official g7+ website - www.g7plus.org - which contains a wealth of information and reference material about the g7+, including on new Deal implementation.

We are also pleased to share, on behalf of USAID, their “New Deal Newsletter” (attached), a good example of our partners’ efforts to disseminate the New Deal and work to implement it.

The New Deal also continues to receive attention in international fora. It was mentioned in the Final Communiqué of the Somalia conference that took place in London earlier this year, in a White House press release on the UK-US Global Development Partnership (March), by the UN Secretary General in various speeches and reports, and in the Final Communiqué released during the April Spring meetings by the World Bank Group Development Committee. All these documents can be found on www.newdeal4peace.org web-site. If you experience problems accessing them kindly let the International Dialogue Secretariat know and we will assist you.

- We encourage you to speed up and scale up effort to implement the New Deal and to share with us, through the Dialogue Secretariat, any useful information on your work to implement and/or disseminate the New Deal, including challenges and opportunities you are encountering.

4. Other up-dates and information

We would like to thank all of you for your support for and participation in the New Deal high-level side event that we organized jointly with the World Bank Institute in Washington on the 21st of April. We believe the discussions contributed to re-confirm the political momentum around the New Deal, whilst sharing some very concrete examples of what is being done to translate the commitments into real change in policies and practices in conflict affected and fragile states.

We look forward to working together the next few months.

Kind regards,

The International Dialogue Co-chairs

² An up-dated list of New Deal pilot countries and partners that have formally committed to support them can be found on the New Deal website (www.newdeal4peace.org).