



## Operationalizing the Stockholm Declaration: Accelerating New Deal Implementation

### CSPPS inputs for discussions on New Deal Implementation and the Future of the Dialogue Nairobi, 1-4 June 2016

The Global Meeting of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (Dialogue) held in Stockholm on 5th April agreed on several key priorities for the IDPS to focus on over the next few years. One key priority is to bolster and accelerate New Deal implementation in support of countries embarking on a pathway towards greater stability and resilience.

This brief note suggests steps to translate the Stockholm commitments on accelerating New Deal Implementation into tangible actions. These are presented as inputs for the discussion in both the Implementation Working Group (IWG) and the meeting to discuss the future direction of the International Dialogue.

#### I. Key Principles to Operationalize Stockholm Commitments

In the Stockholm Declaration the International Dialogue specifically commits to, inter alia:

- **accelerating and improving** the implementation of the New Deal Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals (PSGs) and using them as tools to guide our interventions to address the root causes of fragility, conflict and violence;
- **identifying and addressing** obstacles for New Deal implementation and difficulties in operationalising country-led fragility assessments;
- **using the New Deal principles to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** in fragile and conflict-affected situations;
- **strengthening dialogue** between national authorities and development partners and by including civil society, to achieve political, economic and social reforms.

Addressing root causes is something civil society has long supported. At the root of conflict and fragility as the Declaration acknowledges lie injustice, human rights violations, inequality, exclusion, poverty, poor management of natural resources and the absence of inclusive political settlements and capable institutions. Supporting transitions out of fragility requires political and not just technical responses. It is crucial for these processes to be locally driven and owned, building on collectively developed analysis of the both the challenges contributing to fragility and conflict, and the drivers of resilience. This analysis, multi-stakeholder dialogue, and the other principles that drive commitments throughout the New Deal, are also core to successful realisation of the SDGs in countries emerging from conflict and fragility.

Operationalizing Stockholm commitments to accelerate and improve New Deal implementation requires the application of other key principles that all constituencies should adhere and commit to – and which are tabled as **guiding principles for New Deal implementation (NDI)** – to be incorporated also in the IDPS mandate and work plan. For civil society, those with particular relevance towards ensuring fuller national ownership of the process include:

- **Context and conflict sensitive;**
- **Locally driven and owned** – within government this will require greater inclusion of all relevant ministries and parliament;
- For this to happen **coordination and information sharing** needs to be improved;
- **Gender sensitive;**
- **Youth-focussed;** giving shape to exploring potential involvement of youth in all aspects related to New Deal implementation at country level.

**Critically, and as highlighted in Abidjan lessons on NDI (see box below) we need to refine our collective understanding of what New Deal implementation means.** As partners in the International Dialogue we should have an agreement and joint understanding of common principles and practices that we believe are needed across countries for effective NDI, *and* awareness of how these enable context sensitive approaches to their realisation. Further, we should embark on joint planning and strategy process & work towards demonstration of concrete results, with clearly articulated milestones and benchmarks. Constituencies also need to agree on best ways to **strengthen multi-stakeholder dialogue at country level** as the tool to provide guidance and strategic direction to NDI – key parameters here are inclusivity and partnership.

## II. Mandate and ToR for IWG

In order to reflect and operationalize Stockholm commitments on NDI, the mandate of the IWG should:

- Reference/reflect that the **Stockholm Declaration** commits to “**accelerating and improving** the implementation of the New Deal Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals and using them as tools to guide our interventions to address the root causes of fragility, conflict and violence’.
- Set up appropriate mechanisms to **identify and address** obstacles for New Deal implementation and difficulties in operationalising country-led fragility assessments.
- Address the needed **greater attention for a New Deal strategy** to be linked to appropriate application of FOCUS principles.
- Adopt an approach to guide how New Deal principles will be used to achieve SDGs in g7+ countries (building on the work of the Special working group on this topic).
- Identify and support needed actions to **address gender inequality** in NDI and establish cross linkages with foreseen work on gender mainstreaming throughout ND-processes and work plans.

As civil society, we support strengthening the IWG to increase its usefulness. We believe that a stronger role suggests its primary functions should be:

- supporting countries willing to align and implement the New Deal and SDGs and mobilizing the Dialogue’s constituencies’ human, technical and financial resources to support country implementation teams as they develop their strategic approaches to NDI;
- serving as a platform for shaping and refining common strategic principles and practices to support NDI, facilitating joint learning around what supports implementation in different contexts, and finding technical and political solutions to problems related to NDI.

The IWG should serve as a space where g7+ implementing countries converge with other IDPS partners to:

- share experiences and to reflect on implementation challenges and discuss practical solutions and strategies. In particular, to support the strategic linkages between key New Deal instruments, notably fragility assessments and the PSGs, and how they can be effectively engaged and aligned with the SDG goals infused in country national (one vision) plans, as well as compacts.
- support the development of Country Dialogues, feeding lessons into overall learning about New Deal implementation.
- produce and refine guidance notes to support implementation, as needed, and conduct New Deal monitoring surveys in order to track of progress.

**Lessons on effective New Deal implementation (NDI Working Group, Abidjan Report, 2015)**

- There is need to reflect at country level on what ND implementation means, looks like; the strategies; there should be clear ‘theories of change’ to guide action and enable effective review.
- Context specificity, path dependency: Factors which allow for highly consultative processes in some countries may not be easily transferable to others.
- “Inclusive” needs clarification. More guidance from CSPPS could be helpful. More constructive and deeper conversations with influential stakeholders is needed.
- Coordination is a key problem, pooled and trust funds exist, and it is crucial to ensure they are harmonised. NDI is diverse and therefore accepting flexibility is necessary.
- Integration of New Deal knowledge into transition or interim agreements, which are often developed by individual partners not in collaboration, is really lacking.
- The New Deal needs high level marketing and communication for each country.

### III. Towards a NDI Strategy

The IWG should lead in developing a clearer articulation of the overarching strategy of New Deal implementation. While the specific nature of New Deal Implementation is and must be shaped in a particular national context, depending on national needs, the lack of attention to understanding and promoting the interlinkages between New Deal principles and how they “add up” to valued results, needs to be addressed. In the context of the 2030 Agenda this has become more pressing, and the need for clear guidance is needed. Central considerations are:

- A New Deal process is a **tripartite stakeholder framework working on basis of a principled approach**: it is context and conflict sensitive, comprehensive in analysis, developed in an inclusive, built on dialogue, and it is transformative in nature.
- NDI should be **spearheaded on the basis of a joint, inclusively developed Fragility Assessment (FA)**. Increasingly this is being skipped for expediency, which civil society is not in agreement with. FA-processes can build upon previous analyses; but minimally there needs to be collective buy-in and verification of the analysis. FAs also need to be conducted and updated regularly to ensure effective monitoring of progress and awareness of new drivers as they arise. On basis of the FA a Theory of Change (ToC) is constructed that can guide effective planning.
- **FAs need to feed into the development of other instruments, including National Development Plans (one vision one plan), New Deal compacts, and other national and international plans to address related to development and peace related planning**. Civil society has long cautioned against too easy adoption of existing national development plans without due consideration that they address drivers of conflict and fragility. We support the proposals that emerged from the WHS on the need for Peace and Development Plans. Minimally, all development plans should follow principles of conflict sensitivity, on the basis of analysis within FAs.
- **FA and ToC should also feed into a country New Deal Implementation Workplan**.

#### Using New Deal Principles to Realise Agenda 2030

*In principle we agree with the direction of the Draft Discussion Document being presented at the IWG, “Realisation of the SDGs in Countries Affected by Conflict and Fragility and the Role of the New Deal.”*

- **PSGs**: The PSGs are the agreed key priority goals of G7+ countries. They should be used to frame the prioritization of SDGs and wider development planning. They should also be used as a focus of support for international actors. They should also be used to frame other key national policy instruments, i.e. the budget, sectoral programming and M&E processes.
- **FOCUS**: NDI should be spearheaded on the basis of an inclusively developed Fragility Assessment that serves as a lens for all national planning and policy instruments and as a

basis for developing New Deal Implementation Country Strategies and Workplans. FAs and PSGs are *particularly* relevant towards ensuring that Agenda 2030 is context and conflict sensitive.

- **TRUST:** Effective SDG realization will be driven by New Deal TRUST principles and practices that emphasize commitments to using country systems, information sharing and ongoing dialogue. These processes will benefit regularized, predictable meetings and clear information-sharing mechanisms that engage all relevant stakeholders to ensure inclusive participation. Utilizing country systems to channel development aid and procurement is paramount, as are inclusive and transparent monitoring systems to ensure their accountability. Country systems include civil society society.
- **Inclusivity** means whole of government engagement (all relevant ministries and parliament) as well as deep and ever-increasing engagement with civil society in the widest sense – including organised civil society as represented in the Dialogue by CSPPS at the international level and its membership across g7+ countries as well as women and youth groups, customary leaders, and community based organisations.
- **Monitoring the SDGs and ND Implementation:** The g7+ selected 19 indicators are a good start for monitoring SDG progress across g7+ countries. These should be linked with analysis of the PSGs and the sub-dimensions as conceptualised in the Fragility Assessment matrix, and a wider country specific selection of ‘conflict, fragility and resilience’ indicators. The g7+ Menu of Indicators that captured the work of the pilot countries in mapping indicators can support country selection of indicators.

#### IV. Towards Tangible Action

In order to achieve this mandate and fulfil Stockholm commitments, the engagement to accelerate and improve NDI should be translated into tangible actions, which could include:

- **Focus specific efforts aligned with commitments on few key countries** where success is possible and results can be captured to prove the Dialogue’s relevance and applicability.
- Work on basis of a **country level action plan on NDI** – agreed upon between all constituencies, which will also serve as reference document in monitoring progress.
- Agree on basic commitments to forge or buttress **stronger structures at national levels**, including the composition and timelines for the activation of “Country New Deal Implementation Teams”. Attention here is needed to take action to ensure greater whole of government participation, including all relevant ministries.
- Embark on processes of **sustained dialogue** at country level – that depart from joint analysis (e.g. New Deal Fragility Assessments) and with inclusive planning to move a country forward towards more stability and resilience (looking at both root causes as well as factors that can bolster greater resilience).
- Agree on ND **guidance notes** and **monitoring instruments** that can be used to **support countries in NDI** and in monitoring progress. They should also articulate the relationship and support synergies between the New Deal and Agenda 2030. Civil society supports the notion that guidance notes should be “light” and “linked” – that is, not ad hoc but all coming under an overarching “NDI guidance” that addresses NDI strategy and vision overall, and how the different mechanisms work together to achieve this in context specific ways.
- Decide on focus, approach and timelines for **country dialogues** to support NDI.
- Support government New Deal Focal Points to conduct advocacy and broaden government coalitions around the New Deal.