



CSPPS DECLARATION FOR THE g7+ MINISTERIAL MEETING Kabul, 23 – 24 March 2016

The Civil Society Platform in the International Dialogue for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding will deliver the following message on the occasion of the ministerial meeting of the g7 + in Kabul.

This message covers the following points:

- The achievements of Civil Society in working together with governments, donor partners and itself within the New Deal,
- The challenges civil society has faced in the past year regarding ND implementation at country level,
- The alignment between the Agenda 2030 and the New Deal,
- Priorities and New Deal commitments for 2016 and the coming years,
- Civil society concerns in relation to recent conflict developments in some States involved in the New Deal.

Before discussing the various points mentioned above, Civil Society is pleased to have made a joint commitment with the governments of the g7+ to help our countries and populations achieve resilience to escape fragility and put an end to conflict.

Since the process was launched in Busan, and even well before, members of civil society have always worked with policymakers who are in government or with technical and financial partners to:

- Set the results of the 2011 Forum in Busan
- Prepare and start the process of the New Deal at country level,
- Produce the initial fragility and risk analysis,
- Produce the fragility spectres,
- Define fragility indicators for each country
- Disseminate fragility analysis reports,
- Participate in the development of national program frameworks that are either DSCR or five-year plans as a commitment to the ND One Vision One Plan;
- Participate in ongoing dialogues on national policies through operational frameworks for thematic multi-stakeholder groups;
- Participate in the assessments of program implementation frameworks,
- Develop the balance sheets for MDGs implementation;
- Participate in the definition of the SDGs.

In addition to these major activities carried out jointly with governments of the g7+, and other partners, civil society has also taken initiatives, reaffirming its autonomy of action, to contribute to the strengthening and visibility of national dynamics for ND implementation through:

- Analysis of public budget implementations to ensure that their performance is strongly oriented towards achieving resilience,
- Analysis of investments in growing sectors such as agriculture, to ensure that they actually target decent and sustainable job creation to really draw people out of poverty,
- Monitoring sectors such as banks and the mining industry, to ensure that they lift the country out of conflict and fragility, and that they do not engage in fraudulent activities, i.e. money laundering;
- Offer Civil Society expertise to support governments for conducting fragility assessments or to produce of national matrices for fragility analysis, as done in Comoros, DRC and CAR;
- The production of a report on the Ebola crisis management in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and DRC;
- Direct dialogue with our elected officials, to shape their perceptions and positions in parliamentary debating chambers during policy discussions with governments on various policy instruments such as national laws.

To strengthen its share of responsibilities in the implementation of the New Deal, Civil Society has set up a platform bringing together more than 200 organizations from the North and South to:

- Mutually reinforce its participation in this multi-stakeholder dialogue,
- Peer support to ensure CS from fragile states participate in national or even regional dialogues,
- Emphasize values and positions on common challenges to governments, partners and to CS itself in the implementation of the Busan commitments,
- Strengthen and help governments make more just and sustainable decisions, according to the ideals of the New Deal, including: legitimate and inclusive processes, fostering transparent and accountable institutions; in order to have peaceful societies under the leadership of effective governments.

With this common work with governments, independently of action or network, civil society is ready to initiate an inclusive and genuine dialogue with their governments to strengthen state-society relations and build a more resilient future.

Civil society has the capacity to work with governments to achieve our common goals. This includes both collaboration and undertaking a watchdog role, the latter was stressed by Mr. Helder Da Costa at the recently held Steering Group Meeting of the International Dialogue in Washington DC.

Civil Society welcomes the increasingly positive perception governments have vis-à-vis its role, by shaping the outcome of social policies and then ensuring citizen monitoring for the implementation of these same policies in our country.

However, civil society today still faces serious challenges that hamper the work it conducts with governments and limit its full contributions to the implementation of the agendas for the resilience of our states.

Among these difficulties, Civil Society notes:

- Lack of political commitment from governments to international norms such as the New Deal principles, characterized to date by the lack of fragility assessments conducted in g7+ countries, even though it is a key tool for the implementation of the objectives for consolidating peace and state building;
- Shrinking spaces from freedom of speech and lack of proper citizen monitoring tools;
- Limited or blocked access to public domain information and resources;
- Weak or failed political commitment in the fight against corruption and impunity, which represent two of the most important factors of state fragility.

Given the repeated commitments shown by Governments and donor partners to continue this dialogue born out of the Commitments of Busan, the Agenda for Action in Accra and the Paris Declaration, civil society also highlights the following priorities:

- **First**, the alignment between the Agenda 2030 and the New Deal: In this context, our platform proposes ensuring SDG indicators implementation by integrating them under the corresponding dimensions of the New Deal, based on the convergence scheme between SDGs and New Deal that civil society has proposed;
- **Second**, Update fragility analysis to help governments strengthen the structure of national dialogues and to engage in a constructive dialogue process in each country, to better guide the implementation of the New Deal
- **Third**, the inclusion of the following priorities for the ND in the year 2016:
 - o Focus on the role of women in the consolidation of sustainable peace;
 - o Focus on the role of youth in the consolidating a sustainable peace;
 - o Emphasize the need to improve access, cooperation and participation of civil society to further strengthen State and Citizens' trust.
 - o Emphasize the need to create more synergies between humanitarian sector, development programs and Peace and Statebuilding organizations.

Finally, civil society would like to share with the g7+ country representatives its deep concern after seeing that despite several years of joint learning through the implementing instruments of the New Deal, some Member States still relapse into conflict and see the risks of fragility grow, mostly due to poor governance and a failure to deliver on the commitments made in Busan.

The g7+ and its partners should also be concerned about such developments, which question the credibility of this unique process. Civil Society asks: How can we work together to avoid these developments to ever happen again? For its part, the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) stresses the importance of ensuring early warning systems in the countries engaged in the New Deal and commits itself to supporting its members in this area.

Finally, our platform invites g7+ states and development partners to seize the opportunity brought by the transformative nature of Agenda2030 to embark truly in a multi-

stakeholder process that will determine national priorities through a consultative and participatory process, ensuring accountability and transparency in order to leave no one behind, and to achieve the principles of the New Deal and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Contact

Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS)

Peter van Sluijs

Coordinator IDPS CSO Secretariat/CSPPS

c/o Cordaid

P.O. Box 16440

The Hague

The Netherlands

psl@cordaid.nl

info@cspps.org

www.cspps.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/civilsocietyplatform

Twitter: [@idps_cspps](https://twitter.com/idps_cspps)