
**African Civil Society Dialogue on
Development in Fragile Contexts
A Contribution to the Global Debate**

18 October 2013, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Johannesburg

Workshop Context

Over the past six years, the share of the world's poor living in fragile states such as the Central African Republic, Somalia, South Sudan or Zimbabwe is estimated to have doubled from 20 to 40 percent. Recent research from the Brookings Institution projects that this share will exceed 50 percent in the next few years. Given the high poverty levels in low-income, fragile or conflict-affected countries and their struggle in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), this is a topic of high priority for policymakers and civil society alike. As this realization hits, issues surrounding aid to this particular group of countries have begun to dominate the aid agenda.

At the same time, traditional actors in development – in particular the United States and the European Union – are increasingly aware of both the need for and the potential of making limited foreign assistance resources more effective through greater coherence on development policies. As the world's development aid heavyweights, the US, the European Commission and EU member states account for almost two-thirds of global official development assistance. If they act together and align their aid policies, the transatlantic partners have substantial influence on development assistance and the aid discourse.

To increase the coherence of development policies and better align their programs, the political leaders in Brussels and Washington D.C. decided in 2009 to renew the “EU-US High Level Consultative Group on Development” (or short “EU-US Development Dialogue”) on hold for years. In recognition of the fragile states challenge, a priority of the EU-US Development Dialogue is now combining support to the MDGs in situations of conflict and fragility. The EU-US Development Dialogue, however, has thus far not lived up to its full potential in this respect.

In response, the Transatlantic Civil Society Dialogues on Security and Development, funded by the European Commission, have been initiated by the Global Public Policy, InterAction and Saferworld (www.cso-dialogue.net). These dialogues seek to add a civil society perspective to the official EU-US Development Dialogue process by providing a forum for civil society organizations and aid experts to help feed ideas and recommendations on future policies around fragile states, peace- and state-building directly into the EU-US Development Dialogue. To achieve this, a first civil society workshop was convened in Berlin in May 2013 and a second workshop will follow in Washington D.C. in November 2013. Both workshops aim to generate recommendations from civil society for greater EU-US strategic alignment.

In between these workshops, the African Civil Society Dialogue on Development in Fragile Contexts, co-organized by the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation and the Global Public Policy Institute, will take place in Johannesburg on October 18, 2013. The African Dialogue will gather input from African civil society organizations and aid experts to refine the recommendations of the Transatlantic Civil Society Dialogues and to formulate the perspective of African civil society on how EU- and US-donors can better support peace- and state-building and development in fragile states. Such input from African civil society is critical not only to improve EU and US support to fragile states and to fulfill the Busan pledge for inclusive development strategies, but also to strengthen the voice of African civil society in development debates.

Workshop Objectives

The objective of the African Civil Society Dialogue on Development in Fragile Contexts is to collect input from African civil society organizations and African experts on aid in fragile states. The voices and ideas of southern civil society organizations are central to providing guidance on greater coordination between the European and American aid institutions at the country-level. This workshop therefore seeks to provide insights from African civil society organizations on what works, what doesn't and which policies are likely to improve in-country synergies and effectiveness, both among donors as well as Northern and Southern civil society organizations.

In particular, this workshop will mirror discussions in the Transatlantic Civil Society Dialogues by focusing on three important and interrelated topics that were discussed at the first Transatlantic Dialogue in Germany in May 2013:

1. How the post-2015 MDGs can better incorporate conflict- and violence-affected countries/contexts and peace-building objectives;
2. Policy and program support for the New Deal on fragile states;
3. The role of non-security related reasons for fragility, such as social and economic institutions.

Outcomes from this workshop will be presented at the next Transatlantic Civil Society Dialogues conference taking place on 14-15 November 2013 in Washington, DC, by one of the participants of the African Dialogue. The outcomes will also be included in the final recommendations which will be submitted to the officials involved in the EU-US Development Dialogue. Following the workshops, the outcomes will be disseminated among African civil society organizations with the aim to continue and intensify the debate on development in fragile context on the African continent.

Program (tentative)

8:00am **Arrival and Registration**

8:30am **Welcome and Introduction**

- *Dr. Holger Dix, Head of Office in South Africa, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung*
- *Dr. Julia Steets, Director, Global Public Policy Institute*

9:00 am **PLENARY SESSION**

Fragile states and the Post-MDG Debate

In this session, two topics will be presented by two speakers, followed by plenary discussions: How have consultations for the Post-MDG Agenda evolved to date, how did African civil society contribute to the debate and how is the debate supposed to continue until 2015? How has the Post-MDG Debate addressed peace- and state-building and development in fragile states so far?

Speaker 1: Salina Sanou, Head of Policy & Advocacy, Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD)

Speaker 2: Rev. Dr. Tolbert Thomas Jallah, Secretary General, Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in West Africa (FECCIWA)

Facilitated by: Dr. Julia Steets, Director, Global Public Policy Institute

10:30am **Coffee break**

11:00am **PLENARY SESSION**

The role of African civil society in addressing fragility

In this session, two topics will be presented by two speakers, followed by plenary discussions: What are the main issues that need to be addressed by African civil society in fragile states; what works and what doesn't work for civil society in fragile states? How can collaboration with donors, in particular the European Union and the United States, be improved and what role can and should civil society play?

Speaker 1: TBD

Speaker 2: Fatima Shabodien, Country Director, ActionAid South Africa

Facilitated by: Sebastian Fuchs, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

12:30am **Lunch**

1:30pm **WORKING GROUP SESSIONS**

Developing recommendations from African civil society organizations to the EU and US

This working group session will provide participants the opportunity to share their views and develop ideas and recommendations in three key thematic areas: a) conflict, violence and peace-building in the post-MDG framework; b) supporting the “New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States”; and c) addressing social and economic drivers of fragility. The goal is to prioritize activities from a Southern point of view and inform the ongoing discussions between EU and US civil society organizations on these issues. The working groups will run in parallel. For each working group, a “speaker” will be assigned to report back on the working group results during the final session.

From 1:30pm to 3:00pm, experts in each group will provide input on the topics, followed by group discussions and brainstorming.

From 3:30pm to 5:00pm, the groups will continue discussions and refine their ideas, with the goal of presenting a list of key recommendations for EU-US development cooperation in fragile states to be presented and discussed in the final plenary session.

GROUP A: Conflict, violence and peace-building in the post-MDG debate

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will expire at the end of 2015 and discussions on their future are underway. The MDGs have been extremely influential in defining international development priorities since their adoption. Yet the effectiveness of the MDGs in raising the profile of development in a number of countries underscores the lack of tangible progress towards the MDGs in conflict-affected and fragile states. As the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda stated, “violence and fragility have become the largest obstacle to the MDGs.” They will continue to be the largest stumbling block to development if conflict prevention, stabilization and peace-building are not properly addressed the post-2015 development framework. Questions to address are: How can donors, in particular the EU and US, effectively include conflict prevention and peace-building in global debates about post-2015 MDGs? What role can northern and African civil society have in elevating the importance of these issues?

Introduction: TBD

Commentator: TBD

Facilitator: Dr. Julia Steets, Director, Global Public Policy Institute

GROUP B: EU and US support to the New Deal on Fragile States

Context sensitive approaches and specialized programs are needed to address poverty reduction for the 1.5 billion people who live in conflict-affected and fragile states. The G7+ group of conflict-affected countries formed an alliance to discuss their shared development challenges and advocate for better international policies to address their needs. The result is the “New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States”, with its five peace-building and state-building goals

(PSGs). The EU and US have already expressed support for the New Deal, but questions remain: What are the most promising opportunities for coordinated donor activities? What role can and should northern and African civil society play in this process and how can this be facilitated?

Introduction: TBD

Commentator: TBD

Facilitator: Maximilian Norz, Research Associate, Global Public Policy Institute

GROUP C: The role of non-security related reasons for fragility, such as social and economic institutions

Though fragility, insecurity and violent conflict are often a product of a breakdown of political processes, they are also strongly linked to a) international drivers of fragility and b) faltering or failing social and economic institutions. Researchers and practitioners increasingly acknowledge that impact of effective development policy must somehow address “global factors” in shaping conflict and fragility in many hard-hit countries. A better understanding of these factors is essential to the prospects that development programs can succeed in stabilizing and helping rebuild affected countries. Looking inwards, societies in fragile states are often polarized along ethnic, religious or class-based lines due to weak political processes and the inability of other institutions to address their interests or needs. Competing interests, capacity deficits, a lack of trust and corruption all challenge efforts to stabilize and strengthen weak state and social institutions. Which factors matter most in increasing the risks of conflict and fragility? How should responsive programs be shaped? How might donors, in particular the EU and the US, address these issues in a coordinated way and how can northern and African civil society and non-state actors contribute? What are key lessons learned from successful and unsuccessful efforts to date?

Introduction: Briggs Bomba, Zimbabwe Alliance Coordinator, TrustAfrica

Commentator: Oladiran Bello, Head, Governance of Africa’s Resources Programme, South African Institute for International Affairs (SAIIA)

Facilitator: Sebastian Fuchs, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

3:00pm

Coffee Break

3:30pm

WORKING GROUP SESSION continued

5:00pm

CONCLUDING PLENARY SESSION

Reporting back and road ahead

The concluding session brings together the working groups to report back and to develop key takeaways that will summarize the Johannesburg discussions. These key messages, together with the detailed ideas and recommendations,

will be presented in Washington, DC at the second Transatlantic Civil Society Dialogue on Security and Development schedule for 14-15 November 2013).

Discussion moderated by: Dr. Julia Steets, Director, Global Public Policy Institute

6:00pm

Break

6:30pm

Dinner

8:00pm

NIGHT CAP

African civil society in the Post-MDG Debate: a view from within

Speaker: Namhla Mniki-Mangaliso, Head of the African CSO Secretariat, TBC

Project Partners



**Konrad
Adenauer
Stiftung**

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We are proud to bear the name of Konrad Adenauer. The first chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany's name and principles are our guidelines, duty, and obligation. Established in 1955 as "Society for Christian-Democratic Civic Education", the Foundation took on the name of the first Federal Chancellor in 1964. At home as well as abroad, our civic education programs aim at promoting freedom and liberty, peace, and justice. We focus on consolidating democracy, the unification of Europe and the strengthening of transatlantic relations, as well as on development cooperation. As a think-tank and consulting agency, our soundly researched scientific fundamental concepts and current analyses are meant to offer a basis for possible political action. Our conferences and events attract people who 'have something to say'. In Germany, we offer more than 2,500 events per year which attract 145,000 participants. We provide moral and material support to intellectually gifted young people, not only from Germany, but also from Central and Eastern Europe and developing countries. We stay in close contact with our more than 10.000 alumni.

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The institute seeks to contribute to a more vibrant think tank culture and improved strategic capacity in Germany and Europe. GPPi also seeks to support a transatlantic alliance with a global outlook and a focus on contributing to global governance. GPPi's work cuts across the divides that all too often still separate traditional foreign policy, such as great power politics and international security, and issues like development, the environment and human rights. GPPi's projects place a particular emphasis on cross-cutting topics such as leadership and organizational learning.

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