

WORKING WITH FRAGILE STATES

The Practitioners Network (host), Cordaid and FERDI in collaboration with the European Commission (DEVCO B7) will organise on June 15th, 2016 a high-level panel on the theme “**Working with fragile states**” as part of the European Development Days 2016 – Europe’s leading forum on development and international cooperation.

Bringing together high-level representative from third countries, member states agencies, the European Commission, civil society organisations and youth representative, the panel aims at fostering a thought-provoking debate on the needs encountered in a context of fragility and draw recommendations for better effectiveness.

WORKING TOGETHER IN FRAGILE STATES FOR BETTER EFFECTIVENESS

A reality check and ways forward from a multi-stakeholder perspective

June 15th, 2016 | 18:00 – 19:30 | Venue: Tour & Taxis, Brussels

Event description

Fragile states are at the centre of the international community’s attention. However, international frameworks and guidelines on improving coordination and effectiveness on the ground show limited results. The urgency and the scale of the needs of these countries require a concerted action by all development actors, as well as in all dimensions of development. In this light, it is essential to design well thought-out yet adaptable actions based on field experience to promote sustainable development in a context of growing and resurgent insecurity.

Discussions will focus on the shared observation that despite multiple commitments and strategic orientations, the response to state fragility remains to be achieved. The panel will aim at identifying modalities for closer cooperation, synergies between areas of action and characteristics that makes resilience and transition possible to ease a long-term development process.

Expected outcomes

- Assess the cost of doing nothing in fragile states
- Identify key vectors to successfully implement and apply international commitments in fragile environments
- Determine the role of the European Union and its partners to address fragility

Organisers

The Practitioners’ Network (PN) is an open platform for exchange, coordination and harmonization between European organisations with a public mandate in the field of European Development Cooperation. Set up in February 2007, the PN is currently composed of 13 member state agencies¹ and the European Commission as an observer. The aim of the Practitioners’ Network is to contribute to the coherence within the EU donor community and, at the same time, benefit from the wide diversity of organizations so as to have an integrated, pluralistic and innovative approach to European

¹ ADA (Austria), AECID (Spain), AFD (France), British Council, BTC (Belgium), Czech Development Agency, Expertise France, FIIAPP (Spain), GIZ (Germany), LuxDev (Luxemburg), Slovakaid (Slovakia), SIDA (Sweden) and SNV (Netherlands). The European Commission (EuropeAid) participates in the Network as an observer.

Development Cooperation, delivered through the highest levels of efficiency. The Practitioners' network is the lead organizer of the high-level panel.

The Foundation for studies and research on international development (*FERDI*) is a French think-tank that aims at facilitating the understanding of mechanics and logics of economic development throughout the world. They work on various issues and hold a working group on "Peace, Security and Development" that gathers international high-level experts.

Cordaid is a Dutch non-profit organization specialized in aid emergency and health. They work on sustainable development and supporting economic opportunities in post-conflict countries. **World Vision** a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide has also joined the preparation of the session.

Topic

The organisers of this high-level panel all have an acute awareness that fragility is the most challenging issue as regards development cooperation. The need for more effective donor coordination in situations of crisis and fragility is all the more urgent, given that the international community is faced with new security and development threats in Sahel, Central Africa and the Middle East. This common challenge is an opportunity to create a more integrated and effective European response to contexts of crisis and fragility by translating agreed general principles of aid coordination in operational solutions adapted to the local context.

Contexts of crisis and fragility lead to contradictory obligations: to act fast while perceiving and understanding acutely each specific context; to strengthen actors' capacities over the long term while showing quick results. Fragility implies great capacity needs, which calls for greater coordination and better knowledge sharing.

To reach these objectives, the development community and beneficiary countries need to conceive new modes of acting founded on complementarity and identify each actor's specific function and added value for better effectiveness.

Panel

- **Mohamed Omar Arteh**, Deputy Prime Minister of Somalia
- **Amina J. Mohammed**, United Nations' Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning / Minister of the Environment, Nigeria.
- **Klaus Rudischhauser**, Deputy Director General, Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development
- **Sébastien Mosneron-Dupin**, CEO of Expertise France
- **Tertius Zongo**, Special Advisor on fragility to the African Development Bank, former Prime Minister Burkina-Faso
- **Rita Martin**, Operational Director of EVE South Sudan, CSO for Women's rights
- **Reuben James Barrete**, Young leader from the Philippines

Moderation: **Shada Islam**, Director of Policy, Friends of Europe.

Session details

In line with the traditional approach of high-level panel debates, each panelist has an equal opportunity to share his experience and put forward his views independently from his function/title. Such dynamic is seen as one of the main asset of a genuine multi-stakeholder dialogue, whereas the added value of each speaker is at the core of a lively discussion.

The total duration of the panel will be of **1 h 30 min**.

Each panelist will be asked to answer **one common question** at the beginning the session, **one personalized question** throughout the course of the debate, as well as **a second common question** at the end of the discussion.

In order to keep a **lively pace to the debate** and allow for **interaction with the public audience**, panelist are kindly asked to limit their respective interventions to 3mn for both common questions and 4mn for the personalized question).

The session would be organized as follows:

- Introduction – 5 min
- Debate – 65 min (including one 2 min videos)
- Questions & Answers with the audience – 15 min
- Closing arguments – 5 min

Indicative suggested questions

Formulations can differ at the time of the event. Topics will remain the same.

- Introductory common question

Why should fragility be on top of the international agenda?

- **Mohamed Omar Arteh**, Deputy Prime Minister of Somalia

How do you think the fragile-to-fragile state dialogue, though IDPS, helps to improve resilience in Somalia?

- **Amina J. Mohammed**, Minister of Environment, Nigeria

What are the main challenges for fragile states in meeting the targets of the 2030 Agenda?

- **Klaus Rudischhauser**, Deputy Director General, Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development

How does the EU ensure a more holistic approach to addressing fragility, in particular what can be expected from enhanced coordination within the EU and with other actors?

- **Sébastien Mosneron-Dupin** – Expertise France / Practitioners' Network (PN)

What are the main operational constraints that prevent the sound implementation of political commitments in fragile environments?

- **Tertius Zongo** – FERDI / AfDB

What is the cost of doing nothing in a fragility context?

- **Rita Martin** – CORDAID / EVE

What role and added-value of CSOs in a multi stakeholder approach to support development in situation of fragility?

- **Reuben James Barrete**, Young leader from the Philippines

What could be the role for the youth in fragile and conflict-affected countries?

- **Final common question**

To be asked through the EDD App to the audience before addressing the speakers

What should be the priority of Europe's action in fragile states?

- a) Trade & economic cooperation*
- b) Financial aid and humanitarian assistance*
- c) Peacekeeping operations & security*
- d) Capacity strengthening & good governance*
- e) No intervention*

Indications from the moderator, Shada Islam

- *Please make your answers short and snappy - no longer than 4 minutes.*
- *I may come back with follow-up questions*
- *You can and should comment on interesting issues raised by other panelists*
- *After this, I will probably open the floor to questions from the audience.*
- *Please be brief in your answers so that we can cover quite a lot of ground.*
- *Please do let me know if you have any questions or comments and do send me a list of issues that you want to raise if the ones mentioned above do not satisfy you*

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