



ROUNDTABLE 7 SUMMARY

POST ACCRA

ROUNDTABLE 7 : AID EFFECTIVENESS IN SITUATIONS OF FRAGILITY AND CONFLICT

Summary

Round Table 7 was organised to review progress in implementing the Paris Declaration within the particularly challenging contexts of situations of fragility and conflict. The meeting represented a step change in the dialogue between donors and governments in developing countries and helped to significantly advance the aid effectiveness agenda. The discussions in Accra benefited from a preparatory meeting held in Kinshasa in July 2008 which resulted in the adoption of a *Kinshasa Statement* which sets out **for the first time a consensus between donors and partner countries on priority actions in situations of conflict and fragility**. The Round Table took this one stage further to set out a series of jointly agreed next steps to deliver the AAA commitments relating to situations of fragility and conflict. The meeting agreed to prioritise the following actions:

(i) Monitoring the Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations

The AAA commits donors and partner countries to advance and monitor the implementation of the DAC Principles. Agreements at the Round Table took the first steps to make this happen: **monitoring will start with the DRC, Afghanistan, Timor Leste, Central African Republic and Sierra Leone**.

This agreement is important as it commits donors and partners, for the first time, to track progress on issues such as, security and development, policy coherence between diplomatic, security and development actors and resource allocations to situations of fragility.

(ii) Addressing peacebuilding and state-building priorities

While the MDG's are a central concern in fragile situations—where a third of the world's poor live—in many cases the basic foundations for development are just not in place. In Accra it was agreed that in order to make progress—and to demonstrate progress—work is needed on the preconditions for achieving the MDGs by addressing state building and peace building needs.

The AAA sets out the need to define state-building and peacebuilding objectives, at country level and internationally. The Round Table launched an **international dialogue**—led by DRC and France—to make this a reality.

For donor countries, a set of common goals on state building will also be instrumental to ensure that different policy communities (diplomatic, security, development) within their governments jointly support peacebuilding and state building. A senior officials meeting on whole-of-government approaches in situations of fragility and conflict will be hosted by Switzerland, 19-20 March 2009.

(iii) Improving the Delivery of International Assistance for the reduction of Fragility and Conflict

The Round Table discussed several key constraints that need to be overcome in order to improve the international response in situations of fragility and fragility, in particular during the period immediately following conflict. Engagement is often too slow and donors lack the capacity to respond rapidly. There is also little clarity on how to transition from humanitarian to development-related approaches.

The AAA commits donors to make **funding modalities more flexible and rapid and conduct joint assessments of governance and fragility in situations of fragility and conflict.**

The Round Table supported the establishment of an **ad-hoc working group, composed of interested donors, partner countries, multilateral Institutions and the OECD** that will consider how to improve funding policies, priorities and mechanisms to support more effective multilateral and bilateral support to countries recovering from conflict.

ROUNDTABLE 7 : SYNTHESIS REPORT

Co-Chairs

H.E. Olivier Kamitatu
Minister for Planning
Democratic Republic of Congo

H.E. Alain Joyandet
Minister of State for Cooperation &
Francophonie, France

Ms. Zeinab El Bakri
Vice President
African Development Bank

1. Background

In a globalised and interdependent world, situations of fragility and conflict need special attention because of the security, stability and poverty reduction challenges they present – to each country domestically, on their regional surroundings and in the broader international sphere. Effective and sustainable development in such situations requires different approaches from those typically used by donors in more stable low or middle income countries.

The DAC Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations were designed to complement the partnership commitments of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. They set out ten priorities to help international actors foster constructive engagement between national and international stakeholders with a view to building effective, legitimate and resilient state institutions capable of engaging productively with their people to promote sustained development. To date, systematic dialogue between donors and partners on these themes has been limited.

In line with the overall objective of the Accra HLF 3, Round Table 7 was organised to review progress in implementing the Paris Declaration within the particularly challenging contexts of fragility and conflict. The objective was to provide an opportunity to i) deepen the dialogue on how international engagement can contribute to development, peace and the building of resilient states and ii) to agree on specific follow up activities beyond Accra.

The Round Table was designed to progress the implementation of the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) commitments for countries in fragile situations (see paragraph 21), including i) to conduct joint assessments of governance, capacity and fragility; ii) to agree on a set of realistic peace- and state-building objectives at country level and launch an international dialogue on such objectives, iii) to provide demand-driven, tailored and co-ordinated capacity-development support for core state functions and for early and sustained recovery; iv) to work on flexible, rapid and long-term funding modalities; v) to monitor implementation of the Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations.

The Round Table was structured in three sessions and featured a panel of 3 or 4 speakers from partner country governments, donor and multi-lateral agencies as well as civil society representatives. Following presentations from the panel, there was an opportunity to intervene and raise comments from the floor. Specifically, the sessions discussed the following:

- **Session 1** addressed the challenges of achieving ownership, harmonisation, alignment and managing for results in situations of fragility and conflict, including in contexts of protracted crisis. It discussed how to monitor progress in the implementation of the Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations.
- **Session 2** discussed the benefits of agreeing and supporting peace building and state building objectives at the country level to guide joint efforts between partner countries and donors, and considered ways to institutionalise a donor-partner dialogue at the international level.
- **Session 3** looked at practicalities for improving the delivery of international assistance in situations of conflict and fragility, notably coherence of approaches and division of labour among donor countries, as well as resource requirements and funding instruments.

Each session was informed by a discussion note which contained background information, questions, concrete proposals and next steps. Panellists were invited to comment on these proposals in their interventions.

Discussions at the Round Table benefited from a **preparatory meeting held in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**, on 1 and 2 July. The meeting in Kinshasa was attended by donors, partner countries and civil society representatives. It resulted in the adoption of a *Kinshasa Statement* which set out a consensus between donors and partner countries on priority actions. This included agreement (i) to monitor the implementation of the Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations; (ii) to launch an international dialogue on objectives for peacebuilding and state building; (iii) to strengthen joint partner country – donor strategic frameworks, integrate peacebuilding and state building with development objectives and set up appropriate mechanisms to jointly monitor progress; and (iv) to improve donor funding modalities, particularly in the early recovery phase.

Following the preparatory meeting in Kinshasa, the Round Table was a first in bringing together a large group of partner countries and donors to discuss aid effectiveness in situations of fragility and conflict.

2. Overview of Discussion and Outputs

Introduction

The three Round Table Co-chairs welcomed participants to the Round Table and emphasised the importance of discussing the particular challenges of aid effectiveness in situations of fragility and conflict.

In his opening remarks, President Donald Kaberuka, African Development Bank emphasised that fragile states would not constitute a permanent group of countries but that countries would temporarily experience fragility. To help countries overcome fragility, donors need to adjust their instruments, be innovative, demonstrate flexibility and be willing to take risks.

He suggested that applying the principles of the Paris Declaration in fragile situations is crucial to reduce transaction costs for partner countries and to ensure that resources are channelled to a country's priority sectors. At the same time the DAC Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and situations provide an important complement.

President Kaberuka underlined the importance of early and rapid response, being innovative and using different approaches to enhance the delivery of support because “the cost of inaction is very high”. He outlined the African Development Bank’s new secondment facility and using non-sovereign entities to bridge the capacity gaps on the ground while using on the job training techniques to build local capacity.

Session 1: Addressing Situations of Fragility and Conflict: the Paris Declaration and Beyond

Background

The Paris Declaration is not always applicable in a straightforward manner in fragile and conflict-affected situations¹. Realising full ownership may be challenging, and aligning and harmonising assistance behind a nationally-agreed set of development priorities may not always be possible. The state’s capacity to take forward priorities may also be extremely weak. Medium-term results are more likely to focus on state building, peacebuilding and conflict prevention, as building blocks towards longer-term development and the MDGs.

Recognising that there are specific aid effectiveness challenges in situations of conflict and fragility, the Paris Declaration included the Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations (“the DAC Principles”) in draft form. The DAC Principles were later developed and refined through country pilots and endorsed by OECD DAC Ministers in April 2007. This included the commitment to extend the application and implementation of the Principles to all situations of fragility and conflict.

The DAC Principles go beyond the Paris Declaration in two ways. First, they seek to identify specific issues that arise for improving aid effectiveness in fragile situations. Second, they emphasise the importance of the wider agenda of peacebuilding and state building, encompassing the role and significance of non-aid instruments of engagement and the coherence between security, diplomatic and development communities.

The Principles do not involve mutual commitments between development and country partners. They relate specifically to the need to improve donor behaviour and provide a guide to do so. Monitoring progress in the implementation of the Principles can assist this and help to improve and adapt international engagement to context. Monitoring also provides an opportunity to disseminate, and learn from, successful approaches and good practice on the ground.

Session one was designed to discuss the particular aid effectiveness issues and challenges in situations of fragility and conflict and assess the application of the Paris Declaration in such contexts. A second objective was to discuss how to advance and monitor progress in the implementation of the Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations – a commitment in the AAA (§ 21-e).

Main discussion points

The session was chaired by Ms. Zeinab El Bakri, Vice President, African Development Bank.

¹ For a comprehensive discussion on the subject, please see Oxford Policy Management/the IDL Group: *The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness: Its Applicability in Fragile Situations and conflict-affected Countries*, 2008.

H.E. Anwar-ul-Haq Ahady, Minister of Finance, Afghanistan started his presentation by emphasising the importance of aid effectiveness in a country like Afghanistan. There are concerns that the large injection of resources is failing to translate into development outcomes. He described how aid effectiveness priorities had gradually developed and evolved over time in Afghanistan: aid predictability was the first priority in 2004, while a stronger lead role of the international community was acceptable due to the collapse of the state. Today, however, the management of technical assistance and realising ownership and alignment are key aid effectiveness concerns. With state structures being more developed and a PRSP in place it is vital to make Afghan ownership more visible.

H.E. Ahady welcomed the DAC Principles as an important complement to the Paris Declaration and emphasised the importance of “state building as a pre condition to any form of economic development” in fragile and conflict affected countries. A state-building process would have to begin with building the legal, financial, economic and employment sectors in order to build confidence in, and legitimacy of, the government. Channelling aid resources through the government budget can be an important contribution as it strengthens institutional capacity and the legitimacy of government. Any state-building process also needs to put in place accountability mechanisms and transparency.

Ms. Henrietta Holsman Fore, Administrator, USAID emphasised that the development community has started to develop models and approaches that are adapted to fragile situations given that “fragile states have a set of challenges that are unique”. The elaboration of the DAC Principles has been an important step forward and reflects that the model of aid effectiveness in situations of fragility is evolving. The US Government has adopted a whole-of-government approach to better respond to crisis situations and support Security Sector Reform initiatives. A civil response corps for immediate deployment in post-conflict zones is also being created.

Ms. Fore highlighted the importance of prioritising women in situations of fragility who often suffer most during and after conflict. USAID has positive experiences with public-private partnerships in situations of fragility and conflict. Such arrangements often prove to be faster and more flexible than traditional approaches.

Building on the previous contributions Mr. Jörg Frieden, Deputy Director, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, highlighted particular challenges for donors to deliver aid in early recovery and fragile situations. Projects need to be conflict-sensitive and regularly adapted to an often changing situation and environment. A particular area of concern is the security of development workers and staff. Donor programmes need to address the causes of conflict and require a careful choice of implementing agencies.

Mr. Frieden emphasised the difficulty of aligning with government or prioritising state building in a context “where the state may be part of the problem”. In such cases peacebuilding rather than state building should be the priority for donor engagement. The participation of civil society and delivering aid through non-state actors is critical in such situations. Similarly, increased dialogue with all stakeholders and ensuring widespread participation in identifying development priorities is a prerequisite to ensure the sustainable implementation of development programmes.

Interventions from the floor recognised the importance of effective coordination and cooperation between security, development and diplomatic actors as an additional aid effectiveness challenge in fragile situations. Transitions from war to peace and from humanitarian aid to development assistance were identified as particularly important.

- **Next Steps:** The meeting expressed strong support for the *Kinshasa Statement* and the agreement in the AAA to monitor the Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations as a form of mutual accountability. **Sierra Leone, Central African Republic, Afghanistan, Timor Leste, and Democratic Republic of Congo** expressed their agreement to take part in the monitoring of the DAC Principles. A methodology will be developed to reflect country specific needs and preferences.

A senior officials meeting will be held in Geneva, Switzerland on 19-20 March 2009 to discuss whole-of-government approaches in situations of fragility and conflict.

Session 2: Development Effectiveness in Situations of Fragility and Conflict: Addressing peacebuilding and state-building priorities

Background

The only current internationally agreed framework for measuring the results of development assistance is the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Current assessments show that the countries most off-track to reach the MDGs are those affected by fragility and conflict. In these contexts, achievement of the MDGs depends on progress being made on a number of interim objectives, particularly national state-building and peacebuilding processes. The restoration of security, peace and stability; the establishment of functioning institutions and basic administrative capacity; the re-building of the trust and confidence of society in the state; and the protection and participation of women are pre-conditions for development and aid effectiveness.

This was recognized at the Millennium Review Summit in September 2005, where world leaders agreed that “development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.”

The 2005 Summit also stated clearly “the need for a co-ordinated, coherent and integrated approach to post-conflict peacebuilding and reconciliation with a view to achieving sustainable peace”. In response, the UN Peacebuilding Commission was created to support peacebuilding efforts and has been mandated to develop peacebuilding strategies in four countries so far.

However, there are a number of other contexts where a more coherent strategy focused on peacebuilding and state-building objectives would help to improve the impact of development assistance. At the preparatory meeting for the Accra HLF Round Table 7, held in Kinshasa on 1-2 July 2008, there was strong support from partner countries to advance an international dialogue on these issues.

Session 2 was designed to discuss how, at country level, donors and partners can agree and work to a set of limited, realistic and coherent peacebuilding and state building objectives that address the root causes of conflict and fragility and ensure the protection and participation of women. A second objective was to discuss concrete ways to advance an international consensus building process between partner countries and donors on such objectives as prerequisites for achieving the MDGs. Both items are included as a commitment in the AAA (§ 21-b).

Main discussion points

The session was chaired for the DRC by H.E. Olivier Kamitatu.

Ms. Sally Fegan-Wyles, Senior Advisor on Post-Crisis Coordination, UNDP, identified country specific strategic frameworks, developed locally, with the right input from all actors at the right time as the key to effective international support. Strategic frameworks should allow the international community to engage from the earliest stages and build on increasing national ownership. Experience so far underlines the need for peacebuilding and state-building frameworks to become platforms for integration. International support should build on existing national priorities and strategies such as Poverty Reduction Strategies and use them as the starting point. Peacebuilding and state-building objectives and benchmarks, once agreed, should subsequently be integrated into existing strategic frameworks, so that there is only one set of priorities at any one time. A focus on peacebuilding and state building should not lead to competing priorities.

Ms. Fegan-Wyles expressed the need for an ongoing international debate on peacebuilding and state building that engages with partner countries and non-DAC donors and builds on country experience. Speaking on behalf of the UN system, she supported the option suggested in the discussion paper, where the UN's Peace Building Support Office would form a partnership with OECD/DAC to support an ongoing conversation between member states on the issues. She cautioned the meeting to recognize that peacebuilding and state building are not the same. There are important complementarities and also sometimes tensions between the two.

Finally, Ms. Fegan-Wyles, highlighted the importance of capacity development for peacebuilding and state building as a basis for national ownership.

In her intervention, H.E. Clotilde Nizigama, Minister of Finance, Burundi, provided a country perspective on the challenges of addressing peace and state-building priorities in country-level strategies. In the case of Burundi, the existence of a peacebuilding strategy and a PRSP has meant that there are two strategic frameworks with different priorities, planning processes and modalities for monitoring and evaluation. While the UN Peace Building Fund (PBF) had been quick to become operational, the absence of PBSO staff on the ground has hindered rapid decision-making and flexible adaptation of the instrument to the changing country context.

In his intervention, Dr. Amos Sawyer, Chair of the Center for Democratic Empowerment, Liberia drew attention to the role of civil society in peacebuilding and state building. Partnerships in fragile states need to go beyond government and donor partnerships and should include civil society. Dr. Sawyer pointed to the central role of civil society organisations (CSOs) working on gender issues as being “critical for transcending fragility” and called for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. CSOs could also play an important role in trauma work and community healing as part of peacebuilding processes. Finally CSOs have a role to play in monitoring fragility and should be involved in the monitoring of the DAC Principles.

H.E. the Minister for Development Co-operation of the Netherlands, Mr. Bert Koenders, indicated that the Paris Declaration principles apply with even more vigour to fragile situations but that instruments and modalities have to be adapted to the often more challenging context. This requires innovative, flexible and rapid approaches and a willingness of donors to take risks. At the same time donors need to remain humble about what external actors can achieve. Donors have to reflect on their internal organisation and adapt it for effective engagement in fragile situations. Supporting complex state-building and security sector reform processes requires whole-of-government approaches.

A starting point for donor involvement is joint analysis of context, leading to a joint strategy of sequenced and prioritised activities - not all urgent needs in fragile states can be dealt with at the same

time. State building is an overall priority in fragile situations and donors should be careful not to undermine this process, for example by poaching local staff. Achieving country ownership requires donors to recognise the important role of civil society partners, promoting their 'voice' and the development of the social contract.

Referring to the *Kinshasa Statement*, H.E. Koenders highlighted the need to build robust partnerships that can generate trust. He supported a structured dialogue on peacebuilding and state building and offered support.

Interventions from the floor pointed to the importance of strengthening state-society relations as a critical aspect of state building. Youth has a particular role to play in this regard and needs to be targeted in aid programmes.

- **Next Steps:** Following proposals from the Round Table Co-Chairs and expressions of support from the panellists, the meeting welcomed the idea of launching an international dialogue on peacebuilding and state-building objectives. DRC, France and the Netherlands expressed their willingness to lead on this process and a preparatory meeting will be held in late 2008/early 2009.

Session 3: Improving the Delivery of International Assistance for the Reduction of Fragility and Conflict

Background

In recent years, the international community has spent significant time and effort in improving its response to situations of fragility and conflict. Some progress has been made in improving the quality and efficiency of humanitarian and longer-term development assistance but less progress has been made in the 'early recovery' phase as countries emerge from war or other crises. The international community has yet to address the transition from humanitarian to development-related assistance, and the sequencing and prioritisation of different inputs.

There are several key constraints that would need to be overcome in order to improve the international response in the period immediately following conflict. Existing modalities for engagement (i.e. PCNAs, MDTFs etc) require lead time to be operationalised, and are normally only mandated once there is a peace agreement signed. Furthermore, there are human and technical capacity constraints and challenges related to differences in donor procedures that can block broad-based and rapid engagement to provide a peace dividend. Finally, there are obstacles in the way the international system approaches peacebuilding and state building, which requires a more comprehensive and integrated approach across the international system involving political, security, humanitarian and development actors while being adapted to the specific context of each country.

Session 3 was designed to discuss how to strengthen common approaches and improve division of labor among donor countries, and how to better address resource requirements in situations of fragility and conflict through the use of existing, improved or new funding instruments. The AAA commitments concerning donor agreements to conduct joint assessments on the causes of conflict, fragility and insecurity (§ 21a) and to work on flexible, rapid and long-term funding modalities (§ 21d) provided valuable context for this discussion.

Main discussion points

The session was chaired for France by H.E. Alain Joyandet, Minister of State for Development Co-operation and Francophonie, who noted the need for donors to achieve a better division of labour, behind an overall strategy in line with partner country priorities. He also noted the priority of making better use of existing financial instruments (especially for crucial security related expenditures) while finding more flexible ways of funding the early recovery phase.

Speakers from developing countries identified several problems at country level. In the case of Timor Leste, a 'protracted-crisis', according to H.E. Emilia Pires, Minister of Finance, there were difficulties in developing 'mutual respect, partnership and trust' with donors who still competed with each other and remained largely unconcerned with aid effectiveness principles. The Government of Timor Leste and donors are confronted with a balancing act: how to meet the long-term challenge of strengthening state institutions while also addressing the more immediate need to meet popular expectations for improved living conditions and service delivery. In the case of Sierra Leone, 'a post-conflict country with a risk of coming back to war', according to H.E. David Carew, Minister of Finance, institution building should have been a core feature of the early recovery period. Since then, a proliferation of NGOs and the duplication of donor resources and efforts had become problematic.

In terms of improving aid modalities for addressing post-conflict situations, complementary views were offered by two donors. Ms. Obiageli Ezekwesili, Vice President for the Africa Region at the World Bank, considered that results had been already achieved on strengthening common approaches between the IFIs, the UN and key donors, with some challenges remaining - the creation of Regional MDTFs and engaging China and India, for instance. Progressing work on joint assessments was not a technical question but a question of political will. Ms. Nemat Shafik, DFID's Permanent Secretary, highlighted three early recovery 'gaps' in strategy, capacity and financing. On the latter issue, cumbersome donor procedures were holding back progress. The provision of support over two years after the peace agreement had been signed in South Sudan illustrated the point.

- **Next Steps** : Following proposals from the Round Table Co-Chairs, the meeting supported the idea that an **ad-hoc Working Group, composed of interested donors, partner countries, UN agencies (including PBSO) and the OECD**, would be established during the Early Recovery Practitioners' and Policy Forum in Denmark (October 2008). It would be charged with assessing existing mechanisms (MDTFs etc.) and defining practical ways for improving flexible, rapid and long-term funding and engagement modalities for addressing post-conflict situations.

3. Conclusions

In conclusion, the Round Table advanced the aid effectiveness agenda significantly. The meeting represented a step change in the dialogue between donors and governments in developing countries. The discussions in Accra benefited from a preparatory meeting held in Kinshasa in July 2008 which resulted in the adoption of a *Kinshasa Statement* which sets out **for the first time a consensus between donors and partner countries on priority actions**. The Round Table took this one stage further to set out a series of jointly agreed next steps to deliver the AAA commitments relating to situations of fragility and conflict.

In his report from Roundtable 7 to the Ministerial plenary on Thursday 4th September, H.E Bert Koenders, Minister for Development Cooperation in the Netherlands provided selected highlights from the Round Table presentations and discussions. The DAC Principles for Good International Engagement in

Fragile States and Situations were thought by all to provide a key framework for aid effectiveness in these challenging environments as a complement to the Paris Declaration. **Now is the time to start implementation.** For donors, a new risk taking and flexible approach is required in these situations and opportunities have to be taken. More can be done to staff-up donor's field operations and empower local decision-makers. Priorities include the need for more systematic monitoring of progress; state building and peace building must be central to our efforts with serious engagement with parliaments and civil society throughout. Mr. Koenders concluded that time is not on our side; we have to act fast, be committed and accountable.

The meeting agreed to prioritise the following three actions:

(i) Monitoring the Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations

The AAA commits donors and partner countries to advance and monitor the implementation of the DAC Principles. Agreements at the Round Table took the first steps to make this happen: **monitoring will start with the DRC, Afghanistan, Timor Leste, Central African Republic and Sierra Leone.**

- **Next steps:** other partner countries to volunteer at a meeting in late 2008/early 2009 between partner countries and donors. DAC Network on Fragility and Conflict will progress implementation.

This agreement is important as it commits donors and partners, for the first time, to track progress on issues such as, security and development, policy coherence between diplomatic, security and development actors and resource allocations to situations of fragility.

(ii) Addressing peacebuilding and state-building priorities

While the MDG's are a central concern in fragile situations—where a third of the world's poor live—in many cases the basic foundations for development are just not in place. In Accra it was agreed that in order to make progress—and to demonstrate progress—work is needed on the preconditions for achieving the MDGs by addressing state building and peace building needs.

The AAA sets out the need to define state-building and peacebuilding objectives, at country level and internationally. The Round Table launched an **international dialogue**—led by DRC and France—to make this a reality.

- **The next steps** will be a meeting in Paris late 2008/early 2009. This will be the first collective forum for both donors and partner countries to agree on priorities in situations of fragility and conflict.

For donor countries, a set of common goals on state building will also be instrumental to ensure that different policy communities (diplomatic, security, development) within their governments jointly support peacebuilding and state building. A senior officials meeting on whole-of-government approaches in situations of fragility and conflict will be hosted by Switzerland, 19-20 March 2009.

(iii) Improving the Delivery of International Assistance for the reduction of Fragility and Conflict

The Round Table discussed several key constraints that need to be overcome in order to improve the international response in situations of fragility and fragility, in particular during the period immediately

following conflict. Engagement is often too slow and donors lack the capacity to respond rapidly. There is also little clarity on how to transition from humanitarian to development-related approaches.

The AAA commits donors to **make funding modalities more flexible and rapid and conduct joint assessments of governance and fragility in situations of fragility and conflict.**

The Round Table supported the establishment of an **ad-hoc working group, composed of interested donors, partner countries, multilateral Institutions and the OECD** that will consider how to improve funding policies, priorities and mechanisms to support more effective multilateral and bilateral support to countries recovering from conflict.

- **Next step:** the Early Recovery Practitioners' and Policy Forum in Denmark in October 2008 will take this process forward.