



Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken



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Improving Security & Development in Conflict-Affected Situations: Recommendations for International action

Presentation World Development Report 2011

'Conflict, Security and Development'

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Hague, 27 April 2011

Chair's summary

1. The presentation of the World Development Report 2011 'Conflict, Security and Development' was hosted by the Netherlands, the World Bank and OECD/DAC's International Network on Conflict and Fragility to formulate practical follow up on the WDR's recommendations. A selective group of international and national policy makers and key experts had been invited. Overall they welcomed the report as a great step forward and as a good basis for an international consensus. What follows is an overview of some of the issues that were raised.

2. The conference was opened by Mr. Ben Knapen, Minister for Development Cooperation and European Affairs of the Netherlands. He welcomed the report and the recommendations. Knapen asked the World Bank for more involvement with fragile states including more capacity in country and more attention for risk management, stressed the need to listen to the voices from the countries involved and for women to be part of peace building, as the WDR suggests. Sarah Cliffe, Director World Development Report at the World Bank, outlined the main points of the report. In the long term the focus on institutions is paramount, while in the short run inclusiveness, employment and security and rule of law need to be given priority. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Burundi, Mr. Augustin Nsanze, discussed the cooperation with the Netherlands on security sector reform and called on donors to make long-term commitments in conflict areas.

3. The plenary session was characterized by many compliments for the excellent WDR report and the good work that the WDR-team had done, but also for the increasing consensus that was developed in recent years on the importance of inclusiveness, conflict sensitive approaches, state-institutions, security and employment. The challenge is to translate this into an improved involvement at the state level and better cooperation of multilateral and other players. Participants showed willingness to cooperate to achieve the recommendations. The discussion within the World Bank following the WDR, within the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, and within the UN about the civil capacities offers opportunities. Assistant Secretary-General Jordan Ryan from UNDP/BCPR called for better cooperation between the UN and the World Bank at the country level, for example in the area of multi-donor trust funds and civil capacity. Steve Groff, Deputy Director Development Cooperation Directorate OECD/DAC, discussed the need to take a state building perspective, improve risk management and build better southern partnerships. René Grotenhuis, director of the NGO Cordaid, said that state-building should focus more on what civil society has already achieved. According to Grotenhuis, there are no situations where the state is a blank page on which a preconceived, alien model can be applied.

4. One remarkable element of the report is the priority given for job creation in relation to economic growth. Cliffe mentioned this as the most important economic message for the Bank itself. In the plenary discussion the relevance to demobilisation programs was mentioned: it is of no use to demobilise combatants if there are no jobs. Comments emphasised the distinction between low and middle income countries and the costs of 'knocking down a state.' Jobs require an increase in investment and productive enterprise. The questions of how planning addresses needs and how to



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manage comprehensiveness were raised. Global drivers of bad governance and the potentials of constitutions and constitutional processes were raised as well.

5. During the afternoon break-out sessions the participants elaborated on the main topics of the WDR: a) Security and Justice in conflict-affected and fragile situations, b) Inclusive enough coalitions: strengthening state-society relations in development programs and c) Employment: short term results and sustainable solutions.

a. Security and Justice in conflict-affected and fragile situations

The panel concluded that security and justice are key components of peace building. Political will to address them needs to come from inside, but it often is lacking. All actors need to understand the context of the conflict. The importance of south-south cooperation was emphasized. Security and justice are seen as key components of the peace building process and priority should be given to identifying ways to generate ownership beyond partnership, develop process approaches to programming, models for program management and to improve monitoring for better ownership, program adaptation and results. The importance of concrete results and service delivery was mentioned in the context of legitimacy and engagement of donors. Political will should come from the inside and cannot be imposed, but often this is lacking.

b. Inclusive enough: strengthening state-society relations in development programs

The panel concluded that it is not always clear to what voices we need to listen. We need to build on local leadership and we need to find ways to mitigate negative aspects of local leadership. The challenge is to learn about drivers of conflict for example based on the evaluation of South Sudan. Emphasis on short-term peace dividend is not always apparent. Emphasis was given to the importance of traditional leadership and the understanding of these structures; it needs to be combined with innovative leadership. It is important to listen to a multitude of contradicting voices and when working with critical partners we need to be critical of them. All interventions are political. There needs to be a trade-off between external norms and local realities. Citizenship needs to be strengthened for legitimating and strengthening of the government. Transparency of donor flows is important. High expectations can prove unrealistic. The population as well as tax-payers in donor countries need to see short term results, so it is important to identify intermediate deliverables.

c. Employment: short term results and sustainable solutions

The session concluded that job-creation is part of the solution. A lack of jobs can contribute to discontent, exclusion and social tensions. Jobs are part of the solution of conflict since they create social capital. It is not only a short-term measure. It needs to be linked to a broader agenda since without security and justice there is no investment and growth. It is one thing to create employment; it is another to build a sustainable economy. There needs to be space for traditional communities to engage in the modern economy based on ownership. The international and regional dimensions were discussed as well. Efforts for women's economic empowerment should be strengthened. In programme implementation macro and micro policies should be linked.

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