



TAKING UP THE CHALLENGE OF DEVELOPMENT IN FRAGILE REGIONS

4 July 2019

G7 DECLARATION

TACKLING FRAGILITIES AND PREVENTING CRISES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Challenges ahead of us regarding the realization of the vision of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and the fight against extreme poverty and inequalities, including gender inequality, remain acute. 736 million people still live below the poverty line, earning less than 1.90\$ a day (World Bank). These challenges are intensified in areas exposed to fragility, conflict and violence that could potentially house nearly half of the world's poorest people by 2030. These risks are increasing, under the effects of complex and pressing global issues resulting from climate change, environmental degradation, demographic pressures, poor governance and institutional capacities, lack of energy access, and increasing inequalities, as many of today's violent conflicts are related to grievances arising from inequality of opportunity and territorial inequalities. Strong and inclusive action is needed to provide answers to those who have been left behind, especially women and girls. We, members of the G7, commit to strengthening our collective responses and, as appropriate, our coordination in multilateral forums, particularly in the following areas:

1 - We recognize that improving legitimate, transparent, accountable and inclusive state presence is critical to stability. While reaffirming the primary responsibility of the States facing fragility in implementing reforms, we recognize that the G7 can play a significant role in supporting fragile States' capacity building, notably with the goal of strengthening the deployment of public financial and human resources, helping to provide public services and upholding the rule of law and respect of human rights. Citizen participation and engagement, transparency and accountability should also be improved.

2 - We commit to work with development country partners in tackling in priority the main drivers of fragility, in order to prevent the outbreak of new crises. We call upon all stakeholders to implement comprehensive and preventive approaches that align diplomatic, security and stabilization dimensions to humanitarian peace and development dimensions, while upholding principled humanitarian action, in line with the OECD Development Assistance Committee Recommendation on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus. We underline the need to strengthen sharing of analysis between all stakeholders, in order to provide evidence-based identification of areas at risk on the ground, either within States or across borders, and to produce concrete recommendations for joint or aligned development projects at local, national, regional or continental levels to prevent conflict and violence. We commend the Sahel Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRA) conducted by the World Bank Group within the Sahel Alliance, as well as the UN Support Plan for the Sahel, as the right steps towards a common understanding of risks and resilience factors to inform collective action.

3 - We encourage international organizations and financial institutions to address in priority the main drivers of fragility in developing countries and to align their strategies in order to maintain



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complementarity and coherence between peace, humanitarian and development dimensions. We fully support the World Bank Group's endeavour to formulate a strategy on *Fragility, Conflict and Violence* (FCV). We welcome the African Development Bank's *Strategy for Addressing Fragility and Building Resilience in Africa*. We commend the efforts of the UNDSG-led Joint Steering Committee to Advance Humanitarian and Development Collaboration that seeks to pool the strengths of the UN and its partners to achieve a coordinated response to humanitarian-development-peace nexus challenges. We welcome the collaboration of the World Bank and the United Nations for their joint report on "Pathways for Peace", as well as the work of the OECD International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) and the Regional Development Banks, such as the AfDB and the ISDB, on that matter.

4 - We commit to promoting local ownership and solutions when tackling the main drivers of fragility. Peer-learning and South-South cooperation are key: in this respect, we support the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS) and recognize the g7+ Fragile-to-Fragile (F2F) Cooperation structure that encourages experience-sharing between fragile countries. We commit to providing locally-owned, harmonized and aligned development assistance in fragile countries, supported by mutual accountability, in line with Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005), Accra Agenda for Action (2008), Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (2011), and New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States (2011).

5 - We encourage further adaptation and innovation in intervention methods in fragile and conflict-affected settings, especially by promoting greater investments in prevention, resilience, preparedness and early action, building early warning-early action mechanisms and accelerating the identification and implementation of projects while improving the accountability and effectiveness of our assistance, including by prearranging finance for disasters through instruments such as insurance from the Africa-owned African Risk Capacity. We highlight the crucial importance of intervening at sub-national level and in the borderlands, especially in the most fragile areas, including by expanding our partnership to include intra-state territorial actors, regional actors and civil society, and making special consideration to promote the rights and protection of members of marginalised groups, including women and girls, persons living with disabilities, refugees, internally displaced persons, crisis-affected individuals and members of host communities.

6 - We commit to supporting developing countries' efforts to adapt and build resilience to shocks and stresses, including those resulting from climate change, food insecurity, conflicts, health emergencies and lack of access to energy. In that context, we encourage in particular Multilateral Development Banks and the private sector to strengthen investment in climate adaptation and resilience-building activities within developing countries, consistent with country plans.

7 - We support the implementation of effective, legitimate and rights-respecting justice and security services in order to establish an environment conducive to sustainable peace and development. We stress the importance of justice and security sector reform (SSR) to build the capacity of justice and security providers to fulfil their mandates, ensure equal access to justice and security with a particular emphasis on women and girls and with specific attention for the most vulnerable groups, and to



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guarantee respect of human rights. We commit to increasing emphasis on programmes aimed at strengthening democratic governance in the justice and security sectors, keeping in mind an objective to incorporate the Women, Peace and Security Agenda into our SSR support programmes, building on the efforts started in 2018, notably by the G7 WPS Partnerships Initiative as well as the UN SG's agenda for sustaining peace

8 - We commit to further exploring linkages between national and international initiatives relating to women, youth, inequality, peace and security: in particular, supporting the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and associated resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, as well as and "Youth, Peace and Security" Agendas.