

## Foreword

OECD member countries provided USD 46.7 billion in official development assistance to fragile states in 2009. This is a significant investment, but we still struggle to work with our partners in ways that support transformative results in fragile states. The fact that no low-income fragile state has yet achieved a single Millennium Development Goal (MDG) is a stark reminder both of the needs that drive all sides to focus on fragility, and of the daunting challenges that remain.

Evidence shows that effective support to transition requires collective and parallel engagement by different policy communities. Despite decades of experience, we have still not been able to build a response that effectively links humanitarian and development assistance, and that reconciles different principles and operational modalities in a way that supports transitions from conflict to peace. A change in both policy and practice is needed.

From Afghanistan to Haiti, and most recently in the Horn of Africa, we have witnessed the results of development approaches that are not designed to meet the challenges of fragile states in a timely and flexible manner. We know that in many of these countries, unrealistic expectations about capacities and ownership frequently cause delays in development assistance. In the absence of better development funding, humanitarian actors have been left to fill the void; yet humanitarian instruments are neither designed nor well-equipped to promote peacebuilding and statebuilding. This, in turn, has a negative impact on the prospects of a successful transition.

If we know all this, why has so little changed? Some of the problem might have to do with current approaches to managing risks. Transitions are high-risk environments for development investments and action, yet more often than not, the risks of not engaging in these contexts — both for the countries themselves and for the international community — outweigh the risks of engaging in the first place. The question, therefore, is not whether to engage, but how to engage in ways that are context-specific and do not come at an unacceptable cost.

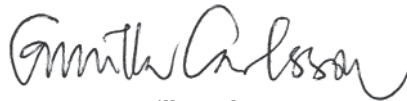
The Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan (2011) was a watershed moment for international development co-operation. More than 40 fragile states and development partners came together to endorse a New

Deal for Engagement in Fragile States, which gives clarity on priorities in these difficult contexts by setting out a roadmap for better use of both international and domestic resources. Built on a set of agreed peacebuilding and statebuilding objectives, the New Deal also recognises the need for focussed approaches that support country-led transitions out of fragility, and for accepting the risks of engagement with fragile countries. Developed by the DAC International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF), *International Support to Post-Conflict Transition* provides the guidance that development partners need to make good on the commitments they made at Busan.

To ensure that development resources are used to support the essential objectives of peacebuilding and statebuilding, we need to bridge the divide between policy and practice to deliver more rapid, flexible and risk-tolerant support. And because the vastly diverse contexts from one country to another can turn blueprint approaches into recipes for disaster, we cannot afford to take a “one-size-fits-all” approach. With these challenges in mind, this guidance calls for support focussed on peacebuilding and statebuilding to enable donors to deliver better results to those who need it most. The suggestions raised in this important publication merit in-depth discussion by all concerned development partners and will no doubt contribute to shaping the discussion about how to improve delivery in post-conflict transitions.



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**From:**  
**International Support to Post-Conflict Transition**  
Rethinking Policy, Changing Practice

**Access the complete publication at:**  
<https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264168336-en>

**Please cite this chapter as:**

Atwood, Brian and Gunilla Carlsson (2012), "Foreword", in OECD, *International Support to Post-Conflict Transition: Rethinking Policy, Changing Practice*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264168336-1-en>

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