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DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF)

INCAF Communiqué to the DAC

This document is the final version of the INCAF Communiqué to the DAC discussed during the 2025 INCAF Director Level Meeting under item 7 [see INCAF agenda [DCD/DAC/INCAF/A\(2025\)2/REV2](#)] and adopted on 8 July 2025.

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INCAF Communiqué to the DAC

On development, peace and stability

Communiqué

In his opening address to the 2025 INCAF Director Level Meeting, the DAC Chair called for a focus on the long game that includes investments in long-term conflict prevention and peacebuilding, in de-escalation and in smart interventions to deconstruct acute and structural threats. In response, as INCAF we reaffirm our collective responsibility to remain engaged with - and support - those countries and communities facing high and extreme levels of fragility. ODA often constitutes the largest source of external financing for these countries and communities, but these countries are also projected to face significant cuts to ODA in 2025 and the near term

In light of current geopolitical and geoeconomic dynamics, many OECD-DAC members are increasingly prioritising security, migration, trade and investments interests as key drivers of their foreign and development policies. These priorities converge in contexts of high and extreme fragility. Effective engagement in these contexts requires a strategic, whole-of-government and integrated security approach that decisively bridges the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus in order to balance security, peace, stability and prosperity for both partner countries and ourselves. Such an engagement combines both DAC values and national interests, maintains our commitment to multilateralism and provides a strong platform for cooperation and development, ensuring that security and defence responses are utilised when and where they are needed most.

INCAF considers that:

1. **Development cooperation and finance form a vital pillar alongside foreign and security policy.** Not integrating development goals may put foreign policy objectives and public resources at risk as inequality, poverty and failing state institutions contribute to instability. Sustainable development contributes to peace and security by addressing the drivers of fragility, conflict and migration; and this is particularly important in contexts of high and extreme fragility. Fragility can therefore be considered as a prioritising principle when rethinking the usage of increasingly limited ODA funding.
2. **Deterrence measures are far more effective if they are accompanied by peace and development cooperation.** Conflict prevention approaches offer proactive and cost-effective means to reduce fragility, prevent violent conflict and mitigate its spill-over effects, such as large-scale displacement. Helping countries and communities build resilience and reduce poverty requires an integrated approach to fragility that addresses the drivers of conflict and instability. As such, preventing conflict and reducing fragility are both a geopolitical and human security necessity. Deterrence alone is not sufficient in a landscape characterised by hybrid threats and increased fragility - including fragility triggered or aggravated by climate change, economic and fiscal uncertainty. Development cooperation plays a catalytic role not only by mobilising and adapting resources to the challenges of each context, but also by unlocking the conflict prevention potential of these resources.
3. **Understanding fragility is key when prioritising ODA in times of declining budgets.** As 72% of the world's extreme poor live in contexts facing high and extreme fragility, it matters to find the connections between risk- and resilience-related elements, as this allows to focus ODA more effectively on thematic priorities such as climate, gender, health, education and agriculture.

Protracted crises require increased engagement in development, peace and security, following a HDP Nexus approach.

4. **As mutual interests and shared risks become central to development cooperation, there is a growing need to engage with new donors and explore innovative partnership models.** DAC members are operating in a rapidly evolving global landscape, where many countries are forging new paths and partnerships to achieve their own development goals. This shift calls for more direct, fair and accountable forms of cooperation moving beyond financial aid to encompass economic, diplomatic and security relationships. Preserving sustainable development, peace and stability requires greater ownership, voice and leadership from partner countries to ensure credibility and mutual benefit.
5. **It is important to protect the climate and gender equality agendas to ensure their visibility and impact.** In the current context, immediate security, political and economic priorities risk diverting attention and resources away from long-term challenges like environmental degradation and gender inequality. This shift would be a strategic mistake: climate and gender issues are, and will remain, important drivers for social division and conflict. The impact of fragility on gender equality is already evident as rights are eroded, programmes are scaled back and data coverage deteriorates. These agendas must be safeguarded as integral parts of any sustainable and preventive approach to peace and development.
6. **Strengthening and safeguarding data, information and analytical systems is essential.** The quantity and quality of reliable data is at risk, even as technology for analysis advances. As a result, development actors must find innovative ways to integrate knowledge and evidence into policymaking across institutions—and ensure that analysis leads to concrete action whilst informing a strong narrative on the effectiveness of aid and co-operation. Data and analysis need to be connected, shared and communicated in order to make informed decisions, manage risks, design strategies and operations in a timely and increasingly local way.

The DAC is strongly encouraged to provide visible leadership on these issues to ensure mutual support to the foreign policy, development, peace and security objectives of its membership.