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DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE
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International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF)

INCAF COMMUNIQUE TO THE DAC - 2026

On development, peace and resilience

2026 INCAF Director Level meeting
Paris, 2-3 July 2026

This document is the final declassified text of the 2026 INCAF Communiqué to the DAC approved by members through the written procedure on 5 October 2026 and declassified through the written procedure on 16 October 2026.

It is being shared with members for information and wider dissemination.

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INCAF Communiqué to the DAC 2026

Geopolitical tensions and the erosion of global norms are converging with increasing pressure on international co-operation and declining development finance. Security, economic and geopolitical interests are increasingly shaping international engagement. These shifts challenge established models of development co-operation while creating opportunities for new forms of partnership based on both solidarity and shared interests.

Fragility exacerbates inequalities and vulnerabilities, undermining economic development and hindering the transformation of fragile economies into competitive markets that shore up resilience. These dynamics have regional and global consequences that directly affect DAC members.

Against this backdrop, DAC/INCAF members highlight key priorities for international engagement around security, economic partnerships and human mobility. Progress on these priorities requires confronting the interconnectedness of development, peace and resilience, and recognising the links between development co-operation and broader political, economic and security choices. In particular:

1. **Lasting security cannot be achieved through military means alone**. As such, peace is a sound political and operational objective. Addressing geopolitical tensions primarily through military means risks Addressing geopolitical tensions primarily through military means risks overlooking the underlying drivers of fragility, conflict, and instability. High levels of fragility create fertile ground for organised violence, forced displacement, illicit trade and trafficking, with consequences that extend beyond national borders and affect the security and prosperity of DAC members. Development co-operation can contribute to shared security by addressing the underlying drivers of fragility, conflict and instability, but should not be instrumentalised for short-term security objectives. Lasting security requires complementary political, diplomatic, development, peacebuilding and security responses, with prevention at their core.
2. **The world is facing a resilience crisis.** Countries with depleted fiscal, economic and social buffers face the highest risk of crisis and instability, often with regional and global spillovers. Successive and overlapping shocks and climate-related disasters can reverse hard-won development and economic gains, deepen poverty and inequalities and place additional strain on societies. Development co-operation can help absorb shocks before they become crises. Prevention should therefore be a strategic investment that strengthens early warning, preparedness and resilience, reducing future humanitarian, economic and security costs. This includes working through coalitions and alliances such as the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS) and promoting the meaningful participation of women, girls, displaced populations and youth, consistent with the Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security agendas.

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3. **Scarce development resources should be directed as appropriate towards the risks, vulnerabilities and populations most exposed to future crises**. As ODA declines and priorities shift, allocation choices have far-reaching consequences for people and communities facing the greatest risks. If development finance and ODA in particular is to reduce future humanitarian needs and help create the conditions for mobilising public and private investment, it should be deliberately directed towards higher-risk environments and populations that other forms of development finance and investment often cannot reach. Understanding fragility across all its dimensions can help guide resource allocation based not only on income levels or absorption capacity, but also on vulnerability, resilience and future risk.

4. **Resilience is most effectively built through and with local ownership**. DAC members can support conditions for peace, security and sustainable investment in line with effectiveness principles. Building partnerships grounded in local ownership, results and mutual accountability requires empowering local actors with strong contextual knowledge, ensuring their meaningful participation in decision-making and access to resources. It also means making trade-offs explicit, balancing investments that drive growth, such as infrastructure, with investments in early warning, preparedness and disaster risk reduction that underpin long-term resilience.

5. **Economic partnerships benefit from an alignment with goals of peace and stability,** providing a strong basis for pathways out of fragility. In a more transactional international environment, economic partnerships can provide mutually beneficial opportunities for trade, investment and development while contributing to peace and stability. Achieving this requires co-ordinated and sustained engagement across state and non-state institutions, development actors and the private sector, alongside support for inclusive and conflict-sensitive reforms. In countries exposed to fragility, conflict and violence, this also means addressing the incentives that sustain conflict economies.

6. **Investing in frontier markets calls for tailored financing approaches and realistic private sector engagement** Supporting transitions from high economic fragility to investable markets is a difficult yet critical step towards global stability and conflict prevention. Private finance should complement but cannot substitute concessional public finance in high-risk settings. ODA can help create the conditions for investment by supporting core economic functions including the rule of law, accountable, transparent and inclusive public institutions, access to finance and decent work opportunities, especially for women. Large-scale investments can contribute to resilience and stability when they are transparent, conflict sensitive and development oriented. These should not bypass vulnerable populations or reinforce conflict economies.

7. **The reduction and prevention of vulnerability remain the central purpose of the *Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus***. Coherence of action has become a strategic imperative. Coherently building resilience to overlapping and protracted crises requires renewed political and operational commitment. For DAC members this means strengthening joined-up responses based on locally owned plans, priorities and capacities while upholding International Humanitarian Law and humanitarian principles. Humanitarian, development and peace efforts should be mutually reinforcing and represent the basis for recovery in contexts exposed to high fragility and crises. A strong Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus approach, complemented by sustained political and diplomatic engagement and aligned financing and delivery efforts focused on shared outcomes can help address the drivers of fragility and conflict, prevent escalation and support lasting recovery and peace.

The DAC is strongly encouraged to provide visible leadership by helping members adapt development co-operation to a more fragmented and transactional environment. It should continue to shape standards, generate evidence, facilitate peer learning and policy dialogue while broadening engagement with partner countries, development co-operation providers beyond the DAC, multilateral and regional organisations, civil society, the private sector and other emerging actors. In doing so the DAC can help members align scarce resources, incentives and policies around prevention, resilience and peace, ensuring that international co-operation remains focused on sustainable development and the reduction of fragility while contributing to shared peace, security, resilience and prosperity.