UNDESA/DSD Guidance Note:
Developing National Sustainable Development Strategies in Post-Conflict Countries

13 July 2011
Monrovia, Liberia

Guidance Notes

- **Advisory support for sustainable development in post-conflict countries**

- **Address <u>challenges</u> and <u>opportunities</u> in peacebuilding and development**

- **Common post-conflict development issues**

- **Adaptable practical lessons and experience**

- **Support existing strategies – don't duplicate**

The "Five Elements"

- **Element 1: Understanding the Conflict**

- **Element 2: Linking Development and Peacebuilding**

- **Element 3: Managing Sustainable Development Processes in Post-Conflict Countries**

- **Elements 4: Building Capacities for Sustainable Development in Post-Conflict Countries**

- **Element 5: Sequencing and Prioritizing Policy Reforms in Post-Conflict Countries**

- **Entry Points for Sustainable Development in Post-Conflict Countries**

Element 1:
Understanding the Conflict

Rank the challenges according to their relevance in Liberia.

Why?

Element 1:
Understanding the Conflict

What challenges are most relevant in each pillar?

Why?

Element 1:
Understanding the Conflict

- Seven overlapping challenge categories are associated with unsustainable development and conflict relapse:
  1. Poverty, marginalization and vulnerability
  2. Unsustainable exploitation of natural resources and environmental deterioration
  3. Insecurity, militarization and lawlessness
  4. Societal divisions
  5. Poor governance, corruption and low capacity
  6. Poor economic performance, limited fiscal resources and disruption of infrastructure and public services
  7. Regional and external risks

Element 1:
Understanding the Conflict

- ● **ACTION PRINCIPLES**
  - ✓ **Consolidate existing analysis that considers these topics**
  - ✓ **Conduct needed *practical* analysis**
  - ✓ **Apply analysis**

Element 2: Managing Sustainable Development and Peacebuilding

- **Equity** across space, time, groups

- **Access** to services and other benefits

- **Triple Bottom Line**
  - Economy
    - Economic sustainability = Eradicate poverty, build livelihoods and wealth
  - Society
    - Socio-political sustainability = Respect for diversity and participation, improved quality of life
  - Environment
    - Environmental sustainability = Enhancement and conservation of natural resources – for future generations

Element 2: Managing Sustainable Development and Peacebuilding

- **ACTION PRINCIPLES**
  - ✓ Improve equity through pro-poor economic development
  - ✓ Focus on environment, natural resources and peacebuilding

Element 3: Managing Sustainable Development Processes in Post-Conflict Countries

- **Process qualities that support peacebuilding**
  - <u>Participation</u> = Builds relationships and social contract, grows existing knowledge, improves understanding of interests and expectations, leading to efficiency and trust
  - <u>Long-term perspective</u> = Identifies and avoids unintended impacts and entrenching problems, ensures policy coherence, unifies goals
  - <u>Iteration and improvement</u> = Enables action learning with analysis, policy, action plans, implementation, review; focuses on goals rather than producing a fixed plan

Element 3: Managing Sustainable Development Processes in Post-Conflict Countries

- **ACTION PRINCIPLES**
  - ✓ Have inclusive and meaningful participation
  - ✓ Address long-term impacts in short-term plans
  - ✓ Have mechanisms (procedures and organizational roles) to iterate and improve plans

Element 4: Building Capacities for Sustainable Development in Post-Conflict Countries

- <u>Data and data processing</u> allow for *informed* policy making, monitoring and evaluation of transformation processes

- <u>Functional institutional linkages</u> (within government, between state and civil society) allow knowledge and human talent to be shared formally and informally

- <u>Accountability mechanisms</u> hold governments and donors responsible for their actions helps reduce risk (a multitude of organizations active in post-conflict countries can enable corruption, rent-seeking, inequality)

- <u>Visionary leadership</u> is a tool for change – forward thinkers can be catalysts and guarantors of peace/stability/development; they can build coalitions for change)

Element 4: Building Capacities for Sustainable Development in Post-Conflict Countries

- ## ACTION PRINCIPLES
  - ✓ Improve data collection, analysis, use
  - ✓ Foster better institutional linkages for information and other resource sharing
  - ✓ Have proactive government role in allocating and managing aid
  - ✓ Build leadership for change

Element 5: Sequencing and Prioritizing Policy Reforms in Post-Conflict Countries

- **Phase I (0-3 years): Stabilization, quick wins, and priority setting**

- **Phase II (4-7 years): Transition governance and service delivery systems from emergency to longer-term "normal" standards; build legitimacy**

- **Phase III (8-10 years): Transition from externally-driven to internally-driven processes; comprehensive planning and strategies**

  BUT TRANSFORMATION IS NOT LINEAR
                                    – THESE PHASES CAN HAPPEN
  SIMULTANEOUSLY.

  DIFFERENT PEOPLE, PLACES, SECTORS HAVE DIFFERENT
  CHALLENGES AND SUCCESSES, AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
  NEEDS TO BE APPROPRIATELY ADJUSTED.

Element 5: Sequencing and Prioritizing Policy Reforms in Post-Conflict Countries

● **ACTION PRINCIPLES**

Operationalize the other ACTION PRINCIPLES, but narrow in and adjust to DIFFERENT CONDITIONS

✓ **Identify and address Phase I opportunities**
   (e.g., consider challenges, sector, people, place)
✓ **Identify and address Phase II opportunities**
   (e.g., consider challenges, sector, people, place)
✓ **Identify and address Phase III opportunities**
   (e.g., consider challenges, sector, people, place)

Entry Points for Sustainable Development in Post-Conflict Countries

- National Visions

- Poverty Reduction Strategies

- Other development planning efforts