

MEETING OUTCOMES

WBG-IMF SPRING MEETINGS 2017

“The Role of National Stakeholders in the Implementation of the New Way of Working” Event

Saturday 22nd April 9:00-11:00

Washington DC, USA

Summary:

1. This meeting brought forward the role of governments in the implementation of the New Way of Working (NWOW) across the humanitarian–development–peace communities. Bringing together high level representatives from Member States, multilateral and bilateral donor agencies, UN entities, ICRC and IFRC, and NGOs, the meeting identified and discussed the resources, steps, and systems needed to support government and national stakeholders in implementation of NWOW. This meeting built on commitments made at the World Humanitarian Summit in May, 2016 and the High Level Meeting on the New Way of Working in Copenhagen in March, 2017.
2. The participants welcomed the “New Way of Working” as “Our Way of Working.” Statements from the participants reinforced the increasing commitment to work across the humanitarian, development, peace communities towards collective outcomes to reduce needs, risks and vulnerabilities, and build peaceful societies, in country situations. The importance of peacebuilding, security reform, prevention of violent conflicts, and national and local ownership were highlighted across multiple interventions. Nationally led inclusive dialogue and reconciliation was recognized as key.
3. The discussions also recognized the importance of context and its specificities in advancing the NWOW. Crisis-affected member states called for the international community to change its way of working by better listening to the needs of national government and affected people and adapting to the specific context. Participants also recognized that principled humanitarian action is critical in certain situations, although national ownership is key.
4. The participants agreed that the NWOW is a multi-stakeholder agenda. The NWOW working is an agenda for all. This requires the international community to work with national governments and national and local stakeholders to articulate and progress collective outcomes across the humanitarian, development, and peace/security communities.

More specific outcomes include:

5. **Recognition of the importance of government leadership at both central and sub-national level in advancing the NWOW.**
 - Drawing on country-specific experiences of government leadership in crisis situations, affected governments committed to strengthen this approach when working to progress the

humanitarian-development-peace nexus through, building multi-stakeholder platforms for better development outcomes. Experience from domestic revenue mobilization during crisis, coordination of pooled funding, and Fragile to Fragile (F2F) learning, where the role of government has been instrumental in advancing the NWOW, were shared. Crisis-affected member states expressed a strong commitment to work together with the international community and to do the 'heavy lifting' to advance the NWOW in their own countries.

- Multilateral and bilateral organizations, and civil society committed to support the government leadership, where possible, to advance the NWOW. This includes support to short term life-saving humanitarian assistance and protection as well as strengthening longer term resilience through capacity building, enabling self-reliance and implementing sustainable development systems (services) through use of country systems and pooled funding, use of cash based instruments, capacity building for better coordination, etc. Furthermore, specific commitments were made to better listen to the needs of the affected governments and populations, and to work as much as possible through and with national governments and stakeholders where possible.

6. Restating commitment to implement the NWOW at country level.

- Participants reinforced their commitment to operationalize the principles and action plans agreed at the World Humanitarian Summit (including the Grand Bargain) in May, 2016 and the High- Level Meeting on New Way of Working in Copenhagen in March, 2017. Participants also reinforced their commitment to the principles outlined in the New Deal to support the government ownership and leadership in advancing the NWOW in fragile states.
- Participants committed to support the role of different actors in the implementation of the NWOW. The role of national government, and the critical partnership with peacebuilding and security actors were emphasized. In addition, the role of civil societies and national actors in providing leadership on the ground in advancing the NWOW, and the need for more investment to strengthen the CSO capacity was recognized. Public-Private partnership was also discussed recognizing SMEs' role in peacebuilding.
- Participants called for stronger leadership not only at the HQ level, but also on the ground. Several participants welcomed growing United Nations and World Bank collaboration on the ground, and committed to support or build structures and capacities within the government to take the leadership role in the long term.

7. Recognition of the need for the international community to work differently to advance the NWOW

- Multilaterals, bilaterals and other stakeholders committed to look inward (systems reform) to review how to support the NWOW going forward at country level. Some bilateral donors shared their own experience of structural reforms and instruments that have helped bridge the silos across the pillars. This reinforced the relevance of the Grand Bargain commitments made at the WHS.

- Multilaterals, bilaterals and other stakeholders committed to review more systematically instruments available to support the NWOW. This includes support for flexible seed funding for governments to make “smart” and short term system changes, as well as longer term agile, risk-willing development interventions adapted to fragile contexts; financial instruments that can support building resilience; cash based support; and more direct channeling of humanitarian assistance to local and national actors.
- Multilaterals, bilaterals and other stakeholders committed to provide more predictable financing to minimize gaps in financing.
- Participants committed to better learn from available experience and best practice. This includes commitment to better utilize lessons and experiences from the past, as well as learning and listening to the national government, local stakeholders and affected people.