

Workshop on "Jobs for Peace and Resilience, in the Framework of F2F Cooperation"

Hosted by the g7+, KAS and ILO

Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Brussels, 30-31 March 2015

Workshop Recommendations

The participants of the workshop on "*Jobs for Peace and Resilience in the Framework of F2F Cooperation*", are pleased to issue this outcome document of our meeting:

1. Participants recognised the fundamental importance of peace and resilience.
2. Jobs build peace; employment can support reintegration of ex-combatants, reduce social exclusion and inequality, and support broader economic recovery and poverty reduction.
3. National leadership and country ownership for is vital for job creation.
4. We recognise the potential of 'Fragile-to-Fragile' (F2F) cooperation; countries in fragile situations must learn from and assist each other.
5. Job creation in fragile countries requires an approach that takes account of fragility. We must:
 - a. Develop strategies that are tailor-made to the country context and that consolidate peace.
 - b. Focus on groups that have potential to drive conflict: young people, marginalised groups, ex-combatants and IDPs.
 - c. Give women equal opportunities to participate in the labour market.
 - d. Address underemployment, in addition to unemployment.
 - e. Focus on decent work both in the informal and formal sector.
 - f. Build better labour market data to support better decision making.
6. In the short term, government and development partners are often the main jobs-generators. Government and Development Partners must therefore:
 - a. Give priority to labour intensive programmes, public works and infrastructure development.
 - b. Target strategic sectors and activities, to meet urgent and basic needs.
 - c. Support micro-enterprises and SMEs, including through access to finance.
 - d. Support vocational skills, and the training of trainers, to meet immediate/urgent demands.
 - e. Ensure aid expenditure creates local jobs and builds local markets
 - f. Take advantage of outward migration (skills, remittances, skilled diaspora etc)
7. In the medium and long term, the private sector is important for the creation of sustainable jobs. This requires better infrastructure; access to finance; an improved skills-base; an enabling environment for business, including the rule of law; and support to manage risk.
8. Different actors have different roles to play:
 - a. Government institutions must lead at all times.
 - b. Development partners must be guided by four principles:
 - End fragmentation and duplication; scale up successful programmes
 - Use government systems under formal guidance of national entities
 - Focus on implementation, not creation of new plans and policies
 - Give sufficient time to programmes, and commit for the long-term