



THE AFRICAN CAPACITY BUILDING FOUNDATION | FONDATION POUR LE RENFORCEMENT DES CAPACITES EN AFRIQUE



“TWENTY YEARS OF CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT – AFRICA’S STORY”

AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DISCUSSION ON BUILDING CAPACITY IN POST-CONFLICT COUNTRIES

Guiding Issues/Questions:

1. The Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) promises to adopt policies for countries in fragile situations. This includes agreeing on a set of realistic peace and state building objectives that address the root causes of conflict and fragility, while “donors will provide demand-driven, tailored and coordinated capacity development support for core state functions and for early recovery and sustained recovery.” What does this entail in practice? Are peace and state building objectives different from objectives linked to country system strengthening? What are the challenges for capacity development support in fragile situations compared to other situations?
2. The complex and dynamics of state re-formation processes in fragile situations combine the complexities of interventions from multiple actors – multilateral, bilateral and international NGOs as well as diplomats and security sector actors – how can capacity development efforts/ interventions be better devised to meet the unique needs of fragile states in Africa?
3. State building is intimately connected to the political process through which social, political relations and power relations between holders of state power and organized groups in society are negotiated and managed. Can this process provide the basis for developing state capacity and legitimacy?
4. What, in your opinion, are the critical capacity development needs of post-conflict states on the African context? How different, if any, are these needs from that of post-conflict states around the globe?
5. Are there some good practices that demonstrate an endogenous process to enhance the capacity of institutions and legitimacy of the state driven by state-society relations?

6. How has Africa fared in fostering an understanding that capacity development is a political as much as a technical process and one that requires a sound understanding of capacity issues at the political leadership level?
7. What challenges do you foresee the continent's regional bodies facing in their attempts to identify solutions to negotiate the capacity challenges that confront African post-conflict states?
8. What factors should be considered in the capacity development of fragile situations in comparison to more robust and stable conditions?
9. What role, in your opinion, can "progressive and reforming" countries play to promote and shore up capacity development efforts that go far beyond stand-alone ad hoc interventions?
10. In negotiating the transition from post-conflict to "reforming" or "progressive" state, (a) is there space for civil society engagement in the capacity development project? (b) what role can/should civil society/private sector play to ensure sustained capacity development? (c) How should this role conflict, overlap, or dovetail with the role of government and the broader donor community?
11. To what extent can African governments leverage the medium of peer-learning and knowledge sharing, including south-south cooperation arrangements to address and effectively transcend the systemic impediments to local capacity development?
12. What key initiatives should African governments individually and collectively prioritize if the continent is to meaningfully transcend the fragility and uncertainty of the post-conflict state?
13. What development factors and governments' strategies should be privileged in the capacity development processes of fragile situations in comparison to more robust and stable conditions?
14. What should be done to ensure that capacity development interventions in fragile and post-conflict states go far beyond the proverbial stand-alone ad hoc interventions?
15. How critical are partnerships of development partners, governments, civil society and private sector to work with capacity issues and capacity development, particularly in post-conflict states? And how, if any does this differ from what is required in 'reforming' and 'progressive' states?