The African Development Bank has established a special panel to advise the institution on expanding its strategy for engaging with fragile states. The High Level Panel on Fragile States is led by the President of Liberia, H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. The eminent members have extensive experience with state fragility in Africa and its impact on development.

State fragility remains a major constraint to Africa’s development, and addressing that constraint is a top priority for the Bank. From 2009-2011, the Bank approved $2.5 billion for fragile states. Due to the dynamic nature of conflict and crises on the continent, support to fragile states must address the roots of fragility. At the same time, assistance must take the regional dimensions of fragility into account.

The High Level Panel on Fragile States will report to the President of the African Development Bank with recommendations to expand the Bank’s leadership and operational support to fragile states, assist countries at risk of slipping into “fragility-traps,” and equip the Bank to better address the regional dimensions of fragility and conflict.

“We believe that the special circumstances of fragile states need to be addressed. They are simply not the same as countries that are normal. The capacity of fragile states is weak, resources are scarce, and the imperatives of urgency are more intense because whatever you do is to ensure that you begin to consolidate those gains and begin to deliver to people in a much more timely fashion to manage expectations to prevent any chance of slipping back into conflict.”

– H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
President of Liberia

“With the help of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and a group of experts, we are crafting a new approach to help such countries to recover much faster and to minimize the impact on the neighborhood.”

– Dr. Donald Kaberuka
President of the African Development Bank Group