Ten things you should know about the engagement of the African Development Bank in fragile and conflict-affected situations

1. The African Development Bank has a long-lasting engagement in addressing fragile situations and building resilience. The Bank has integrated the fragility agenda in its core mandate since the adoption of the Post-Conflict Assistance Guidelines in 2001.

2. Since 2008, the Transition Support Facility (TSF) of the Bank mobilized UA 3.7 billion, contributing to supplying improved water and sanitation to 16 million people across the continent, securing electricity access to 5 million, and ensuring 5.3 million women benefit from improvements in agriculture, amongst other.

3. Since 2014, the Bank views “fragility as a condition and not a category of countries and recognizes that fragility can affect countries, regions, or areas within countries, middle-income and low-income countries alike.”

4. The acute need to address fragility and to build long-term resilience in Africa remains. Experiences demonstrate that threats of fragility can occur in any country; external shocks and pressures can weaken even those with strong capacity and stable institutions.

5. To measure levels of pressure and capacity within the countries and regions of Africa, the Bank has developed a unique diagnostic tool: The Country Resilience Fragility Assessment (CRFA). The CRFA allows comprehensive analyses of drivers of fragility and opportunities for building resilience. Such a tool can shape the engagement of development institutions and support national and regional efforts to transition to sustainable prosperity.

6. The CRFA tracks trends and produces a snapshot at the time of publication that informs dialogue with national authorities and regional organisations. Starting from a quantitative baseline, it identifies hotspots and opportunities for strategic and operational engagement with a view to managing risks and building resilience for the long term.

7. At the end of 2020, over 150 operations were designed with the mainstreaming of the fragility-lens and the quantitative outcomes of CRFA. The Bank aims to apply the fragility-lens in all its programming and operations to help identify targeted entry points for resilience-based interventions.

8. To address fragility, the Bank is selectively providing context-specific support towards strengthening state capacity and effective institutions; promoting resilient societies and regional stability; and catalyzing private investments for job creation and inclusive economic development.

9. To address fragility, there is no one-size-fit-all solution. Therefore, the Bank’s approach unpacks the concept of the fragility continuum through a clear differentiation of contexts of interventions, ascertain complementarity with global and regional agendas.

10. The Bank is in the process of developing its Third Strategic framework for Addressing Fragility and Building Resilience in Africa (2022-2026).