

Title of session: A new paradigm in Development Cooperation: Fragility and migration

Objective: To learn about the increasing engagement of ODA in fragile settings and the resulting challenges for cooperation actors, including how to reduce the spiral towards increased fragilization and migration.

Background:

Despite the importance of the agreement over a long term plan like Agenda 2030, which reaches out to virtually every development aspect, it is becoming clear that a considerable part of the Development community is increasingly concerned about short term challenges related to fragile states.

In that sense, ODA engagement in fragile settings is becoming a rule rather than an exception. Countries such as South Soudan, Somalia, Central African Republic, D.R. of Congo, Syria, Ukraine, Libya, Yemen, Iraq, or Afghanistan, pose significant challenges for ODA interventions both in terms of how to stop the spiral towards increased fragilization (notably as a result of protracted civil conflict) and how to encourage these countries progress in terms of sustainable socio-economic development. It is estimated that by 2030, fragile countries will concentrate 50% of the world's poor. In a way, it would seem that we are advancing towards overcoming the so-called poverty paradox and substituting with a much more complex fragility trap.

At the same time, the resulting migratory movements are encouraging heated political debates. In Europe, the impact of the refugee crisis and the overall challenges of migration have become a top concern of most EU Member States.

While it is acknowledged that the particular conditions in fragile states demand an integrated response, linking development cooperation, humanitarian relief, conflict prevention as well as peace and state building, how to put that into practice to develop better strategies and achieve more effective results remains work in progress. This session provides a good opportunity to revisit that and, at the same time, review the current level of dialogue between African and European partners in regards to the double challenge of fragility and migration.

Methodology: (1 hour 30 minute) moderated session with expert panel and discussion with the audience. Moderator and speakers (see Agenda)