

**Speech delivered by Lancedell Mathews, Executive Director of New African  
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Network**

**High-Level side event 'The New Deal: g7+ Experiences and Perspectives'  
United Nations, New York, 26 September 2012**

Excellencies,

It is an honor to speak to such a great audience after such eloquent speakers. I am proud to be able to **talk** on behalf of Civil society which is participating in the International Dialogue on Peace building and State building. As citizens of countries affected by conflict, we share the concerns of g7+ governments and support the peacebuilding and statebuilding goals - in that, progress on these issues holds the key to resilience and has great potential to lead our societies to broad based, inclusive, fair, and sustainable development. We are also of the opinion, and we made that loud and clear during many events this week, that the post 2015 development framework should incorporate a strong peace-building and conflict prevention agenda, since, as we all know, no low income conflict-affected country has achieved a single MDG. The MDGS do not capture the complexity of development work in fragile areas whereby processes are as important as outcomes. That is precisely what the New Deal is trying to achieve: through focusing on 5 very sound Peace and State building Goals, **countries** will find their ways to build resilient societies, with accountable governments responsive to people's needs and providing them with security, justice, social services and a chance to be included in decision-making processes. For that to happen, we need all stakeholders - governments, donors, international partners and civil society – to work together, in democratically-owned processes, to create the healthy state-society relations that must underpin peace.

It is our thinking that the New Deal is not only about the PSGs, FOCUS, TRUST and other acronyms. For us, it is essentially about building and maintaining honest, respectful and mutually accountable relationships, not only between the international community and states, but also and more importantly between both of them and the people they serve. As already mentioned throughout various messages that we spread this week, we believe that the New Deal should be used to change national planning processes because we strongly believe that peacebuilding, and conflict prevention, should and certainly must be made the priority if we want to see progress in development. This agenda is not only relevant for societies that are already conflict-affected – the events of the Arab spring and the global financial crisis show us that no society is immune from fragility – and that all societies can guard against it through the principles of inclusiveness, responsiveness, fairness and accountability.

While the PSGs support this, we are convinced that the post-2015 agenda should include commitments to work against those global factors that trap states in fragility: we mention transnational crime, irresponsible exploitation of natural resources, the flow of arms into conflict affected countries as some of the challenges that the UN can and should help the world to address.

As part of New Deal implementation, we have also been following closely and participating in the fragility assessments that were undertaken in pilot countries. We welcome the focus the fragility assessments have created for the honest conversations that are needed about drivers of conflict. Progress is being made towards more inclusive analysis and decision-making on peacebuilding and statebuilding priorities. We acknowledge and support the efforts by g7+ leadership to **slow** this process down, to ensure the fragility assessments produce quality results. It should be remembered that these are pilots. We should make the most of the

fragility assessments as a chance to unite states, societies and development partners behind peacebuilding and statebuilding strategies and to build capacities for future cooperation.

Linked to the fragility assessments, we should craft context sensitive and people focused indicators that will lead to common global measures of progress towards PSGs. True and effective participation of Civil Society will be instrumental in achieving this, and capacities need to be nurtured through collaborative civil society networking for this purpose.

We also say that we need to continue learning – we must not claim to now know what is the recipe for peace. We are excited that we have commitment to pursue a more coherent set of peacebuilding priorities in fragile states. – we pledge our support to monitor progress, share lessons across contexts and help all stakeholders to be accountable in new ways for upholding their people’s rights to peace. Ladies and gentlemen, excellencies, we are ready to work with you to build inclusive and peaceful societies.

Thank you!