

Global Agenda Council on Fragile States & Conflict Prevention 2012-2014



Understanding/Context

Some 1.5 billion people in an estimated 40 countries live in an environment marked by persistent conflict and fragility. Often referred to as “fragile and conflict-affected countries”, they are confronted by a myriad of simultaneous and often overwhelming challenges, including armed conflict or political violence, serious and persistent human rights violations, and threats from organized crime and terrorist networks. Viewed through a different lens, however, today’s fragile states are potentially tomorrow’s emerging markets. More than three-quarters of states classified as “fragile” possess extensive mineral and energy resources and post impressive growth rates. The riches and promise of conflict-affected states must be properly managed if they are to significantly contribute to peace and development. Likewise, lasting peace requires stakeholders to see themselves as partners and to collaborate – especially the private sector, which can contribute enormously towards peace. The links between fragility and violence, and the immense potential buried in conflict-affected states, must be reflected in new approaches and collaboration.

Shaping the Agenda

In 2013-2014, the Global Agenda Council on Fragile States & Conflict Prevention will partner with the Government of Myanmar and the Myanmar Peace Centre to take forward the recommendations of its report entitled *Natural Riches? Perspectives on Natural Resource Management in Conflict-affected Countries*, launched in June 2013 at the World Economic Forum on East Asia in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. In addition, the Council will publish its policy recommendations on how to harness private investment to realize the development promise of fragile states.

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The Council will also deepen its work on the new Millennium Development Goals by raising awareness among governments and businesses that peace and human rights are fundamental to development efforts, as described in a March 2013 opinion editorial.

Contact Information

Council Manager: Isabel de Sola, Associate Director, Global Agenda Councils, isabel.desola@weforum.org

Forum Lead: Martina Gmür, Senior Director, Head of the Global Agenda Councils, martina.gmür@weforum.org