



PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK ON THE WORLD BANK

Presentation of the World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security and Development

17 May 2011

Sarah Cliff, Co-Director of the World Development Report (WDR) 2011, presented a summary of the WDR at the French Development Agency -l'Agence française de développement (AFD) – in Paris on 17 May. Jean-Bernard Véron, Crisis Prevention and Conflict Resolution, AFD, chaired the event attended by academics, economists and civil society members in addressing the most significance areas of the [2011 World Development Report: Conflict, Security and Development](#).

Background

More than 1.5 billion people worldwide live in areas affected by violent conflict and high criminal activity. Without stability and security it is extremely difficult to build self-reliant states with strong economies. Access to health care, education, basic nutrition and stable employment is jeopardised by the presence of violent conflict. The WDR 2011 examines the changing nature of violence in the 21st Century, and addresses the negative impact of repeated cycles of violence on a country's development prospects. According to the WDR no countries suffering from repeated cycles of violence have achieved a single Millennium Development Goal. The Report is based upon new research, case studies and consultations with leaders and development practitioners throughout the world.

Presentation Highlights

Cliff began the presentation by addressing the importance of the state – without states no development is possible, she said. To prevent violence and build peaceful states, conflict areas need strong leadership and a concerted national and international effort. Cliff noted the importance of establishing trust between citizens and governments. A significant challenge for the development community is to take 'active' steps towards peace and, and not simply 'reactive' responses in times of crisis. However, she recognised the need for speedy reaction in times of extensive violence. Legal and economic institutions are also crucial in building dependable infrastructure which contributes to the stability of states. The report insists upon better governance of international aid and advises changes in the international approach.

When asked if there is a role for Social Protection (SP) in building peace, Cliff responded that SP is rarely the priority in conflict zones. She said health and education help to build dependable infrastructure while contributing to basic needs, but that tackling unemployment is the key to attaining stability. Peace and dignity surpass even the economic benefits of high employment levels, yet this challenge is often overlooked when distributing development funding.

The WDR 2011 is a useful resource for Parliamentarians and should be considered in future policy making. PNoWB urges Parliamentarians, especially in areas of violent conflict, to contribute to peaceful objectives, nationally and regionally, through the build up of stable institutions and job creation.

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