

Communiqué

On 11-12 February, 27 multilateral and bilateral Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) met at the Blavatnik School of Government at the University of Oxford, to share learnings and discuss how best to increase private investment into economies affected by fragility or conflict. The World Bank estimates that by 2030, around half of the world's extreme poor will live in these economies, underlining the importance of developing private sector solutions that can help improve peoples' lives. DFIs are in many ways uniquely positioned to contribute to jobs and economic transformation, including for youth, in fragile environments.

The 2020 Forum followed up on the commitments made at last year's inaugural forum, which included the creation of a series of pilot programs to increase effective collaboration of DFIs in selected countries. The discussions reflected on lessons learnt from these ongoing DFI collaboration pilots. It also discussed topics such as addressing higher risks involved in operating in fragile environments; increased early-stage collaboration to create viable projects through upstream activities; ways to maximise the impact of donor-supported investment facilitation; and the impact of de-risking tools and approaches including the use of concessional capital blended with commercial capital.

The Forum was hosted by the Blavatnik School of Government and co-organised by the International Growth Center, the CDC Group (the UK's development bank finance institution), the International Finance Corporation, and the African Development Bank.

H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Mo Ibrahim helped set the stage for the discussions. The governments of the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, as well as investors and businesses operating in fragile economies, also took part.

The multilateral and bilateral institutions agreed the following:

- (i) Responsible investments in fragile environments are global public goods. Therefore, DFIs are prepared to incur higher operating costs, risks, and capacity demands.
- (ii) There is considerable variation among fragile environments and, as a result, different investment approaches are required to address local operating realities.
- (iii) We achieve more together. We will strengthen the country pilot programmes, by:
 - a. Identifying barriers to private investment at country level and working together with governments and other stakeholders to remove them;
 - b. Fully and fairly collaborating on activities upstream of investments to build the pipeline of project opportunities; and
 - c. Regularly sharing lessons learned.
- (iv) Enhancing collective dialogue with development agencies and shareholders to improve complementarity, manage financial and non-financial risks, and work together on reforms to strengthen the business environment. The DFIs will invite development agencies to participate in the next forum.

CDC Group, the International Finance Corporation and the African Development Bank, in partnership with the Blavatnik School of Government and the International Growth Centre, will convene the next forum in 2021 to share learning and assess progress.