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Letter of invitation

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### **Invitation to Thematic Meeting on Diplomacy, Development and Integrated Planning in Fragile States, Oslo, Norway, 11-12 February 2008**

On behalf of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), in collaboration with the United Nations Development Group Office (UN/DGO), the World Bank / Fragile and Conflict-Affected Countries Group, and the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) we are pleased to invite an expert / senior official from your government / institution to participate in this Thematic Meeting which will take place in Oslo, Norway, on 11 and 12 of February, 2008.

The meeting is organised in response to the OECD/DAC High Level Meeting in April 2007 which requested thematic meetings to be organised at expert level on how to establish more coherent inter-ministerial approaches (also termed “whole-of-government approach”) within and among OECD governments and with international organisations, for operations in fragile and conflict-affected countries. We are seeking a balanced participation from policy communities dealing with diplomacy, development cooperation and defence / security. Hence, we would request you to identify and encourage participation also of colleagues from other relevant Ministries / institutions of your Government.

Please find enclosed a Concept Note on the background and objectives of the Thematic Meeting, which will assess experience and possibly formulate strategic recommendations on the interaction between diplomacy and development; as well as on integrated planning for post-conflict recovery. Two other Thematic Meetings will be organised in parallel; on Public Financial Management (to be hosted by Australia and France, in Paris) and on Security System Reform (to be hosted by the Netherlands, in the Hague). The outcomes of these Thematic Meetings will be presented at the OECD/DAC High Level meeting later in 2008, as well as to the UN and the World Bank.

The agenda is still being finalised. The meeting will be opened by Norway’s Minister of the Environment and International Development, Mr. Erik Solheim, and will be addressed by Norway’s State Secretary of Defence, Mr. Espen Barth Eide, as well as by high level UN and other international officials. Background papers are being prepared and will be distributed before the meeting. The meeting aims to ensure active participation, leading to possible recommendations. We therefore expect contributions by participants with knowledge of relevant policy issues and country-level experience.



The Meeting will take place at the Holmenkollen Park Hotel Rica (see: [www.holmenkollenparkhotel.no](http://www.holmenkollenparkhotel.no)) in Oslo, for two full days 11 and 12 of February. Participants will be expected to cover their own expenses for travel and accommodation (except special invitees). Please register as soon as possible to the Conference Secretary Nicolas Aasheim ([na@nupi.no](mailto:na@nupi.no)).

Further information, including full agenda and background papers, will follow. For any additional information, please contact the Conference Secretary or any of the contact persons listed in the Concept Note: Tone Tinnes (MFA, Norway); Arve Ofstad and Stein Erik Horjen (Norad, Norway); Sarah Cliffe, Laura Bailey and Homa-Zahra Fotouhi (World Bank); Jean-Luc Siblot (UNDG); and Juana de Catheu (OECD).

We hope for solid participation from across relevant ministries / government institutions, including diplomacy, development cooperation and security / defence, as well as from outside the OECD members, relevant multilateral agencies, and special resource persons from the academic and non-governmental communities.

We look forward to welcoming you in Oslo for an exciting and important Thematic Meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Poul Engberg-Pedersen  
Director-General

Arve Ofstad  
Policy Director