One Year Update on ongoing work against the IDC’s ‘The UK decision to end Bilateral Aid to South Africa’ recommendation.

Recommendation 1

We recommend that, in any future BAR, DFID spending reflect what it is able to achieve in increasing security. Large sums should not be spent just in the hope of increasing security and stability, but be based on what it is possible to deliver.

Response

Agree

DFID is already making informed, realistic assessments of what it is possible to deliver in fragile and conflict-affected states, including on security and stability.

DFID is looking at its future business model and the prioritisation of its resources across countries following the 2013 Spending Review. Our resource allocation decisions will take into account security and stability objectives across our programmes, as part of a cross-HMG effort to build countries characterised by sustainable peace and stability, which can support economic development, human development and poverty reduction.

DFID policy is that an understanding of local context is crucial to ensure informed programming and gain a realistic assessment of our added value. Detailed country context analysis, which identifies the key barriers to exiting poverty including conflict and instability inform wider decisions and shifts in DFID's aggregate portfolio. DFID's country work is also aligned with relevant joint cross-Whitehall strategies (and from 15/16 the new Conflict, Stability and Security Fund) and with our commitments under the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States agreed at Busan in 2011.

One year update

DFID’s allocation of resources following the 2013 Spending Review was based on a detailed country context analysis which identified the barriers to exiting poverty including security and stability. We used this analysis to help us make informed, realistic assessments of what it is possible to deliver in fragile and conflict-affected states, including on security and stability.

DFID continues to work closely with other UK Government Departments on improvements to the UK’s framework for tackling conflict and instability overseas. This includes: an annual National Security Council (NSC) assessment of conflict, stability and security and agreement on prioritisation of effort and financing; reform of the UK’s engagement in each priority county or region at risk of instability to ensure a more integrated approach; and improved cross-government conflict analysis to support more effective engagement. The establishment of a new Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) in 2015/16 will support a larger and more integrated UK effort in NSC priority countries.