



International
Growth Centre

International Growth Centre
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PRESS RELEASE

IGC hosts Africa launch of LSE-Oxford report on state fragility, featuring Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Donald Kaberuka

The International Growth Centre (IGC) will host the African launch of the global report on state fragility entitled [*Escaping the Fragility Trap*](#) and the Sierra Leone case study entitled [*The underlying causes of fragility and instability in Sierra Leone*](#) on Tuesday, 24th July, 2018 at the Miatta Conference Centre starting at 9:00 am. **His Excellency Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone** has graciously agreed to give the keynote address. Former Liberian President HE Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Former African Development Bank President Dr Donald Kaberuka will also speak at the event.

The global report was prepared by the Commission on State Fragility, Growth and Development, hosted by the IGC and sponsored by the London School of Economics (LSE) and University of Oxford. The Commission's report *Escaping the Fragility Trap* was previously launched in May 2018 in Washington by former UK Prime Minister David Cameron, who serves as Commission Chair; Professor Sir Paul Collier, who serves as the Commission's Academic Director; and Dr Kaberuka, who serves as Commission Co-chair.

The global report presents a new approach to addressing state fragility – one focused on developing an inclusive political consensus locally and calling for a radical shift in international support to countries affected by conflict and instability. The Sierra Leone case study examines the socio-political and economic dynamics of the country through the lenses of state legitimacy, capacity, security, the private sector, and resilience, to understand the root causes of the country's historical and present fragility.

Dr Kaberuka said: "Escaping fragility is by necessity, a slow, step-by-step, and often imperfect process. International support will be needed, but the chances of success are higher if the country and its people are in the driver's seat. Escaping fragility is not always about money. Top-down, donor-led approaches with unrealistic, tight timetables have not produced enduring results. Early efforts will be needed to revive the local private sector which is often the lifeline for families and communities when the state can no longer assure its basic core functions. Confidence generated by domestic businesses is what will spur foreign investment, not vice versa."

The event on 24 July is aimed at creating an opportunity for frank discussions on how to promote resilience by addressing the root causes of Sierra Leone's fragility. Also, with the desire of government to set up a National Commission for Peace and Cohesion, the IGC aims for the discussions and recommendations from the event to contribute to the design and work of the National Commission, and for Liberian participants attending the event to take further the reflections and ideas that will emerge from the event.

The event will be livestreamed, and the public is encouraged to follow and contribute to the discussion on radio and/or television.

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Notes to editors

The LSE-Oxford Commission on State Fragility, Growth and Development is funded from the LSE Knowledge Exchange and Impact (KEI) Fund and the British Academy's Sustainable Development Programme through the Global Challenges Research Fund. The Commission is chaired by David Cameron and co-chaired by Dr Donald Kaberuka and Dr Adnan Khan. Professors Tim Besley (LSE) and Paul Collier (Oxford's Blavatnik School of Government) are the Commission's academic directors. Find out more about the Commission and access the reports at: www.theigc.org/fragilitycommission

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