We welcome and appreciate the World Bank Strategy for Fragility, Conflict and Violence and the opportunity with this consultation.

As others mentioned, we find the focus on partnerships important and that this could be clarified further. We would like to underline local actors to be of great importance and this could be even more prevalent in the strategy.

Particularly on partnerships with actors at local level who are not development actors, which you highlighted in your presentation. In your presentation and in the concept note we, however, find no mentioning of religious actors. This could be important to include and we would support this. Especially since this is an area where you as the World Bank are engaged already and have expertise to draw upon. If not already consulted, we suggest that perhaps the World Bank “Faith Initiative” team as well as the “Inter-Agency Task Force on Religion and Development” would be consulted regarding this (and/or PaRD – International Partnership on Religion and Development and its SDG 16 Sustaining Peace Workstream). Perhaps sources as “Realizing the Faith Dividend: Religion, Gender, Peace and Security in Agenda 2030” (UNFPA) could be useful as well*.

The focus on “inclusivity” has a focus on gender and youth, which is good. However, inclusivity and partnerships could benefit from emphasizing a cross-group principle in the strategy. This including religious, social and ethnic cross-group context and conflict analysis and securing it in implementation (principle to strengthen emphasis on not inadvertently to be partisan in implementation). A cross-group focus is important where conflicts run along lines of group-identities (in analysis and targeting implementation). Also, the focus could to a larger extent include a principle on targeting most marginalized and embedding also this in an Agenda 2030 with the “leave no one behind” perspective.
* Please see https://www.sdgfund.org/realizing-faith-dividend-religion-gender-peace-and-security-agenda-2030: “The UN Secretary General is on record as speaking to the importance of faith-based organizations in the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, noting that they have a role to play in his policy of developing transformative multi-stakeholder partnerships over the coming five years.

The perspectives, ideas and initiatives discussed in these pages bring together experiences and policy analysis shared from the different realities of donors, UN agencies and Faith-Based NGOs. The richness of these narratives both build on and inform current policy formulations which are required at a time when religion is often seen too flippantly as a 'problem' by secular institutions which also have a legacy of partnerships as yet under appreciated.”