

# Challenges and Opportunities of Addressing So-called State Fragility in Africa

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Mimicking the state

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- **Risk two:**  
Overlooking grounded and 'non-conforming'  
capacities for order and peace

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- Discrepancies between stated objectives and actual commitments to reform

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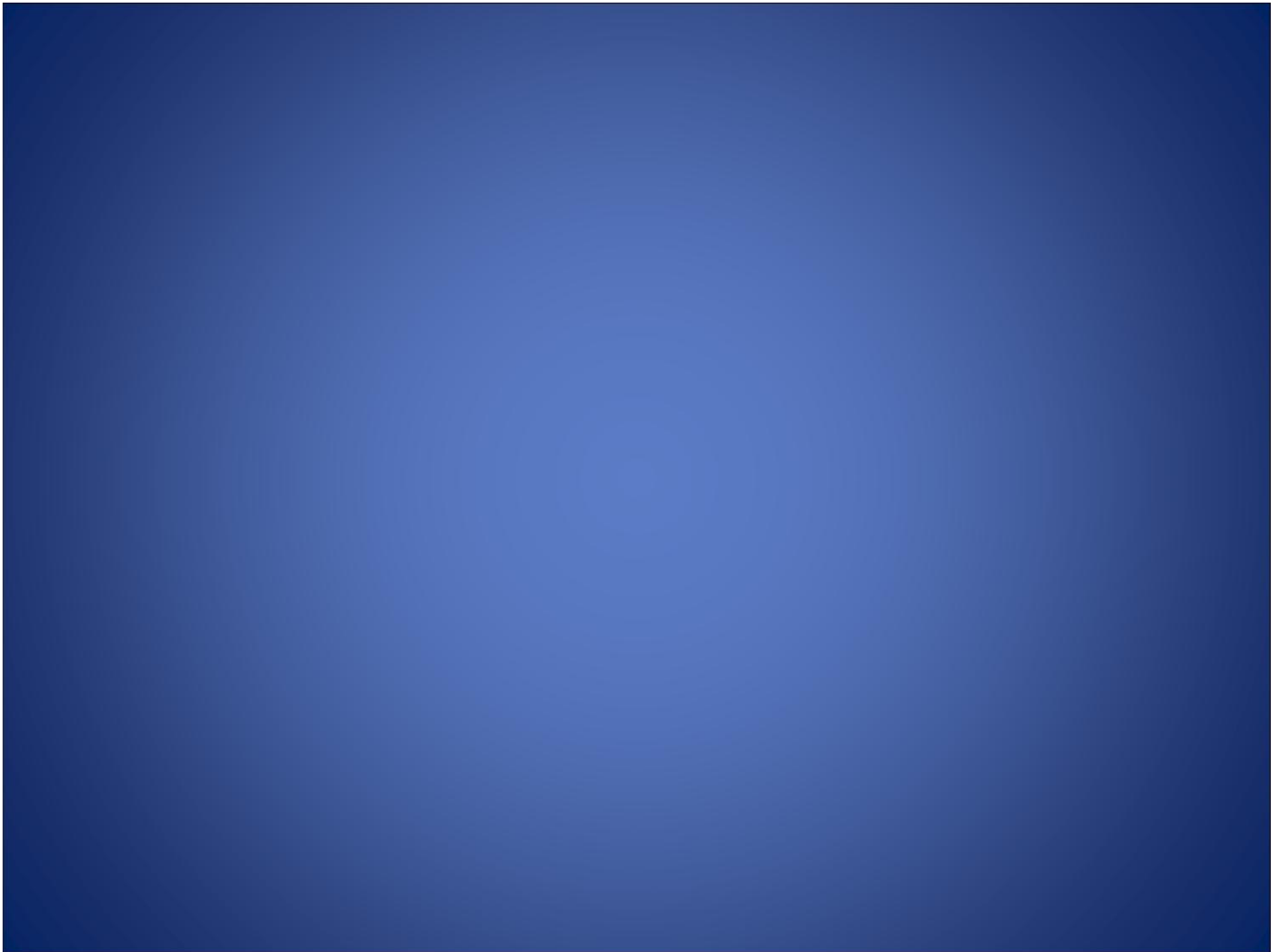
 strengthening state-society relations

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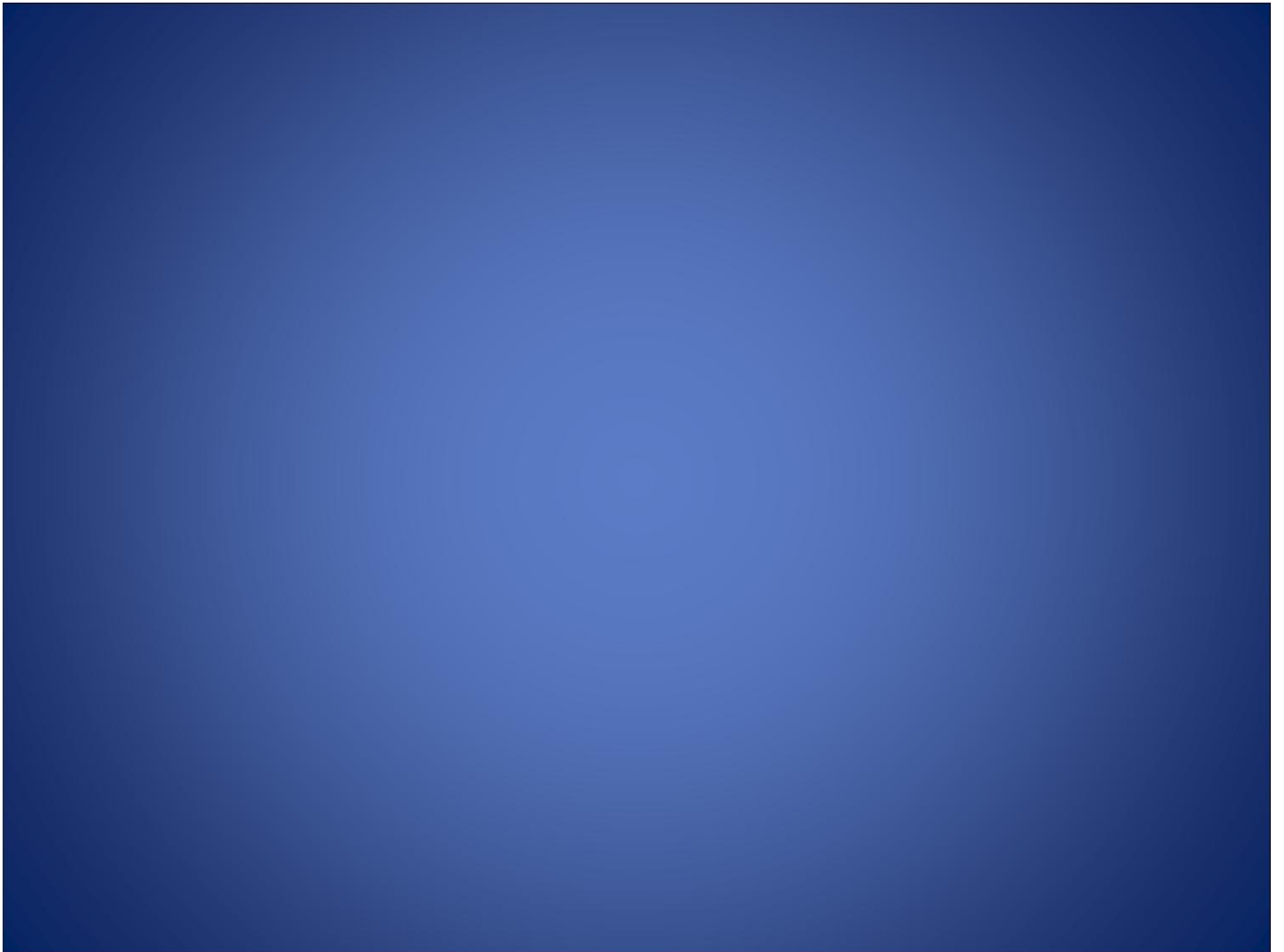
 strengthening state-society relations

 reducing fragility



State formation can be understood as ‘the dynamic, historically informed, often contingent process by which states emerge *in relation to societies*’

— OECD 2008, my italics



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- Focus on legitimacies rather than legitimacy
- Aim at expanding the space for 'negotiating legitimacy' (state-society bargains)