



Newsletter

February 2015

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Welcome from the g7+



HE. Kaifala Marah, Chair of the g7+

Fellow members, partners, and friends, I welcome you to the first edition of our 2015 g7+ Newsletter.

As you may know, 2014 was productive and challenging in two respects. Firstly, we reached defining milestones in our work, which sets the ground for a promising 2015 that anchors our group as a vital association in the new global landscape of the post 2015 development framework. Secondly, the outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa that affected the three g7+ countries of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone left us in deep reflection on the fragilities of our countries and reaffirmed the urgency of building peaceful societies and effective institutions.

We are pleased to say that we have spared no efforts in launching our work for 2015. We have managed to put the generous donation of 2 Million USD by the government of Timor Leste, through the g7+, to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra and we can safely say that we are gaining the upper hand in the battle against Ebola.

We are also very pleased to announce that

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 has been secured in the official list of 17 goals. This is as a result of our collective hard work in joining our voices to sensitize the international community about the real challenges linked to fragility and ensuring that lessons learned from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are taken onboard in the SDGs so that no one is "left behind".

In addition to advocating for SDG 16, it is imperative for our group to advocate and fully engage partners on our journey to the 3rd International Conference on Financing for SDGs for the Post-2015 Development Agenda, to be held in Addis Ababa in July 2015. It is however important that we do not end our efforts half-way through the debate, since the careful selection of "indicators" and "targets" will determine the level of significance of SDG16 to our overall objective. This will help us influence the priority setting process during the Financing for Development (FFD) regional and global consultations, aiming at diversifying and securing effective streams of finance for sustainable development in our respective countries.

Another defining moment for our group will be the official launch of our Fragile to Fragile Cooperation Framework (F2F), as an institutional pillar in the way we stay united on our pathways to resilience, under the principles of volunteerism, solidarity, and co-operation as outlined in our Charter. In the spirit of F2F and as chair of the g7+, I'd like to applaud on behalf of the group, the recent High-Level visits to the Democratic Republic of Congo and Central African Republic by our g7+ delegation led by the Eminent Person of our Advisory Council, Hon Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao. This mission demonstrates to the world our commitment to the call of our member countries, whether undergoing acute crisis or seeking to galvanize national efforts around their ONE VISION ONE PLAN for development.

The success of the work that lie ahead, including the initiatives already set in motion, will depend on our ability to keep the momentum in uniting our voices and in working closely as a group with our partners to accelerate our common goal of "building peaceful societies and capable institutions."

Enjoy this first g7+ Newsletter of 2015. We hope it will set the tone for our collective enthusiasm and a very successful year.

Summary of Activities

From January thru March, the g7 + Secretariat has undertaken various networking and outreach activities with the main focus being on the advancement of g7+ ideas and strategic agenda in the global policy forum that will affect member states, both directly and indirectly. Here are the highlights: In order to cast a look into 2015, Dr. Helder da Costa, General Secretary discussed the role of good governance, and the rule of law within the post-2015 Agenda, by participating in the High Level Podium Discussion: Dignity and Justice for All Post-2015 Agenda and Good Governance, organized by KAS and hosted by Davor Stier, Member of European Parliament in Brussels. Additionally, the Deputy General Secretary of the g7+, Habib Mayar presented at the World Bank Fragility Forum in Washington DC (11-13/02/2015). This forum is considered important for g7+, as it aims to explore trends, challenges, and opportunities to exchange views and experiences and to increase the effectiveness of development efforts carried out in fragile states and conflict situations

The WB Fragility Forum 2015 set a major theme: "Redefining Fragility, to End Poverty", Attended by over than 1000 practitioners worldwide during this focus to issues of fragility, conflict and violence. As a platform with the main focus on policy advocacy, Deputy General Secretary of the g7+, Habib Mayar, emphasized the importance of: capable institutions to ensure the sustainability of such initiatives. In addition, lack of capacity to measure and assess the wealth in the form of natural resources that have resulted in unfair contracts and arrangements with the investors and corporations that costs us billions of dollars of loss every year was also highlighted.

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Meanwhile in a workshop with the theme Amplifying the voice of Civil Society on the New Deal, organized by Civil Society Platform, Habib Mayar also outlined the importance of creating synergies through partnering with the State in a constructive rather than contradicting way and how this is what the New Deal is all about. In addition, the CSOs in the North (INCAF countries) were requested to play a stronger role in seeking buy in from the governments to meet their commitments as New Deal Endorsers. The WB Fragility also proposed and approved that the g7+ will be one of the main counterparts and will have to be consulted from time to time on the future direction of the SPF.

The launch of the State of Fragility Report by OECD also occurred, and the g7+ secretariat took part in the launch as a member of the panel of this annual report. g7+ secretariat emphasized the need to understand what it means to fund and support the PSGs. Funding PSGs should not mean random sector wide allocation of funds. It is rather investing in the state institutions through the state institutions to support the foundation of the state. In order to realize the PSGs, there is need of trust among the actors (donors, govt. PSD). Secondly, it is not only amount of aid that matters, but equally important is the quality of the funding.

For the Post 2015 Development agenda, the g7+ Secretariat met with missions of Sierra-Leone, Timor-Leste, UNDP (section working on indicators), Safer World, and among others, attended one of the UN workshop session on statistics. Based on the discussion with the mentioned stakeholders, following up on this initiative will help the g7+ Secretariat in moving forward our groups action plan in relation to the Post 2015 agenda including the recruitment of Liaison officer for Kinshasa and New York to follow up closely on the Post 2015 Development agenda discussions, events, and implementation agenda.

The strengthening of g7+ as an institution is also being conducted to establish active communication and plans of cooperation with various international organization that are relevant to the mission and interest of the g7+. Currently we're working closely with the UNDP Bureau for Policy Program Support (BPPS); with UNEP regarding geo mapping and concession. Therein; also with Institute of State Effectiveness (ISE) which committed to provide technical support and training to the g7+ senior officials. Last but not least is the preparation for the next WB/IMF Spring meeting 2015 in Washington, DC.

It is in the spirit of F2F that the g7+ Secretariat has mobilized a high level delegation to visit our two fellow g7+ member states, at the invitation of the Government of both countries, led by Hon. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, Eminent Person of the Advisory Council of the g7+, accompanied by Madame Emilia Pires, g7+ Special Envoy, and Dr Helder Da Costa, General Secretary of the g7+. ***

g7+ Update

International conference in support of Guinea-Bissau



g7+ Update

FCAS for the Post 2015 Development Agenda



Mr. Habib Mayar, Deputy General Secretary of the g7+ Secretariat, presenting in Financing for Development (FfD) discussions in Beijing, China - (24/03/2015), advocating for Fragility and Conflict Affected Situations (FCAS) for the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

Brussels, 25/03/2015 - An international conference in support of Guinea-Bissau, co-chaired by the Government of Guinea-Bissau, the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was held with the objective to mobilize resources to support the country's reconstruction efforts, strengthen its democratic institutions and its progress towards the socio-political and economic stability.

With the motto: "Guinea Bissau, Terra Ranka, a new beginning of Guinea Bissau", in the conference were, among others, the following important personalities: Neven Mimica, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, José Mario Vaz, President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, Hernani Coelho, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste, Ambassador Murade Murary, Executive Secretary of CPLP and representatives of countries and international organizations.

At the end of the conference with the participation of 70 countries and institutions, it was stipulated that the international community will closely follow the development program of Guinea-Bissau. This conference has mobilized more than 1 billion euros in cash, goods and services contribution, proposed investments and loans at reduced interest rates to finance projects included in the Operational Strategic Plan of Guinea Bissau. The Prime Minister of Guinea Bissau, H.E. Domingos Simoes Pereira said that it is time to end the vicious cycle of instability and move on to forge the virtuous cycle of peace and prosperity, and he thank all the international community for their support and solidarity to Guinea Bissau.

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Official Visit of g7+ Delegation to D.R.C and C.A.R

In the framework of strengthening good relationship among member countries of the g7+, a high-level delegation the g7+ visited the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Central African Republic (CAR), from 23 February until 3 March 2015. The visit aimed to exchange experience on the implementation of the New Deal, discussions focused on Natural Resource Management, public finance and private sector development. In addition, support for the peace and reconciliation efforts in CAR was given high priority. The visit also encouraged the two countries to sign the g7+ Charter.

DRC, 22-25 February 2015, during a 4 days visit the delegation met with various development partners such as Congolese high-level government ministers, private sector, civil society and other key groups in Kinshasa. This visit allowed us to witness the significant achievements obtained during the last 10 years, notably in the improvement of political inclusive, security and economic development. The delegation was taken on a tour of the capital city Kinshasa, organized by the Ministry of Planning and Modernization of DRC. This visit showed us various examples illustrating service delivery from the state, including public health and capacity building for the future national work force, local entrepreneurship, job creation and inclusive rural development.

The delegation led by Hon. Xanana Gusmão, the Eminent person of the g7+ Advisory Council, also warmly welcomed by the Prime Minister of DRC H.E. Augustin Matata Ponyo, in Kinshasa. H.E. Matata Ponyo, outlined to the delegation the national development vision of D.R.C which includes the development of mining, infrastructure, agriculture, forestry and fostering social cohesion in the country. Further discussion was had about the challenges faced by DRC in four major areas such as agriculture, forestry, mining and infrastructure development in the context of strengthening national cohesion. In this opportunity Hon. Gusmão proposed to DRC to consider setting up a Mineral Fund for future generations, following the experience of Timor-Leste, in view of the natural resources abundance in DRC, in the same occasion, the g7+ charter was discussed for endorsement by DRC The Prime Minister of DRC agreed in principle to pursue the subject matter. In relation to natural resources issue, on 24/02/2015, Hon. Xanana also took on a site visit to Inga, the biggest Hydropower in Africa, located at the border between DRC and Angola.



A series of presentation, outlining the milestones achieved in public finance management, aid transparency, coordination, statistics and capacity building in the Ministry of Planning and Modernization of DRC provided further knowledge and insights to the delegation. Most of the presentation covered concrete achievements and overall substantial progress; DRC accession to IETI, the development of DRC aid portal, trainings and certifications for civil servants using global standards in the last 10 years. Subsequently, the delegation also attended two sessions of workshops to discuss and brainstorm with national stakeholders regarding the new Liaison Officer post in Kinshasa, and on how they can all contribute to the impact, benefits and success of this Liaison post. The final session of workshops discussed the New Deal implementation organized by the Ministry of Planning and Modernization of D.R.C, attended by key stakeholders, government representatives, development partners and civil society.

C.A.R: The g7+ Delegation arrived in Bangui C.A.R on 26/02/2015 for a 6 days visit, with the aim of supporting the efforts of C.A.R's Transitional Government in its consolidation of a national dialogue for peace. Discussions also set out to identify ways the g7+ could contribute to CAR's preparation of the upcoming Bangui Forum, involving all stakeholders; civil society, public government, political parties, religious groups and other relevant groups involved in the recent political crisis, but now seeking pathways towards national reconciliation. Given this context and in the spirit of the g7+ Fragile to



Fragil (F2F) cooperation initiative, the Eminent person of the g7+ Advisory Council, Hon Gusmão Xanana accepted an invitation by the Prime Minister, H.E. Mahamat Kamoun, to lead a delegation in CAR that will discuss and share Timor-Leste's experience in the process of reconciliation.

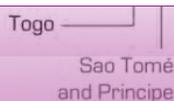
While still in CAR the delegation met with high-level government officials, representatives from the international community, and other relevant stakeholder groups to listen to aspirations, grievances and expectations on the ongoing political crisis in C.A.R. All parts gave their perspective and opinion on the current political situation in this transitional period in an open atmosphere of exchange ideas. Under the banner of the g7+, Hon. Xanana Gusmão described that the future of the country lays in the hands of the people of C.A.R, which requires strong leadership, an atmosphere of peace to set the development agenda. Ultimately he urged the C.A.R people to work towards peace, stability and regain confidence through dialogue and reconciliation.

Conclusion

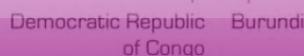
Overall, the mission was a great success. The presence of the Eminent person of the Advisory Council of the g7+ accompanied by the g7+ Special Envoy and the g7+ General Secretary has rallied in both countries for political buy-in at the highest level, involving the respective Prime Ministers and echoing our work to the Presidents of both DRC and CAR. In both countries, our presence served as a momentum to galvanize the inclusiveness of the implementation of the New Deal. This was done by providing local stakeholders an opportunity to come together and discuss issues affecting them individually under a uniting vision structured around the PSGs.

In DRC, for example the aforementioned enthusiasms was apparent with the local press being very active in covering our mission and with the strong will of all stakeholders in accommodating our schedule and ensuring their participation at the highest level. From the civil society, to the international community, all the way to government authorities, we were exposed to an inspiring level of dedication. Similarly in CAR, the political buy-in was extended to both factions that have been opposed during this crisis. They both expressed to us that they considered our presence as "their last hope" for a constructive peaceful reconciliation dialogue, and looked to the Bangui Forum as an opportunity to achieve inclusive success. As we arrived and expressed our intentions and vision, the Eminent person of the Advisory Council of the g7+ was given the privilege to address the opening session of the Transitional Assembly. This decision was made by the President of the Traditional Assembly who felt that our message needed to be heard at the highest level. This is also why Hon Xanana Gusmão was, at the end of the mission, invited to be a guest of honor at the Bangui forum.

In both countries, the enthusiasm expressed by all stakeholders of this mission was communicated to us as an endorsement and appropriation of the spirit of Fragile to Fragile Cooperation. By the end of our mission, F2F became a widely understood and used term to embody the principles of solidarity, voluntarism and cooperation. It is under the F2F that we are going to: (i) share knowledge with D.R.C on Natural Resources Management and Private Sector Development by sending g7+ experts to Kinshasa (ii) conduct the peace/reconciliation dialogue in Bangui (iii) be present at the Bangui forum to present the outcomes of the peace-reconciliation dialogue and provide more insight on how to prepare for the presidential and legislative elections in C.A.R.



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Discussion and agreement with SL mission:

- The mission has circulated the ToR for Liaison officer for consultation among the g7+ missions for their inputs, which will then be considered for recruitment process among the g7+ missions in NY.
- In anticipation of the debate on the targets and goals (with less chances of re-negotiations on the goals at the UN during 23-27 March, it is imperative that a g7+ meeting be convened at the Ambassador (PR to UN) level either before or during the mentioned time. The objective of the g7+ meeting will be to agree on the broader strategy regarding the post 2015 targets. The secretariat, which will be informed, remains available for any support for that meeting.
- There is a need to develop consensus among the g7+ missions in NY on our common position on the indicators and means of implementation related to post 2015 development agenda. In this regard, the secretariat will share draft papers on indicators and means of implementation for the mission to consult with other g7+ missions and develop consensus on our position on these 2 matters. The ambition is to develop that consensus well before the Addis meeting on means of implementation in July 2015. One of the expected outputs of our written position will be to ensure that the statements of the g7+ member states on any of these matters in line with a broader common position of the group.
- A g7+ mission retreat at Ambassador Levels is planned and again the secretariat remains available for support. The aforementioned meeting will serve to identify time and other specifications of the retreat.
- We need to enhance coordination and regular discussion between the secretariat and the Sierra-Leon mission to ensure a timely support is provided from the former on any related matter.
- Timor-Leste mission think we have to be cautious while intending to develop or advocate for a common position on the indicators as it might result in giving more reasons and arguments for the opponents of the SDG number 16.

Discussion with other actors such UNDP (managing the virtual network on the indicators), Safer world and CSO:

- Safer world ensures us of any possible support in analysis or writing us of the position papers on any of the above related to post 2015.
- g7+ secretariat is and will be part of the virtual network on the indicators. The active participation in that virtual discussion will add value to the discussion.
- While fragile countries have been low profiled on the discussion regarding the means of implementation so far, we have to turn no stone unturned to leverage the profile of the FCS in the means of implementation.
- There has been constant shift in the position of some countries in the discussion on Financing for Development.

Next steps:

- The g7+ secretariat will have to finalize the draft papers on the indicators and means of implementation and share it with the SL mission for wider consultation
- The g7+ secretariat and SL mission will talk more regularly from now on.
- The secretariat will have to find out if any g7+ countries are participating in the Addis meeting on Financing for Development and hence ensure that the coordination is in place to seek their buy in for our position.
- The g7+ Special envoy is expected to participate in the mentioned meeting.

From the desk of the GS

2015 is labeled as the deadline of the MDGs and the beginning of a set of Sustainable Development Goals, under negotiation in New York. It is an opportunity for the g7+ to raise awareness for development challenges,



Dr. Helder da Costa, GS of the g7+ Secretariat

particular Goal no. 16 proposed by the Open Working Group: "Building peaceful societies to promote rule of law and effective and accountable institutions". It is encouraging to see that peacebuilding and statebuilding are well featured in the synthesis report by the UN DG Ban Ki Moon in December 2014. We, the g7+ family hope that this goal will continue to feature prominently as a stand alone goal to ensure no one is left behind in the next 15 years.

The first quarter of 2015 saw an increasing level of engagement from the g7+ Secretariat staff and its partners in sharing policies through 5 priorities agreed in the Lomé g7+ Ministerial Meeting, namely: Implementation of New Deal, institutional strengthening, policy advocacy, peer learning and post-2015 development agenda. Our voice is now established as a benchmark to shape policy and we turned those

policies in concrete actionable commitments by institutions such as the World Bank, in reviewing their reforms in a consultative exercise with the g7+.

Key highlights recently include the implementation of our Fragile to Fragile Cooperation Framework. Following the model of "South to South Cooperation", the g7+ has recently developed their own framework of cooperation amongst its member countries called "Fragile to Fragile Cooperation" (F2F), founded on the principles of voluntarism, solidarity and cooperation. The g7+ Secretariat is working with its partners, ILO and KAS and will host a joint workshop on "Youth Employment for Resilience", in Brussels, end of March 2015. In line with the spirit of F2F, the g7+ Secretariat has mobilized a high level delegation to visit our two fellow g7+ member states, at the invitation of the Government of DRC and CAR, led by Hon. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, Eminent Person of the Advisory Council of the g7+, accompanied by Madame Emilia Pires, g7+ Special Envoy, and myself. Additionally, the work of the g7+ family will only be strengthened and further enhanced with the creation of two strategic positions: One in New York to follow up closely on the Post-2015 Development Framework and one in Kinshasa to strengthen our efficiency in coordinating with our regional member states.

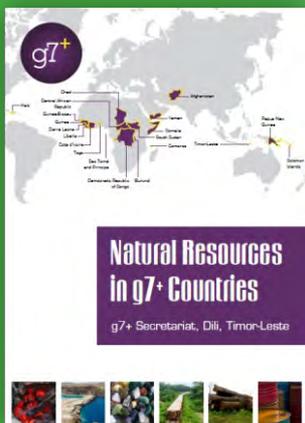
Enjoy reading this new edition and I thank the g7+ family members, the Secretariat team and its international partners for their continued support."

Launch of new booklet: 'Natural resources in g7+ countries'

As part of the g7+'s pioneering efforts to improve understanding, peer-learning and support between countries affected by conflict, the g7+ Secretariat is proud to launch the report booklet on Natural Resources in g7+ countries. One of the biggest challenges that conflict-affected states face is in mobilising the resources required to adequately invest in their development. The natural resource sector in fragile states is critical to such resource-mobilisation efforts, as many g7+ countries are rich in mineral, oil and other resources, which if properly managed can provide an important long-term stream of independent revenue.

This booklet offers an overview of natural resources in g7+ countries. It provides key information on the known resources

in each country, the main extractive industries, the legal and fiscal frameworks in place for managing natural resources and issues related to governance and transparency. The booklet forms part of an emerging g7+ research and peer-learning programme, an important part of our 'Fragile-to-Fragile' or F2F cooperation. It is designed to be a practical source of knowledge-sharing on extractives, and will be continuously updated and developed over time. The report is available in both English and French, and can be downloaded from our website here: [add address]. For more information about this work, please email us at [g7plusmedia@gmail.com].



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