



## **Concept Note**

### **Kenya and Sierra Leone Side Event on**

#### **“Peer-Learning among Fragile and Conflict-Affected Countries on Sustaining Peace and Sustainable Development”**

**Friday, 23 September 2016, 1:15 p.m.-2:30 p.m.  
(CR 11) United Nations HQ, New York**

## **Introduction**

Ambassador (Dr.) Amina C. Mohamed, EGH, CAV, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, and H.E. (Dr.) Samura Kamara, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Representative of the Chair of the g7+, will co-host a High- Level Side Event on " Peer-Learning Among Fragile and Conflict-Affected Countries on Sustaining Peace and Sustainable Development". The event is scheduled to take place on Friday , 23 September 2016 from 1:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the United Nations HQ, New York, CR 11.

Building on the unanimous adoption of the parallel resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council (A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016)), the meeting will offer a platform for various conflict-affected countries and countries emerging from conflict to share experiences, within the framework of national ownership, about challenges, well-established practices, possibilities of mutual investments, and milestones achieved in the countries' journey towards state-building, sustainable peace and development so far.

The g7+ is a group of conflict-affected countries that collectively advocates for country-led pathways towards peace and resilience through reconciliation and culture of tolerance and share experiences in this regard. The g7+ foundation is established to document some of these unique experiences to benefit other countries in their pursuit of peace and resilience. The foundation will be officially launched in this event. The g7+ foundation has conducted 2 case studies. One of them features the reconciliation between Timor-Leste and the other one is Public Finance management that features the lessons learned in Afghanistan and Timor-Leste regarding the reforms in public sector. Both of these studies offer handful insight to the SDGs implementation from the conflict affected countries' perspective.

Countries currently engaged with the United Nation Peacebuilding Commission constitute some of the members of the g7+. It is against this reality that Kenya and Sierra Leone are convening this Side Event to enable sharing of experiences and perspective in peacebuilding and statebuilding. This Event will also be an opportunity to learn how to achieve the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development in conflict-affected countries, including and beyond countries currently engaged with the Peacebuilding Commission.

The meeting will be open to Member States, Regional and Sub-Regional Organizations, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). The format of the meeting will include statements by High-Level Representatives and an interactive session that will allow all participants to interact and share their own experiences. The main session will be co-chaired by the Kenya and Sierra Leone. A facilitated discussion will follow after the opening of the meeting by the co-chairs.

## **Background and Rationale**

The concept of “sustaining peace”, which was defined in resolutions A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016), addressed the need for a comprehensive approach that looks at all stages of conflict, with a focus on prevention and the importance of addressing the root causes of conflict.

Those resolutions recognize the link between peace and development by stating that “sustaining peace” should be a goal and a process that encompasses, among other things, activities aimed at prevention and moving towards recovery, reconstruction and development. The resolutions further emphasize that “sustaining peace is a shared task and responsibility that needs to be fulfilled by the government and all other national stakeholders,” and reaffirm that the primary responsibility of “identifying, driving and directing priorities, strategies and activities for sustaining peace” lies with the national governments and authorities.

The g7+ agreed with development partners and Civil Society under the auspices of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS) on A New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States in 2011 during the 4<sup>th</sup> High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. The New Deal, which is drawn from country experiences, recognizes the importance of country-led assessments and strategies and the need for transparency, risk sharing and the use of country systems as foundation for any development intervention and resilience.

The Side Event is aimed at reinforcing the commitments to the implementation of the recommendations contained in the aforementioned resolutions that touch on the link between peace and development. In addition, the event will look at ways to strengthen coherence among development, political, humanitarian, human rights and peacebuilding actors.

### **Format:**

- I.
  - a. Introductory Statement by H.E. Ms. Amina C. Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya (3 minutes)
  - b. Introductory Opening Statement by H.E. Mr. Samura Kamara, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Representative of the Chair of g7+ (3 minutes)
  - c. Introductory Statement by H.E. Xanana Gusmão, Minister of Planning and Strategic Development, Republic of Timor-Leste and Member of the g7+ Council of Eminent Persons (3 minutes)
  - d. Statement by H.E. Retno LP Marsudi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia. (3 min)
  - e. Statement by Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, ASG for Peacebuilding Support (3 minutes)
- II. Statements from Members of the g7+ emphasizing key determinants and challenges of sustaining peace and development in their countries (3 minutes each)

- III. Interactive Session including reactions from Member States and participating Representatives from Regional and Sub-Regional Organizations, IFIs and the CSOs (2 minutes each)
- IV. Launch of the g7+ foundation by H.E. Mr. Samura Kamara, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Representative of the Chair of g7+

**Participants:**

Ministers of g7+ countries who have moved or are moving out of conflict in an inclusive and sustainable way in pursuit of peace and development. The Side Event will also bring together relevant stakeholders including Member States, Regional and Sub-regional Organizations, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), IFIs and Civil Society Organizations.

**Side Event Objectives:**

- Provide an inclusive platform for High-Level Representatives from countries that have moved or are moving out of conflict in a sustainable way to convene and discuss shared and unique challenges, lessons learned and milestones achieved on the path towards attaining peace and development.
- Emphasize the primacy of politics and national ownership in building resilience and establishing strong and inclusive governments and societies for sustainable peace and development.
- Emphasize the importance of looking at all stages of conflict, from prevention to development, and of a coherent approach that brings together development, political, humanitarian, human rights and peacebuilding actors.
- Highlight through practical examples, the usefulness of meaningful inclusiveness of youth and women in every stage of the peacebuilding process.
- Sustain international attention on fragile and conflict-affected countries.
- Speak to the need to mobilize political, human, technical and financial support that match the scale of the challenges in countries in conflict or transitioning out of conflict in a way that benefits the people of the specific countries.
- Provide inputs for the Global Conference on "Agenda 2030 in Fragile and Conflict Affected States" to be hosted by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste in partnership with the g7+ Secretariat.

**Expected Outcomes:**

- I. A Chairs' Summary of the Side Event, whose inputs will contribute to the upcoming Global Conference on "Agenda 2030 in Fragile and Conflict Affected States" to be held in Dili, Timor-Leste.