



## g7+ TECHNICAL MEETING

NOVO TURISMO HOTEL, DILI TIMOR-LESTE  
22 – 26 NOVEMBER 2016

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY MINISTER MOMODU LAMIN KARGBO, MINISTER OF  
FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA  
LEONE AND CHAIR OF g7+

Excellencies,

Your Excellency Minister Gusmão, g7+ Eminent Person

Honourable Ministers of Government,

Members of Parliament,

Development Partners,

Civil Society Representatives

Dear g7+ Focal Points

Distinguished Participants;

Ladies Gentlemen,

I bring you warm greetings from the Government and people of Sierra Leone and from g7+ countries.

It is a pleasure and honour for me to be here in this beautiful city, Dili, which hosts the headquarters of g7+ Secretariat. Being my first time, I am very much delighted that I am here to visit not only the Secretariat of the Group I lead as Chair but to also meet the very pioneers of the g7+. Let me at this point thank my colleague, Madam Santana Cardoso, Minister of Finance of Timor-Leste for inviting me to visit this beautiful country and to express our appreciation for the warm hospitality accorded to my delegation and delegations from g7+ member states. You made us feel at home for which we are grateful.

Let me at this point also extend my profound thanks and appreciation to those who have made the g7+ what it is today. Thank you Your Excellency, Minister Gusmão. We are grateful to have the guidance of Madam Emelia Pires as g7+ Eminent Person. We cannot thank her enough for nursing the g7+ baby to the level we are today and for being its special envoy representing us in so many international gatherings.

Thank you Minister Baikoua, Minister of Social Affairs and National Reconciliation from the Central African Republic, for being here with us despite your busy schedule.

To the General-Secretary of the g7+, Dr Helder da Costa and staff of the Secretariat, I thank you very much for your welcome and for the excellent organization of this Technical Meeting and indeed the support you provide all the time. I was impressed by your enthusiasm and commitment when I met you for the first time in October this year during the World Bank/IMF Annual

## Meetings in Washington.

I would also like to thank all the g7+ focal points who push forward our agenda at the technical level on a daily basis in their respective countries.

The number of g7+ representatives who have taken time out of their busy schedules to travel here to Dili for this Technical Meeting is a testament to this ongoing commitment. I am therefore delighted that I am able to join you all at this Technical Meeting.

As a group, we work in close partnership with our development partners, who support us in our efforts to move from fragility to resilience. We thank you very much for the collaboration.

I would also like to say special thanks to the Government of Timor-Leste and UNDP for supporting us to host this meeting.

As I said, this is my first trip to Dili and when I flew in yesterday, I was reminded so much of my own capital, Freetown, a seaside city which is bustling and hustling – symbolising the dynamics of development in a post-conflict setting!

I am particularly pleased to note that both Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste, as g7+ members, have been able to say “goodbye” to UN Peacekeeping missions, leaving the States to run their own affairs as a sovereign nations. There are still challenges no doubt but this marks the beginning of pathways toward resilience in our respective countries. We hope that other g7+ members will also be able to work through this path.

As you know, I took over the Chairmanship of the g7+ in April 2016, from Minister Kaifala Marah who took up the role of Chair at the Togo Ministerial Meeting in May 2014 and formalized during the Global Ministerial Meeting of the International Dialogue held in Freetown in June 2014. Let me take this opportunity to thank my predecessors who together have provided leadership to this organization, which I am now also honoured to lead.

Under Sierra Leone's chairmanship, and building on the impressive foundations laid by previous g7+ Chairs from DRC and Timor-Leste, and with the support of the g7+ Secretariat, the g7+ has achieved some important successes among which are:

- We secured the inclusion of Goal 16 in the Sustainable Development Goals, recognising the importance of peace and justice in providing the foundation for wider development.
- We secured record levels of assistance for countries affected by conflict and fragility in IDA 18.
- We have continued to meet with the World Bank President to ensure that the concerns of fragile states are heard at the highest levels; and this culminated in the signing of an MoU on the margins of the IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings in October this year. As I said at the signing ceremony an MoU has no legal force of law but it is a word of honour.
- The g7+ has broadened its engagements with a range of development partners and other stakeholders – including the UN Peacebuilding Commission, the International Labor Organisation, the IMF, the G20 and others. These relationships strengthen the g7+ group and extends its reach from benefits are derived.

Indeed, an independent review of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States by New York University's Center for International Cooperation earlier this year found that: "the g7+ has become an increasingly influential constituency on the world stage." Our combined voices are clearly making an impact in the world- united we stand, divided we fall.

We have also deepened our work on peer learning through development cooperation known as 'fragile-to-fragile' cooperation: a new form of assistance in which our own strengths and capacities are valued and shared with each other.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen

As part of this fragile-to-fragile cooperation, the g7+ - with particular leadership from Timor-Leste – has provided support around elections, reconciliation and public financial management. As home to the g7+ Secretariat, Timor-Leste has contributed financially to the operations of g7+ on the global stage and put its own brilliant sons and daughters to course to the organisation. We all are benefitted by this.

The fruits of these efforts were apparent last week at the Brussels Conference for the Central African Republic, where development partners pledged USD 2.26 billion over the coming four years to support their recovery. The g7+ has been supporting the Central African Republic with peer learning and advice since 2014 in relation to reconciliation and elections. I would like to congratulate Minister Baikoua on this excellent result.

- My heartfelt thanks to the generosity of the people and the Government of Timor-Leste for donating USD 1.5 million to CAR recently for the support of resettlement of IDPs in Bangui.
- We plan to extend fragile-to-fragile cooperation in 2017, including around issues related to reconciliation, natural resource management and public financial management.
- The work of the g7+ continues, with important issues to consider – such as how we effectively monitor the SDGs in a manner appropriate for our situations.
- We continue to be guided by the five Strategic Priorities set out by g7+ Ministers at the Kabul Ministerial Meeting in March 2016. These include:
  - New Deal Implementation
  - Policy Impact
  - Strengthening the g7+
  - The 2030 SDG Agenda
  - Peer learning.

- Our work remains as relevant as ever.

Excellencies, ladies and Gentlemen,

The SDGs have been agreed and we have successfully achieved recognition of the particular challenges that fragile states face. The stakes are thus high for us to pursue progress in the attainment of the SDGs and Goal 16 in particular.

Globally we have seen an unfortunate increase in conflict in recent years. Our countries understand the impact of conflict and we recognise that prevention is far better than response.

The changing political dynamics in donor countries and the simmering financial challenges means that aid spending is under increasing political and public scrutiny, making it more difficult for partner countries to secure the aid modalities, like budget support, that we know are so important to our processes of statebuilding. For these reasons, the work of the g7+ remains central to addressing these challenges.

In order to continue building on our successes as a global voice for fragile states, we must continue to meet regularly together to ensure that we are inclusive and can legitimately speak for and on behalf of our membership. It is therefore gratifying to note that 19 of the 20 g7+ members are present at this meeting. It is only by working together that we will confront the new challenges and bring to bear the hard-won experience and perspective of countries affected by conflict and fragility in the global efforts in peacebuilding and statebuilding.

Let me end by again expressing my gratitude to the g7+ Secretariat, under the leadership of the General-Secretary, Dr Helder da Costa, for driving this impressive portfolio of work. Thank you again for your passion and hard work.

The g7+ clearly punches above its weight for a grouping of countries affected by conflict and fragility!

I can assure you all that my tenure as Chair of g7+ will continue on the path of constructive engagements at both the global and local levels, for more effective development cooperation, and for making the case for the financial and technical support needed to address the operational challenges we may encounter in achieving the SDGs. I continue count on your support to make this happen.

Once again, I thank the Government and people of Timor Leste for the warm reception accorded us and look forward to a very productive meeting.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR ATTENTION