

g7<sup>+</sup>



## g7<sup>+</sup> Policy Note on Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation



## About the g7+

The g7+ is a voluntary association of countries that are or have been affected by conflict and are now in transition to the next stage of development. The main objective of the g7+ is to share experiences and learn from one another, and to advocate for reforms to the way the international community engages in conflict-affected states. To find out more about the g7+ visit [www.g7plus.org](http://www.g7plus.org)

# Contents

1. Introduction.....	2
2. The concept of Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation.....	3
2.1 Supporting g7+ members in implementation of the New Deal.....	4
2.2 Peer learning, knowledge generation and capacity development.....	5
2.3 Dealing with acute and emerging crises.....	7
3. Final considerations.....	8





# 1. Introduction

The g7+ has at the core of its mission the desire to support countries suffering from conflict or crises on their way towards resilience. The g7+ is determined to stand in solidarity with its brothers and sisters in fellow countries to help them on the pathway towards resilience. Fragile contexts, although distinctly different in each country, do have similar features. Countries in transitions from conflict or weak institutions to increased resilience can understand better what it takes and how difficult it can be. g7+ Countries are therefore particularly well placed to support each other in fostering a country-led trajectory towards peace and resilience.

In supporting each other, the g7+ can draw on its strong sense of solidarity between its members, which is based not on geopolitical interest, but on the common desire for all countries to move out of fragility; the experience of some g7+ countries in building effective, legitimate and resilient institutions, against all odds; its network of influential and inspiring figures who have steered their own societies through such difficult periods; its expertise in specific frameworks, processes and tools that can support sustainable peacebuilding and statebuilding, as laid out in the *New Deal for Engagement with Fragile States*; and its strong relations with the international community through the *International Dialogue for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS)*.

To this end, the g7+ has launched the initiative of Fragile-to-Fragile cooperation (F2F cooperation). The purpose of this document is to frame and explain the concept of Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation. The concept will serve as an umbrella under which the g7+ will undertake a number of activities.

This framing will guide the planning of specific activities by the g7+, and will also serve as an invitation to development partners to support the g7+ in the operationalization of the concept.



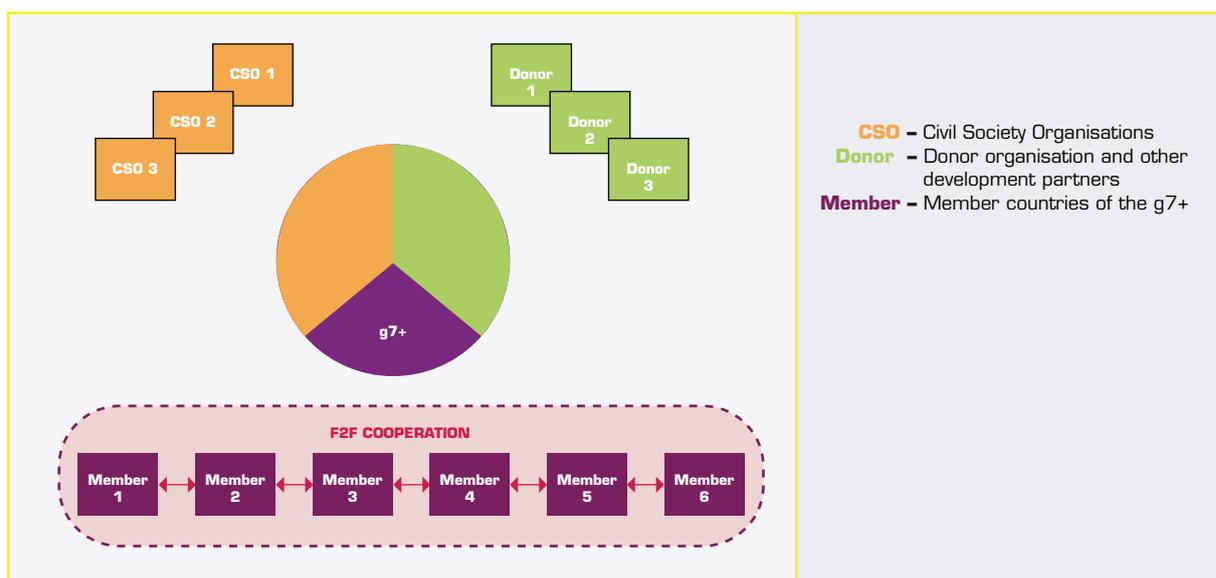
## 2. The concept of Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation

F2F cooperation is the support g7+ can provide to each other, including through peer learning, capacity building, experience sharing and knowledge generation. It provides a framework through which the g7+ can make optimal use of its own resources, as well as channel support from external parties to its priorities for learning and expressing solidarity.

F2F cooperation thus refers to support between g7+ member states, as graphically shown below. It will operate in parallel to the continued engagement of the g7+ with the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding.

Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation consists of three main pillars:

1. Supporting g7+ member countries in implementation of the New Deal
2. Peer learning, knowledge generation and capacity development around peacebuilding and statebuilding
3. Supporting g7+ member countries in dealing with acute and emerging crises



## 2.1 Supporting g7+ members in implementation of the New Deal

New Deal implementation at the country level is one of the major priorities for the g7+, since it believes in actions more than it believes in mere documents and discussion.

### Objectives

- To share experience gained in New Deal implementation in g7+ countries: g7+ countries are at different stages of implementation of the New Deal: South Sudan, Sierra Leone, Liberia, the DRC, Timor Leste and the Comoros have conducted fragility assessments; Sierra Leone, Afghanistan and Somalia have signed Compacts and other countries are close to doing so. Meanwhile, countries have myriad experiences of working with donors to try to implement the TRUST principles, with mixed success. A wealth of experience has been gained in these countries in how to initiate, coordinate and manage these processes; how to adapt the tools and methods to the existing context and institutional setting; and how to actually use the tools and methods in practice.
- To help addressing bottlenecks in New Deal implementation at country-level: Bottlenecks could include political, financial, technical or logistical bottlenecks to New Deal implementation, or differences of perspective on the modalities of New Deal implementation. Areas of New Deal implementation where progress is lagging across several g7+ countries, such as for instance the Use of Country Systems or Strengthening Capacities,<sup>1</sup> will receive particular attention.

- To help in deepening of the political buy-in at country level: Political buy-in is essential for New Deal implementation at country level. The g7+ is conscious of the need for a whole-of-government approach to peacebuilding and statebuilding and acknowledges the gaps that exist around the broader political buy-in at cabinet, parliament and societal level in many g7+ countries. Similarly there are issues with donor and civil society buy-in in some countries. It considers the use of g7+ high-level visits as these are considered to be an important instrument to broaden buy-in at country level.

### Support strategies

The g7+ will support g7+ members in implementation of the New Deal in the following ways:

- Conducting g7+ road shows and high-level visits to enlarge buy-in for New Deal implementation at country-level.
- Fact-finding and problem-solving missions to g7+ countries that face bottlenecks in New Deal implementation.
- Mobilizing technical and financial assistance for the implementation of the New Deal in g7+ member countries, either from development partners and facilitated through the g7+ secretariat, or between g7+ member countries themselves.
- Provision of specific expertise, for instance through short visits or short-term detachments of individuals from g7+ countries with hands-on experience in New Deal implementation to other g7+ member states.

<sup>1</sup>See New Deal Monitoring Report, International Dialogue for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, 2014.

## 2.2 Peer learning, knowledge generation and capacity development

- Enhance internal learning on New Deal implementation, identifying strategic and tactical lessons learnt on key aspects of New Deal implementation, and ensure their dissemination.

### Modalities

External support will be mobilized in full consultation with the actors on the ground, i.e. the government, civil society and the development partners in-country. Existing mechanisms in place to facilitate coordination and dialogue at the country level will be used.

International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding partners may be approached to fund these activities.

The mission of the g7+ is to garner support and advocate for country-owned and country-specific strategies to transition from fragility to resilience. To achieve this aim, knowledge is of the highest importance; and more specifically knowledge that is rooted in the more relevant contextual realities of countries in similar situations of transition. Although the g7+ does not encourage the wholesale adoption of strategies and solutions implemented elsewhere, it nonetheless believes in learning from what worked and what did not work in fragile contexts.

### Objectives

- To help sharing of experiences in peacebuilding and statebuilding: This sharing of experiences between different groups of peers can serve as a source of inspiration to other members and can lead to cross-country learning, while developing the capacity of the policy makers and civil servants involved in the process. It will also serve the objective of including a broader range of actors from within g7+ countries in knowledge sharing.
- To enhance knowledge generation from g7+ countries, in particular but not exclusively focusing on the Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals: This refers to the importance of generating more research and knowledge by individuals and knowledge institutes belonging to g7+ countries, and making the knowledge available to key decision-makers and opinion leaders, in order to positively influence policy formulation and implementation. Involvement in the process will also build the capacity of the civil servants concerned.





- To stimulate specific initiatives to help in fill knowledge and capacity gaps in Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals (PSG) achievement: Through experience sharing around thematic areas specific areas can be identified where gaps in knowledge or capacity exist at country-level. This identification of capacity gaps can spark initiatives to fill these gaps, through knowledge generation or capacity development support.<sup>2</sup>

- Deepen the engagement of g7+ members in broader policy exchanges on key thematic areas, through engagement in policy dialogues and thematic conferences.

### Modalities

The g7+ will continue to work with its existing partners on thematic areas. It has already signed Memorandums of Understanding MoUs with a number of institutions on thematic areas related to the PSGs, such as with the International Labour Organization (ILO) on Job Creation. It will aim to develop other such partnerships around other thematic areas. Development partners with a particular interest in a certain area may express their interest to the g7+ Secretariat, who may follow up with a formal request for support in this area.

The g7+ will outline strategic plans on how to advance on a particular agenda. The g7+ will collaborate with its partners to ensure that the knowledge exchanged, the research conducted, and the initiatives developed are relevant to the contexts and priorities of the g7+. When additional research is initiated, the g7+ will attempt to work with g7+ researchers where possible.

The g7+ will continue to expand its participation in the policy networks it can access, notably through its civil society partners, think tanks and other knowledge institutes. It will use these policy networks both for purposes of learning from them and influencing them.

### Support Strategies

The g7+ will support peer learning and knowledge generation around the PSGs in the following ways:

- Working with g7+ countries, development partners, think-tanks, and academia to compile relevant knowledge on certain thematic areas, and making this available to g7+ members in user-friendly formats.
- With the help of the knowledge facility of the g7+, initiation of additional research, such as primary data collection and analysis, country case studies, or the compilation of innovative solutions and success stories.
- Facilitating knowledge exchange and experience sharing between g7+ countries through thematic knowledge exchange seminars.
- Direct and bilateral support from g7+ countries with a particularly high level of expertise to g7+ countries with a lower level of expertise.
- Building relationships with committed development partners with an interest in advancing knowledge and experience in particular PSG areas, and encouraging multi-stakeholder initiatives in g7+ countries.

<sup>2</sup>stressed in the Lomé Communiqué.<sup>3</sup>

## 2.3 Dealing with acute and emerging crises

The violence, the insecurity and humanitarian disaster (in the form of an epidemic or a natural disaster) that unfold in some of our countries warrant our fullest attention and expression of solidarity. It remind us of the fragility of peace processes and confirms us in our view that continued progress towards inclusive political structures and a strengthened social contract is the only sustainable pathway out of fragility. The emergence of crisis harnesses our conviction that building effective institutions and trust in government is a matter of life or death in our countries.

The g7+ acknowledges that relapses on the path towards the consolidation of sustainable peace are part of the process out of fragility. Yet, it equally recognizes that conflict can reverse decades of progress, in terms of social cohesion, institution building and economic growth. Dealing with emerging crises and aiming to mitigate their negative impact is therefore of essential importance to the g7+, as stressed in the Lomé Communiqué.<sup>3</sup>

### Objectives

- To help member countries experiencing crises: This will entail committing immediate and direct support where possible, in consultation with the government in question. It will do so on the basis of the basic principle that countries should not be left hanging at the time of their greatest need.<sup>4</sup>
- To raise attention of international actors toward the countries in crisis: Using its network and potential influence, and above all using its power granted by solidarity, the g7+ will mobilize resources to help the affected country and

channel these to the most immediate priorities. It will advocate for early and appropriate action by the international community, in line with the principles of the New Deal where possible.

### Support Strategies

The g7+ will support g7+ members in dealing with acute and emerging crises in the following ways:

- Where possible conducting visits of the g7+ Chair or Secretariat or other influential officials from around the g7+ countries to countries in crisis to express g7+ solidarity and draw the attention of the international community to the situation. This could also include high-level visits by individuals who can serve as ‘champions of peace’ to inspire conflict parties to turn to dialogue and to sustain its efforts towards building effective institutions, a strong social contract and peaceful societies. It would need to be considered on a case-to-case basis whether this option will add value.
- Advocating for early and appropriate action by the international community, and feeding information to the development partners on realistic entry points for immediate action.
- Articulating the values of the New Deal in crisis situations and advocating for sustained attention to peacebuilding and statebuilding.
- Raising awareness on the importance of the New Deal principles amongst actors involved in crisis management, especially around means of implementation (e.g. use of existing delivery channels, coordination mechanisms, transparency and accountability of aid flows).



<sup>3</sup>The Lomé Communiqué stresses that “we commit to explore ways in which the g7+ can increase awareness of emerging crises and tailor responses accordingly”.

<sup>4</sup>As an example, The Prime Minister of Timor Leste traveled to Guinea Bissau and used his influence and reputation to ease the political transition in Guinea Bissau, followed by direct financial and technical support for the electoral process. Timor Leste also disbursed US\$ 2 million to the Mano River region to combat Ebola.



### 3. Final considerations

#### Modalities

The g7+ will provide its support upon the specific request of, and in deep collaboration with, the g7+ country undergoing the crisis, and in liaison with other key peace-building actors and the IDPS. The g7+ intends to strengthen and embolden existing processes, avoid creating parallel structures, and work towards enhanced coordination and complementarity. The g7+ will aim to employ a whole-of-government approach, in particular work in close collaboration with countries' own ministries of Foreign Affairs and other appropriate line ministries.

The g7+ acknowledges that structures and mechanisms for acute crisis management and the facilitation of peace processes are often already in place. It is aware of the existing regional, continental and international institutional structures dealing with conflict and crisis, the need to avoid duplication or parallel structures, and the possibilities of creating complementarity. The g7+ will therefore aim to build on its comparative advantage, as laid out in the first paragraphs of this note, and will do so in consultation with the existing structures on the ground.

The g7+ is still a young entity, but has already managed to become an important voice expressing the perspectives of fragile states in the global arena. The engagement of the international community in fragile states has already changed, as the recent New Deal Monitoring Report showed. Yet, more needs to be done, and more can be done. The g7+ is ready to push ahead with ambition, in order to support the 1.5 billion people living in fragility into a situation of strengthened resilience.

Yet, the g7+ will need to balance ambition with capacity. The g7+ aims to strengthen the capacity of its Secretariat, in order to deliver on these ambitions. The objectives described in this note will be reached on a step-by-step basis, whereby existing capacity within the g7+ members and the g7+ Secretariat will serve as the key parameter, in order to ensure that capacity and ambition continue to work hand in hand.

The g7+ will not be able to do it alone. Development partners are invited to present their ideas on how they can support this Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation, within the parameters of this note.

The g7+ will take the strategic lead. This policy note is considered as the umbrella under which Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation is to take place. As this concept is still new, this note may be adapted and revised, based on living experience.

## g7plus

**Address:** Ministry of Finance, Placio do Governo, Dili, Timor-Leste

**Telephone:** (+670) 331 0128  
(+670) 78112870

**E-mail:** [g7plus.secretariat@gmail.com](mailto:g7plus.secretariat@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/g7plus](http://www.facebook.com/g7plus)

**Twitter:** @g7plus

**Website:** [www.g7plus.org](http://www.g7plus.org)

### **Photo credits:**

Pery Mesquita/g7+ Sec. doc.: Front cover, About g7+, pg. 2 & 5.

Frédéric Remouchamp/KEOPS: Gallery (bottom), pg 6

[www.timorguinea.wordpress.com](http://www.timorguinea.wordpress.com) :Gallery (top), pg. 3 & 8

[g7plus.org](http://g7plus.org) : pg. 7