“It will not be possible to eradicate poverty in the world without first addressing the issues of fragile and conflict-affected countries. That is why the g7+ nations have worked together to ensure that the post-2015 development agenda addresses the need for peace and stability, and that the perspectives of fragile states are central to the global dialogue.”

(Xanana Gusmão, Lecture at Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy).
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The period from 2014-2015 has been a busy time for the g7+. Despite setbacks in a number of our countries – including conflict in the Central African Republic (CAR), South Sudan and Yemen and the devastating Ebola epidemic that affected Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone – we have made some important progress.

Most notably, perhaps, is that we successfully secured the inclusion of peaceful societies, access to justice, and effective institutions under Goal 16 in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which replaced the Millennium Development Goals at the end of 2015. This means that, going forward, we now have a global development framework, agreed by all countries, that incorporates the insights of the New Deal Peace and Statebuilding Goals and for the first time reflects the challenges faced by fragile states. While work remains underway to translate the SDGs into relevant and meaningful indicators at the local level, we are confident that we can arrive at a monitoring framework that will assist our countries in navigating the path out of fragility.

The second key achievement is the progress we have started to make at working with the private sector and ensuring we can fully develop our own resources. The changes we secured to the Financing for Development outcome document, our framework with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), our negotiations with the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and our publication on natural resources in g7+ member states are all helping to build indigenous capacity to finance our way out of fragility. It is often said of g7+ countries that we are poor. This is not true. Our countries are endowed with great wealth and potential. The challenge is realizing and managing resources to the benefit of all our people.

The third notable achievement is the implementation of Fragile-to-Fragile (F2F) Cooperation over the last year and a half. This has included continued g7+ outreach to the Central African Republic and participation in the Bangui Forum in May 2015. The g7+ also committed USD 1 million in financial assistance to support national elections in CAR, which was peacefully completed. Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation can also be cited in the case of technical assistance from Timor-Leste to support electoral registration in Guinea-Bissau, in support of their first democratic elections following a coup in 2012. And finally, F2F Cooperation is credited with the generous donation of USD 2 million from Timor-Leste to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone to assist in Ebola recovery efforts in November 2014. This Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation is a unique modality of assistance that enables peer learning and exchange of knowledge that is tailored to the needs and realities of fragile states. We look forward to expanding such cooperation in future.

We are delighted to present the 2014-2015 Annual Report of the g7+, highlighting key milestones, the progress we have achieved since the 2014 Ministerial Meeting in Lomé, Togo. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the g7+ Secretariat, ably headed by our General Secretary, Dr. Helder da Costa, who have done an excellent job of serving g7+ members throughout 2014-2015. We could not have achieved this progress without the diligence of our Secretariat.
Acknowledgement from the General Secretary

The years 2014 and 2015 saw more successful milestones achieved by the g7+ in our journey. These successes would not have been possible without the warm support the g7+ Secretariat has received from the Chair and Deputy Chair of the g7+, Heads of State, Ministers and Focal Points of our 20 member countries, development partners and Civil Society Organization (CSO) representatives.

In particular I would like to thank the Secretariats of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS), the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS), and the International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) for their close collaboration.

On behalf of the g7+ Secretariat team, I express our gratitude to the Chair of the g7+, H.E. Dr. Kaifala Marah, Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Sierra Leone; Deputy Chair of the g7+, H.E. Michel Présumé, Secretary of State for Planning of Haiti; H.E. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, Eminent Person of the g7+; and Madam Emilia Pires, Special Envoy of the g7+ for their guidance and ongoing support. Our heartfelt thanks also to the g7+ Focal Points for their cooperation and assistance, as well as to all of our stakeholders for their inspiring commitment and support to the noble cause of the g7+.

I sincerely thank the Government of Timor-Leste for hosting the Secretariat in Dili and for providing financial support to the operationalization of g7+ activities. I urge us all to build upon the energy and enthusiasm characteristics of the g7+, to ensure a successful 2016 and beyond. I look forward to continuing the journey with you!

Dr. Helder da Costa
Since its inception in 2010, every year has brought the g7+ new challenges, opportunities and room for growth. This evolution requires us to constantly refine our work and strengthen implementation of our mandate.

At the 3rd g7+ Ministerial Meeting in Lomé, Togo, in May 2014, it was decided to formalize the group through the establishment of the g7+ Charter. Under the auspices of the Charter, the meeting concluded with agreement on five key priorities:

(1) Implementation of the New Deal
(2) Policy advocacy
(3) Institutional strengthening
(4) Peer learning through Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation
(5) Advocacy for peacebuilding and statebuilding in the post-2015 development agenda.

The g7+ chairmanship was transferred to H.E. Dr. Kaifala Marah, Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Sierra Leone. Haiti assumed the role of Deputy Chair, held by H.E. Michel Présumé, Secretary of State for Planning. In addition, H.E. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão was appointed as Eminent Person of the g7+ Advisory Council, and H.E. Emilia Pires was appointed Special Envoy of the g7+. The decision was also made for Timor-Leste to become the permanent host of the g7+ Secretariat.

Implementation of the New Deal at the country level continues, with fragility assessments updated in Sierra Leone (ongoing) and Timor-Leste; and other countries such as Afghanistan have started conducting them. The IDPS New Deal Monitoring Report highlighted some important progress, as well as areas where further work is needed – particularly around the TRUST principles of ‘use of country systems’ and ‘strengthening capacities’.

In terms of policy discourse, the Secretariat’s collaboration with the World Bank Group resulted in the inclusion of a g7+ representative within negotiations for the International Development Association's 17th framework (IDA 17). This helped to secure an agreement for a new IDA allocation formula and ‘Turnaround Facility’ which should allow fragile states to access significant additional development finance. The g7+ also continues to hold regular meetings.
with the President of the World Bank and the senior staff of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), to ensure that fragile state concerns are heard at the highest levels of the international financial institutions (IFIs) that play such an important role in our countries.

In July 2015 g7+ was represented in the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, Timor-Leste, g7+ and United States of America co-host the event on the implications for fragile states. Opportunities and challenges in mobilize the necessary resources for development – from our own domestic resources and the role of tailored development assistance were highlighted.

The g7+ has also enhanced its capacity and formalized its negotiation initiatives though the signing of formal Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with UN agencies and think tanks and academia. Building on the principle of solidarity between g7+ members, the group has also formalized cooperation among members through a new initiative called Fragile-to-Fragile (F2F) Cooperation. The group established a Policy Framework to capture the scope and modality of such cooperation.

The framework is built on the past experiences of member countries, including assistance of Timor-Leste to Guinea-Bissau for its electoral registration process, g7+ delegation visits to the Central African Republic to support its peace transition, and the donation of USD 2 million from the Government of Timor-Leste to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone to support their response to the devastating Ebola epidemic. Peer-to-peer learning has been encouraged in the areas of natural resource management and justice in fragile states. The g7+ launched its Natural Resources Management report at a meeting in Brussels in March 2015, setting out our firm stance on resolving the recurrent contradictions between the potential and the “curse” of abundant natural resources. In addition, g7+ Justice Ministers met for the first time on the sidelines of the Global IDPS Meeting in Freetown, Sierra Leone, in June 2014, representing efforts to ensure peer-to-peer learning across a range of sectors.

Advocacy efforts by the g7+ resulted in the inclusion of Goal 16 – calling for peaceful societies, support for effective institutions, and access to justice for all – in the final Sustainable Development Goals 2015-2030. “Peace”
is now one of the five pillars setting preamble for Agenda 2030. This represents a crucial milestone in consolidating a platform to enable fragile states to build their resilience. Discussions are now underway in regard to meaningfully localizing the SDGs so that they offer the best opportunity possible in assisting fragile states in the transition to resilience.

The last 18 months have also seen some challenges. Three g7+ member countries – Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone – were directly affected by the Ebola crisis, which had devastating effects on both the people and the states. Similarly, ongoing conflicts in the Central African Republic, South Sudan, and Yemen have further weakened those countries. In this regard, the g7+ pledge to support members’ efforts to emerge out of crisis has been stronger than ever. In hindsight, these events represented an opportunity to reinforce the importance of having capable institutions, and to implement g7+ principles of voluntarism, solidarity, and cooperation. The g7+ has learned that its members have the capacity to come together in times of need, and has reinforced the spirit of leaving no one behind.

In conclusion, 2014-2015 has been a successful and challenging period. It represented a defining moment for the future of g7+ member states in the post-2015 agenda, and clarified the unique opportunities that will emerge in the year ahead.
Since its establishment in April 2010 in Dili, Timor-Leste, the g7+ has grown as a voluntary governmental association with 20 conflict-affected member countries sharing similar development challenges and coming together in the spirit of voluntarism, solidarity and cooperation. Our current members are Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Liberia, Papua New Guinea, Sao Tome & Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Timor-Leste, Togo, and Yemen.

The g7+ has provided a platform for member countries to advocate for effective development cooperation policies tailored to their national context. This has been framed around the key components of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States, agreed at the Fourth Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Bussan in 2011: The five Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals (PSGs) and the FOCUS and TRUST principles. Yet our work is not complete with the New Deal in place. The g7+ continues to be an important and relevant forum in the context of a changing aid environment.

As the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) came to an end in 2015, the g7+ was central to negotiations for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which is in force from 2015-2030. Participation of g7+ in the High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Agenda (through the co-chairs of H.E. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia and the panel membership of H.E. g7+ Special Envoy Madam Pires) was critical to ensuring that fragile state voices and concerns were reflected in the global SDGs framework. We are continuing to work on localizing the SDGs to ensure that they are
meaningfully implemented at the country level in a manner that assists fragile states in transitioning to resilience. Our forum thus continues to ensure that international development tools and frameworks are appropriately tailored to the needs and realities of fragile states.

The g7+ has also been active in advocating for the New Deal principles to influence Financing for Development (FfD) framework that was concluded at the Third International Conference on FfD, which took place in Addis Ababa in July 2015. These discussions come in light of the changing aid context – where remittances now outstrip official development assistance in overall flows, where responsible private sector investment can be an engine of growth, and where a strong regulatory environment is key to mobilizing the necessary domestic resources for development. The g7+ is at the forefront of these discussions – sharing experiences amongst fragile states on maximizing sustainable returns from natural resource wealth, and building relationships with private sector partners to find mutually beneficial approaches to growth.

Keeping abreast of these changes in the aid context is critical not only to ensuring the continued relevance of the g7+, but also in ensuring the best chance possible for moving our countries out of fragility. According to the OECD, half of the global population living on less than USD 1.25 per day live in fragile states. It is further estimated that two thirds of the world’s poor will be living in fragile states by 2030. This represents an enormous challenge for us as fragile states. In confronting it, we must be able to marshal the resources of not just development assistance, which is still very important in many of our countries, but also private sector investment and domestic resources. To do so, we must increasingly focus on the regulatory environment in our countries that can close the loopholes for tax evasion and create an attractive investment environment while still ensuring that our countries and our populations receive fair returns in terms of taxation and wages.

Development assistance will continue to be an important feature of our resources for development, and its effectiveness is, therefore, crucial. The development assistance of the future will need to be more context sensitive, more in line with the vision and priorities of the elected governments of fragile states, and more focused on supporting indigenous statebuilding agenda to ensure sustainability. The New Deal provides an action plan for how we can get there. We are making progress in changing the way that aid works in fragile contexts, but more needs to be done.
We, the Ministers and Delegates from the g7+ countries participating in the third g7+ Ministerial Meeting in Lomé, Togo, on the 29th and 30th of May 2014, are pleased to gather in the spirit of solidarity and cooperation that characterises our association.

We applaud the progress made in the implementation of the New Deal in several g7+ countries, and welcome the launch of the New Deal fragility assessments in Guinea-Bissau and Comoros.

We congratulate the people and government of Afghanistan and Guinea-Bissau for conducting successful elections.

At the same time we empathise with the people of the Central African Republic and South Sudan as they experience a period of crisis. We stand in solidarity with the government and people in those countries and commit our collective efforts to restore peace and resilience.

We welcome the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and the Republic of Yemen as new members of the g7+ family.

We endorse the g7+ Charter and confirm Dili to be the headquarters of the g7+ Secretariat.

We announce H.E. Minister Kaifala Marah of Sierra Leone as the new g7+ Chair and H.E. Deputy Minister

Alfred Metellus of Haiti as Deputy Chair.

We appoint the outgoing Chair H.E. Emilia Pires, as the g7+ Special Envoy and the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, H.E. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, as a member of the g7+ Advisory Board.

We reaffirm our commitment to the realization of the New Deal principles and call on our development partners to fulfill their commitment thereto.

We welcome the initiative of “Fragile to Fragile” (F to F) cooperation and encourage peer learning among member countries. We commit to explore ways in which the g7+ can increase awareness of emerging crises and tailor responses accordingly.

We endorse the 2013 Annual Report and the 2014/15 Work Plan.

We strongly support the inclusion of a separate goal on Peaceful Societies and Effective Institutions, in the Post-2015 Development Framework.

We conclude our meetings in Lomé, Togo, with deep appreciation to the Government of Togo for generously hosting this third g7+ Ministerial meeting.

We look forward to the next Ministerial meeting in Afghanistan.
The work plan of the g7+ in 2014 and 2015 has been guided by the priorities set out at the 3rd Ministerial Meeting in Lomé, Togo, May 2014. At this forum, our Ministers came together to review our progress made so far, to identify new priorities, and to endorse an annual work plan. Ministers adopted the Lomé Communiqué reaffirming our commitment to work together to exit fragility. In support of this, five priorities were identified at the Meeting:

1. New Deal Implementation

Since the endorsement of the New Deal, its principles have become reference points for bilateral and multilateral development organizations undertaking development and humanitarian interventions in fragile states. New Deal principles have influenced global development frameworks, including the SDGs and FFD. The outcome of the Third International Conference on FFD, known as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, recognizes the New Deal as an important framework for countries affected by conflict. Similarly, Agenda 230, launched at the UN in September 2015, recognizes the relevance of principles of the New Deal to fragile situation. Very significantly, a Sustainable Development Goal on peace, inclusion, justice and effective institutions was agreed (SDG16). This reflects a shift in thinking in the development community towards including peacebuilding and statebuilding objectives in sustainable development.

This report provides an overview of the major achievements and milestones against these strategic priorities. A calendar of activities is also provided in Annex 1.
The g7+ Secretariat has provided technical support for New Deal implementation, and facilitates sharing of knowledge and experience among g7+ members. Implementation of the New Deal at the country level has been different in different country contexts. Six countries have conducted fragility assessments, and their findings have helped to identify development priorities. Some countries, including Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste, have conducted the second phase of the fragility assessments, enabling them to see progress against the stages of fragility. Three countries have signed New Deal Compacts with their development partners, and these serve as tools for prioritization and accountability. In addition, many member countries have adopted New Deal principles in the form of national aid management policies.

In Annex 2 we set out the key highlights of New Deal implementation at the country level in our 20 member states.

According to the first New Deal Monitoring Report, published by the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS) in 2014, the FOCUS commitments, which are largely those to be implemented by fragile states, have met with varied performance. While fragility assessments and compacts received a green rating (on track), “one vision, one plan” and “supporting political dialogue” received an amber rating (partly off track), and the use of PSGs to monitor received a red rating (off track). It will be important that, going forward, g7+ members work to improve on these results so that the vision of the New Deal can be realized. While several development partners have reflected New Deal principles in their country assistance strategies, thus paving the way towards the full realization of these principles in action, the current status of implementation of the TRUST principles is worrying. We call on our development partners to redouble efforts to operationalize these principles, particularly around increasing the use of country systems and strengthening capacities. These two TRUST principles are connected – our capacities are better built when country systems are used.

There are, however, a number of examples of impressive New Deal progress through effective cooperation between government and development partners.

In the Central African Republic, for instance, the Ezingo Fund, a Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) established by the UN, supports the financing of a coordinated response to stabilization, peace consolidation and recovery efforts. Its Steering Committee is co-chaired by the government and the UN. As of early 2015, USD 20.3 million had been disbursed, with contributions from a range of international agencies. The government was able to conduct a census of the security services, update the payroll, and pay salaries and arrears to police and gendarmerie – arguably critical in preventing further violence.

The g7+ Secretariat has commissioned a number of case studies of aid instruments seeking to align with the New Deal, in order to capture such examples of progress and to share them with our members and development partners to promote peer learning.

An independent review of the New Deal outlining “what works” and “what doesn’t work” was recently conducted by the Center on International Cooperation (CIC) and is due to be published mid-2016. It provides an impartial overview of progress in the New Deal pilot countries, and whether the results seen so far match the initial ambition set in Busan in 2011. The review has raised some important points we need to reflect on as signatories of the New Deal:

(i) If the New Deal did not exist, we would have established one to guide the implementation of Agenda 2030 and Fragile states.

(ii) As we enter the new global landscape outlined by Agenda 2030, the New Deal’s relevance is only reinforced through the clear linkages between the PSGs and the SDGs.
(iii) It is fundamental for the New Deal to build a whole-of-government approach and strengthen societal ownership of the New Deal.

(iv) There is a need to review and strengthen the political dialogue strategy to fill the existing gap that can be seen in this regard;

(v) There is little clear change in the behaviour of donors, particularly in the ways they channel and deliver aid.

Overall the New Deal has delivered many successes, but the underlying principles – political will and trust – will take more time to reach the entirely of the vision set in Busan in 2011.

2. Policy Advocacy

In 2014-15, the g7+ continued its advocacy efforts and expanded its engagement with a number of international organizations. This reflects the growing capacity of the g7+ and its Secretariat, the growing profile of the g7+, and the relevance of fragile states issues to multiple audiences. These outreach efforts mean that the g7+ has become the primary reference point for issues affecting fragile states. Below we highlight some of the most important of the g7+ advocacy efforts over the past year and a half.

• Engagement with the World Bank Group, IMF and IFC.

Since 2013, the World Bank Group (WBG) and the g7+ have been meeting biannually during the Spring and Annual World Bank meetings, creating a foundation for a long-lasting consultative partnership aimed at tailoring the WBG’s engagement in fragile states to reflect contextual realities on the ground. One of the results of such engagement has been the inclusion of a g7+ observer at the International Development Association’s (IDA) 17th replenishment round meetings. This helped to secure an agreement for a new IDA allocation formula that gives greater recognition to the special needs of fragile and conflict-affected states (FCAS) and established a “Turnaround Facility” that will also benefit fragile states.

The year 2014 represented a major milestone in further reinforcing the commitment of the WBG. The Bank’s president, in recognition of the g7+’s technical knowledge, invited the g7+ Secretariat to assess its reforms around job creation and use of country systems and to recommend further performance improvements. WBG senior management welcomed the results of the assessment, as well as the g7+’s recommendations for strengthening WBG capacity in g7+ member countries.

Strengthening private sector development in fragile states is a priority for the g7+’s partnership with global financial institutions. In this regard, focused high-level and technical discussions with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) resulted in an agreed framework between the g7+ and IFC on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). The framework will further be operationalized into targeted assistance to build g7+ countries’ capacity to develop...
op and manage PPPs. To further operationalize this collaboration on supporting private sector development, the g7+ will be meeting with the management of the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) to discuss how its role can be enhanced in g7+ countries.

The g7+ also continues to meet approximately every six months with the Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In April 2015 we established a platform for discussion with the IMF to further enhance contextual support in g7+ countries. As a result of these discussions and ongoing advocacy, g7+ policy priorities are being reflected in IMF staff reports and assessment tools that provide inputs to IMF strategic direction.

‡

In March 2014 the g7+ signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the International Labor Organization (ILO) in Geneva. This MOU marks the beginning of collaboration between the g7+ and ILO, particularly in the area of jobs and employment in g7+ countries. This includes a commitment from the ILO to provide more effective technical assistance to member countries (subject to bilateral agreements) in the area of labor and employment in line with the New Deal.

Following on from this MOU, the g7+ and ILO organized a joint two-day workshop on “Jobs for Peace and Resilience in the Framework of Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation” on 30-31 March. The workshop was designed to identify innovative policies that can contribute to sustainable employment generation through sharing of experiences from countries facing similar challenges. The event resulted in identification of opportunities and challenges in relation to sustainable sources of employment generation. Additionally, in the spirit of the aforementioned, the g7+ will contribute to shaping the ILO’s new flagship initiative “Jobs for Peace and Resilience,” due to be officially launched in the first quarter of 2016.

‡

In August 2014, the g7+ participated in a roundtable discussion with the G20, hosted by the Korean Development Institute’s School of Public Policy and Management in Seoul, South Korea. The discussion was focused on enhancing G20 members’ understanding of the unique challenges in fragile and conflict-affected states, with reference to G20 priority areas. This forum also allowed exploration of future opportunities for collaboration. G20 and g7+ country representatives identified several areas of common interest, including investment in infrastructure, job creation, private sector development and taxation. Given that decisions of the G20 have tremendous impact on countries affected by conflict and fragility, it was agreed that ongoing collaboration would be pursued in order to realize mutually beneficial engagement. To further this information sharing and relationship building, the g7+ will seek official observer status at the next G20 Summit.
3. Strengthening the g7+

Strengthening the g7+ as a group has been an important priority as it is the basis on which we are able to achieve our other strategic objectives. A major milestone in this regard was the agreement on the g7+ Charter, endorsed at the 3rd Ministerial Meeting in Lomé, Togo. The Charter has been further validated by the Cabinet in Sierra Leone and Council of Ministers in Timor-Leste. Other member countries, including Afghanistan, DRC, and CAR, also have indicated to validate the Charter within their cabinets. The Charter will further formalize and make us more assertive in our discourse. A number of other organizational developments in 2014-15 contributed to the strengthening of the g7+.

- New governance structure of the g7+ adopted at 3rd Ministerial Meeting.

At the 2014 g7+ Ministerial Meeting, the chairmanship of the g7+ was transferred from the former Minister of Finance of Timor-Leste, H.E. Emilia Pires, to the Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Sierra Leone, H.E. Kaifala Marah. As former Chair, H.E. Emilia Pires was appointed as Special Envoy of the g7+ and H.E. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão was appointed as Eminent Person of the Advisory Council. In addition, it was decided that the g7+ Secretariat be permanently based in Dili, Timor-Leste.

- Strengthening of the Secretariat

The Secretariat provides support to g7+ member countries in implementation of the New Deal, facilitates F2F Cooperation between members, and carries forward the advocacy efforts of the wider g7+ group. With the financial and in-kind support of the Government of Timor-Leste, Sierra Leone, and development partners, the Secretariat was strengthened in 2014-15 to respond to the increasing needs of the group. This included hiring new staff and enhancing media and communication. The Secretariat also launched a revamped website in September 2015 in order to enhance efficiency, usability and impact as an instrument for knowledge sharing and media interaction.
Peer learning, experience sharing and cooperation enhancement among member countries have been important and unique aspects of the g7+. Building on the experiences of peacebuilding, reconciliation and statebuilding in our own countries, the g7+ has actively encouraged cooperation and sharing of these experiences between members through 2014-15. This has helped consolidate the group’s membership by building stronger relationships between countries. Following these initial successes, additional members have now requested support from other g7+ countries through the Secretariat. To formalize the cooperation, a policy note was launched in 2015; it provides modality for the cooperation building on the experiences gathered. Below, we note some of the highlights of this F2F Cooperation.

In a flagship example of F2F Cooperation, in mid-2014, the g7+ Secretariat arranged for former Prime Ministers of Timor-Leste H.E. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão and H.E. Dr. Mari Alkatiri to lead a delegation to support Guinea-Bissau in preparing successful and transparent elections. This built on an earlier joint g7+/IDPS mission to Guinea-Bissau in March 2014 to assist with preparations for a planned fragility assessment. The purpose of this second mission was to enable Guinea-Bissau to regain its constitutional order following a military coup d’état in 2012. As a result of this visit, an additional team of 40 people led by H.E. Tomas Cabral, former Secretary of State for Administrative Decentralization in Timor-Leste, was deployed to Guinea-Bissau to help with electoral registration in late 2014, and this was a critical component in enabling democratic elections to be held.
In February 2015, the g7+ Secretariat mobilized a 10-person delegation to visit two g7+ member states, CAR and DRC. This built on an earlier F2F meeting of g7+ representatives and a delegation from CAR in Dubai in March 2014. The delegation was led by H.E. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, Eminent Person of the Advisory Council of the g7+. The purpose of the visit was to exchange experiences of New Deal implementation, natural resource and public financial management, and reforms in the private sector. Additionally, the delegation supported the peace and reconciliation process and national dialogue for peace in CAR.

The g7+ delegation had the opportunity to meet with the Prime Minister; ministers of Defense, Foreign Affairs, and Reconciliation and Planning; development partners; religious leaders; military leaders; and representatives of militia groups, the Seleka and the anti-Balaka; to listen to their aspirations, grievances and expectations on the ongoing political crisis in CAR. H.E. Xanana Gusmão shared the Timor-Leste experience in reconciliation with Indonesia and the Timorese Pro-Indonesian militia. Regarding the elections in CAR, he shared the Guinea-Bissau experience and what had been learned about the scheduling and security of elections.

The success of this first g7+ mission to CAR resulted in an official invitation from the Government of CAR for the g7+ Secretariat to participate in CAR’s Bangui Forum for National Reconciliation in May 2015. Following this second mission, H.E. Florence Limbio, CAR’s Minister of Planning, participated in the annual Timor-Leste Development Partners Meeting in June 2015. The outcome of this visit was a third mission to Bangui, where a delegation from Timor-Leste’s electoral body went to support the assessment and establishment of the electoral process following the success of a similar mission in Guinea Bissau. Lastly, the Government of Timor-Leste, under the framework of F2F Cooperation, has donated USD 1 million to the government of CAR to support the elections. This ongoing cooperation and relationship-building is representative of the shared value of F2F Cooperation.
Timor-Leste donation of USD 2 million to Ebola response in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

In November 2014, a resolution was passed by Timor-Leste’s Council of Ministers resolving that the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste would donate USD 2 million to fund medical aid for the Governments of Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, to help citizens affected by the Ebola epidemic. In order to expedite the transfer of funds, the Government of Timor-Leste appointed the g7+ Secretariat as a conduit to execute the transfer to its respective member countries. In line with the “practice what we preach” philosophy of the group, the Government of Timor-Leste channeled the funds through the national systems of the recipient countries. This example of F2F cooperation earned Timor-Leste a position within the top 10 donors to the Ebola response at the time.

Natural resource management guidance report published.

As part of g7+ peer learning initiatives under the F2F Cooperation framework, the g7+ Secretariat, with the Overseas Development Institute, compiled a mapping of natural resource management in the g7+’s 20 member countries, including a review of best practices, challenges, and channels for responsible development. This report, the first official policy documentation of the g7+, was launched at the g7+/ILO workshop in Brussels in March 2015. The report highlights the potential wealth of g7+ countries in the context of independently funding their own sustainable development, and stresses the importance of the PSGs to enable pathways towards resilience.

First g7+ Justice Ministers meeting.

On the sidelines of the IDPS Global Meeting in Freetown, June 2014, a group of eight g7+ Justice Ministers met for the first time to share experiences and discuss priorities in their respective countries. The first day sparked such a valuable set of exchanges that the Ministers extended the meeting into a second day. The meeting represents efforts by the g7+ to expand engagement with the New Deal beyond Ministries of Finance and Planning to other line ministries. The meeting led to the g7+ Justice Minister Communiqué and the circulation to g7+ members of a briefing paper on available justice sector support to g7+ members in contract negotiations, responding to the key challenge set for the meeting by the g7+ chair H. E. Minister Marah.
5. Post-2015 development agenda

One of the most important achievements of 2014-2015 was the inclusion of peace and effective institutions in the SDGs under Goal 16. This is crucial for recognizing the importance of these foundations on which other development progress can be built. The g7+ has been an essential voice in advocacy efforts around the inclusion of Goal 16, and its achievement would have not been possible without the diplomatic efforts of the g7+ countries. Throughout the entire process – from the UN Secretary General’s High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, to the Open Working Group, to ongoing backdoor diplomatic efforts – g7+ states have been consistently working towards this outcome. It is also deeply political, and we will continue to follow this process.

Third Financing for Development conference was a critical forum for shaping the way resources for development would be mobilized in future. The g7+ initially engaged on the basis of the draft Addis Ababa Accord, publishing an information note highlighting the draft Accord’s lack of tailored approaches to fragile and conflict-affected contexts. The g7+ note set out eight elements we felt were important to be included in the final outcome document, with the first priority being better support for domestic resource mobilization. Through this lobbying and our engagement at the FFD conference itself, we secured explicit reference to recognizing the particular needs of conflict and post-conflict situations, including a paragraph focused exclusively on these situations and another that refers to the g7+ and the New Deal. This achievement is crucial to ensuring that resource mobilization in all its forms – official development assistance, remittances, private sector investment and taxation – are marshalled in a manner that supports our transition out of fragility.
As part of efforts to ensure the SDGs are meaningfully implemented in a way that assists fragile states in tracking their progress in emerging from fragility, the g7+ has engaged in discussions around “Localizing the SDGs.” This will involve combining global, regional, and national indicators to enable contribution to global and regional progress measures as well as developing of locally relevant measures. This process should help fragile states to move away from the purely global, one-size-fits-all indicators that have been used in the past to judge their progress and find it lacking. Localizing the SDGs is all about ensuring that the measures used in assessing progress are relevant and meaningful to our members’ particular needs and contexts. In this way, and through the inclusion of Goal 16, the SDGs are emerging as a much more relevant and useful development framework for fragile states. Following discussions with Mexico, we will also engage with it by sharing ideas on how to localize the SDGs as an example of South-South cooperation.

In this regard, in December 2015, the g7+ held a Technical Meeting in Nairobi where members shared their experiences on the current plans, monitoring mechanisms, and challenges related to absorbing the SDGs at the national level. This meeting resulted in a list of 20 indicators agreed upon (one per SDG and three on SDG16), to be presented at the 4th Ministerial Meeting in Kabul, March 2016, as a set of indicators that can be jointly monitored and reported on.
As the previous section makes apparent, 2014-2015 has been busy for the g7+ with significant progress made on a number of fronts related to our global advocacy, our peer learning and our consolidation as a group. Yet we have also continued to face a number of challenges. Below we set out some of the most important challenges and the way forward in 2016.

1. **Strengthening the g7+**

   The ability of the g7+ to influence international agendas and development interventions in g7+ countries depends upon the engagement of all members of the group. One challenge we face is mobilizing the buy-in from members; this is difficult given the many priorities they face in the domestic sphere. However, the g7+ is only as strong as its members, and without more active engagement from member countries, we will struggle to make our collective voices heard. One way to revitalize the pursuit of our common objective is to have the g7+ Charter ratified at the country level.

   This has been undertaken in a number of member countries and can help to provide political momentum that enables greater engagement with the g7+ group.

   In addition, the g7+ needs to be self-sustaining in terms of financing. This can be achieved through voluntary contributions by member states, and has been embraced in the g7+ Charter. In light of these challenges, we recommend:

   1. g7+ member countries undertake institutionalizing the group and its objectives at the national level. This will enable us to be more organized, assertive and formal. It will, of course, include mobilizing other key relevant ministries such as Natural resources and Justice to establish a forum for peer learning.

   2. g7+ member countries begin the process of ratifying the g7+ Charter at the country level and pursue other activities to encourage political support for their involvement in the group.

   3. g7+ member countries actively examine possibilities for making a financial contribution to the g7+ in order that we might continue and extend our activities in support of the work plan agreed at the 2014 Ministerial Meeting.
Making the SDGs and FfD meaningful and relevant to fragile states.

Now that peace and effective institutions are included in the SDGs, we face the challenge of ensuring that the indicators used to measure progress are relevant and meaningful to fragile states. We have experienced the inappropriate standards and measurements used with the MDGs, and we must work to ensure that the new indicators do not replicate this mistake. We also face the challenge of ensuring that the SDGs are taken seriously as a framework for helping our countries to emerge from fragility. To that end, we recommend

- The g7+ Ministerial Meeting discuss and agree on an approach for advocating a selected set of priority indicators that can be monitored jointly and reported against. This will not only manifest our common priorities at the global level but also enable experience sharing among the member countries.

- A portal is recommended to be established and managed by the g7+ secretariat, which will continuously monitor progress against these indicators.

- g7+ members localize and institutionalize the SDGs at the national level and demonstrate strong leadership in the pursuit of these goals. SDGs are more relevant to our countries than they are to any other group of countries.

- SDGs should further be localized in the national context within each g7+ member country by aligning them to its national development plan.

- The g7+ group identify strategies for addressing the challenges of promoting the private sector, job creation and aid effectiveness.

- g7+ Ministers should manifest their call for robust support to infrastructure, domestic resource mobilization and curbing the illicit flow of finances.

Expanding Fragile to Fragile Cooperation

In 2014 - 2015 the g7+ has focused on developing F2F Cooperation as a new modality of assistance that gets away from the deficiencies of the ‘transplant’ approach of much technical assistance from the Global North. As captured in this Annual Report, a number of examples of F2F Cooperation are now available. There is significant potential for growing this area of our work but it depends on the proactive engagement of our member states to both articulate their needs and to share their strengths. This will help to diversify the assistance currently being offered and promote
a more collaborative and connected group. To achieve this, we recommend.

- g7+ members proactively share their needs and strengths with the g7+ Secretariat to form the basis for potential future F2F Cooperation.

- Cooperation be advanced in the areas of peace and reconciliation. National Peace Champions should be identified who can help in reconciliation through the Council of Eminent Persons formed in the Lomé Ministerial meeting.

- The g7+ Secretariat undertake a mapping exercise in collaboration with Focal Points to identify the needs and strengths of each g7+ country, with a view to partnering countries in the future for F2F Cooperation.

- F2F Cooperation be actively pursued as a flagship project of the g7+ in 2016, building on our principles of voluntarism, solidarity and cooperation.

- Potential and priority areas for cooperation include Natural resource management, Public Finance management including aid management, Justice and revenue mobilization

• Manifestation of the New Deal principles in changing global contexts

Given the process of evolution in the international aid context, some of which are captured here, there are questions about the role and fit of the New Deal. With the SDGs framework entering into force in 2016, including many of the components of the New Deal, there will be a need to consider how the two frameworks fit together and how they can be harmonized so as not to put too heavy a burden on fragile states. Additionally, the aforementioned occurrence of conflict and crisis in a number of our member countries also raises questions about the role of the New Deal in humanitarian, rather than just development, responses. To address these challenges, we recommend.

- The g7+ Secretariat take forward any work emerging out of these discussions to articulate how the g7+ sees the New Deal within this changing context.
The g7+ Secretariat is supported primarily by the Government of Timor-Leste, which contributed USD 2.5 million in 2014 and USD 2.5 million in 2015 in an expression of Timor-Leste’s commitment to international cooperation and leadership. The Government of Sierra Leone contributed USD 15,000 in 2014 to support the running costs of the Secretariat. The g7+ Secretariat expresses its appreciation to the Governments of Timor-Leste and Sierra Leone for this generous support.

This funding provided necessary support for the Secretariat’s global operations, including its groundbreaking F2F Cooperation efforts and its advocacy for fragile state inclusion in the post-2015 development agenda. It is through this committed support that the g7+ Secretariat was able to effectively transition from its initial start-up phase to being recognized as a leading voice for policy and progress in the global community.

The g7+ is also grateful for its in-kind support from development partners, including Australia, Denmark, the Overseas Development Institute, the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). These partners make it possible for the g7+ Secretariat to dedicate staff to critical policy initiatives and to participate in international fora, and they also provide technical support and professional consultant services when needed. These hand-in-hand partnerships are evidence of the growing ability of the g7+ to reach beyond traditional donor structures to develop innovative financing solutions for cost-effective outcomes.

In order to improve fiscal predictability and sustainability, the g7+ is pursuing participation of other member states in providing financial and in-kind support to the Secretariat. It is the Secretariat’s hope that other member states follow Sierra Leone’s lead and contribute in feasible ways to continue to build the Secretariat’s human capital and financial capabilities.
# Annex 1: Calendar of Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IDPS Global Meeting</td>
<td>Freetown, Sierra Leone</td>
<td>June 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>g7+ Justice Ministers Meeting</td>
<td>Freetown, Sierra Leone</td>
<td>June 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>g7+/G20 Roundtable Discussion</td>
<td>Seoul, South Korea</td>
<td>August 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>High Level Side Event on Post-2015 Agenda</td>
<td>New York, USA</td>
<td>September 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting with World Bank President and IME Deputy Managing Director</td>
<td>Washington DC, USA</td>
<td>October 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>g7+/IFC High Level Side Event on Public Private Partnerships</td>
<td>Washington DC, USA</td>
<td>October 2014</td>
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<td>New Deal Implementation Working Group Meeting</td>
<td>Washington DC, USA</td>
<td>October 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDPS Steering Group Meeting</td>
<td>Washington DC, USA</td>
<td>October 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>g7+/IDPS delegation visit to Guinea-Bissau</td>
<td>Guinea-Bissau</td>
<td>November 2014</td>
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<td>g7+ Secretariat Staff Retreat</td>
<td>Com and Los Palos, Timor-Leste</td>
<td>December 2014</td>
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<td>World Bank Fragility Forum</td>
<td>Washington DC, USA</td>
<td>February 2015</td>
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<td>g7+ delegation visit to DRC and CAR</td>
<td>DRC and CAR</td>
<td>February – March 2015</td>
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<td>ILO workshop and g7+ technical meeting</td>
<td>Brussels, Belgium</td>
<td>March 2015</td>
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<td>Financing for Development Meeting</td>
<td>Beijing, China</td>
<td>March 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting with World Bank Present and IME Deputy Managing Director</td>
<td>Washington DC, USA</td>
<td>April 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>g7+ Secretariat attendance at Bangui Forum</td>
<td>Bangui, CAR</td>
<td>May 2015</td>
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<td>Praia Group Meeting on SDG Indicators</td>
<td>Praia, Cape Verde</td>
<td>June 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financing For Development Conference</td>
<td>Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</td>
<td>July 2015</td>
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<td>Launch of new g7+ website</td>
<td>Dili, Timor - Leste</td>
<td>September 2015</td>
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<td>UNGA</td>
<td>New York, USA</td>
<td>September 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting with World Bank President</td>
<td>Lima, Peru</td>
<td>October 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>g7+ Technical Meeting</td>
<td>Nairobi, Kenya</td>
<td>December 2015</td>
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Afghanistan continues to be an active member of the g7+, most notably as host of the upcoming 2016 Ministerial Meeting in Kabul. Following the adoption of a Mutual Accountability Framework (compact) in 2012, a New Deal study, called “Afghanistan’s Pathways toward Resilience and Stability” was launched in late 2014 to analyze progress against the PSGs. The study is part of the Afghan government’s commitment to the New Deal implementation and broader g7+ processes and serves as the country’s fragility assessment. The study, a product of broad-based continued dialogue and consultations, has now been completed and will be officially launched at the Ministerial Meeting in Kabul in March 2016. Afghanistan was also previously a co-chair of the Working Group on New Deal Implementation.

Burundi set up a coordination group for the partners, as a means of dialogue between the Burundi government and the development partners. The political crisis currently underway is preventing further New Deal implementation from taking place at present.

The Central African Republic has undertaken an impressive implementation of the New Deal in the middle of a political and military crisis, triggered since December 2012. A preliminary matrix on the condition of the fragility and resilience of the country, produced at the beginning of 2015, enriched the thematic discussions at the Bangui Forum For National Reconciliation. The main findings of this matrix, reflected in the barometer of the fragility of the country, were presented and discussed at the Forum, which provided an unprecedented opportunity for political dialogue. The New Deal was approved and recommended in the official document of the Forum’s outcomes as part of its strategic planning. Plans are underway for a complete evaluation of the fragility, and for the development of a compact recommended by the Forum.

Chad set out government priorities in a National Development Plan (2013-2015). Five of these eight priorities are aligned with New Deal principles, including the PSGs. Namely, (i) sustainable growth, (ii) food security, (iii) creation of and access to employment, (iv) development of human capital, (v) private sector development, (vi) development of Information Technology and Communication (ICT), (vii) environmental protection and adaptation to climate change, (viii) improving governance. Since January 2015, Chad through the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, in particular the Directorate General of Planning and Studies led by CEO Mr. Mbairo Mbaiguedem, National Focal Point of the g7+, is coordinating a national study for the long-term “Vision 2030, the Chad we want”. In January 2016, the President of the Republic of Chad, H. E. Mr. Idriss Déby Itno, Head of State, was elected by his peers as the new Chair of the African Union. H. E. Mariam Mahamat Nour, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, has been appointed a UNDP Champion by Helen Clark.

Comoros conducted its first fragility evaluation in 2014. Its first conducted a national awareness-raising campaign on New Deal implementation in 2013 and established a network of local civil society platforms contributing to implementation efforts, including to the development of country indicators for a national fragility assessment.
Cote D'Ivoire conducted a national awareness raising campaign on New Deal implementation in 2013 and established a network of local civil society platforms contributing to implementation efforts, including to the development of country indicators for a national fragility assessment.

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) held the first presidency of the g7+ with its Minister of Planning. DRC is among the initiators of the network of fragile states, the g7+, being present in 2008 during the round table discussions on Aid Effectiveness in Fragile States, at the margins of the Third International High Level Forum in Accra. Consequently, the country has elaborated, with the help of development partners, including the CSO, the first fragility evaluations in Kinshasa and its surroundings. DRC is currently reviewing and updating this evaluation with the ambition to launch a new one that will inform the “Peacebuilding, Stability and Reconstruction” section of the National Strategic Plan for Development, which will provide a unique framework for government and partners interventions.

Guinea has been closely involved in the Ebola Regional Recovery Strategy and has based policy responses in part on New Deal principles. Guinea has also recently expressed interest in developing a roadmap for implementing its first fragility assessment.

Guinea Bissau has made important steps towards implementing the New Deal but has also faced setbacks due to ongoing political instability, with a coup in 2012 and renewed instability in 2015. A fragility assessment was initially launched in early 2014, with a joint g7+/IDPS technical mission conducted in November 2014. However, ongoing instability has delayed the fragility assessment. It is planned for 2016.

Haiti is an active g7+ member and H.E. Secretary of State for Planning Michel Présumé currently serves as the Deputy Chair of the g7+. During 2016, Haiti is planning to integrate the New Deal and conduct a Fragility Assessment.

Liberia's New Deal implementation progress was interrupted by the Ebola crisis that affected the country throughout 2014-15. Liberia was working towards developing a New Deal Compact with its New Deal pilot partners prior to the Ebola outbreak. Liberia conducted a “use of country systems” inventory to establish baselines for “use of country systems” and inform the Compact development process. During the response to Ebola, government and partners demonstrated the effectiveness of applying New Deal principles. Donors exhibited great flexibility in reprogramming support towards the Ebola response. Direct budget support also increased significantly during the response, demonstrating donors’ willingness to use country systems for aid delivery. New Deal implementation is set to resume with a validation of the “Use of country systems” report. Liberia has launched the SDGs nationally and is currently working on a strategy to domesticate the SDGs. Other developments relevant to New Deal implementation in Liberia include:
a) Conducting a midterm review of the national plan to mainstream the New Deal
b) Finalizing the National Vision - Liberia RISING 2030 and aligning it to the SDGs.
Liberia plans to carry out its second fragility assessment in 2016, adopting an inclusive consultative methodology.

No updates.

Sao Tome and Principe joined the g7+ during the 3rd Ministerial Meeting in 2014, Lomé, Togo. To reinforce this support, the Government ratified the g7+ Charter in 2015. With regard to New Deal implementation, measures are being taken with UNDP to support the fragility assessment process in the country.

Sierra Leone has made impressive progress in implementing the New Deal in spite of the Ebola crisis that has affected the country since May 2014. A Mutual Accountability Framework (compact) was signed in 2014 and a second fragility assessment was also finalized in 2014, with consultations taking place in every district of the country.

Solomon Islands have put in place a National Development Strategy (NDS) for 2011-2020 and a Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP) for 2014-2018 through a participatory consultation process. The Truth and Reconciliation Process included many elements common to a New Deal Fragility Assessment.

Somalia launched a Compact Progress Report in November 2014, following the agreement of a compact with donors in 2013. A High Level Partnership Forum on Somalia was held in Copenhagen in November 2014, reaffirming the New Deal as the overall framework for Somalia’s post-conflict transformation. Inter-Ministerial task forces have been set up around each PSG. Also, at the end of 2015, a high level joint g7+/IDPS visit, including the Deputy General Secretary of the g7+ and the Co-Chair of the IDPS, was conducted in Mogadishu to support the sensitization of the New Deal within and across the government.

South Sudan was due to sign a compact with donors in 2013 but this was delayed by fighting that broke out in the country in December 2013, preventing further New Deal Implementation.

Timor-Leste is carrying out its second fragility assessment in 2015, adopting an inclusive and consultative methodology with focus groups in all 13 municipalities. Timor-Leste has also spearheaded F2FCooperation with Central African Republic in 2014-15, provided technical assistance to Guinea-Bissau’s 2014 elections and provided financial assistance to the Ebola-affected g7+ countries of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone in 2015.
Togo was the host, on 29-30 May 2014, of the 3rd g7+ Ministerial Meeting in the capital, Lomé, which led to the adoption of the g7+ Charter. The country has developed a Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Employment Promotion (SCAPE) (2013-2017,) which defines the government’s priorities and considers the New Deal. In 2015, Togo led awareness campaigns on the New Deal implementation to public administration, technical and financial partners, civil society and the private sector, with the support and participation of the UNDP-New York, the office of the UNDP in Lomé, and the focal point Central African Republic (CAR) under the fragile-to-fragile cooperation Togo-CAR; and intends to conduct a fragility assessment in the near future.

Yemen joined the g7+ at the 2014 Ministerial Meeting in Togo.
g7+ Ministerial Forum

- g7+ Chair
  - g7+ Eminent Person
  - g7+ Special Envoy
  - g7+ General Secretary
    - g7+ Focal Points

- Development Partners, CSO, Non g7+ countries

- g7+ Deputy General Secretary

- Finance and Administration
  - Communication and Media
  - Policy and Advocacy
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