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Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the seventy-fourth session

Observer status for the Group of Seven Plus in the General Assembly

Letter dated 16 July 2019 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of Afghanistan, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Liberia, Papua New Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Timor-Leste, Togo and Yemen, I have the honour to request, pursuant to rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the seventy-fourth session of the Assembly of an item entitled "Observer status for the Group of Seven Plus in the General Assembly".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum (see annex I) in support of the above request and a draft resolution (see annex II) are attached to the present letter.

It would be appreciated if the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Victoria **Sulimani**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Sierra Leone
to the United Nations



Annex I

Explanatory memorandum

Group of Seven Plus fulfils the legal criteria for observer status in the General Assembly

At its forty-ninth session, under agenda item 157, the General Assembly resolved that the status of observer be reserved for those States and intergovernmental organizations whose activities covered matters of interest to the Assembly.

Since its inception in April 2010 as an intergovernmental organization with legal personality, the Group of Seven Plus has sought to help conflict-affected countries to recover and develop. The States members of the Group have agreed to pursue five peacekeeping and State-building goals, outlined as follows:

- (a) Foster inclusive political settlements and conflict resolution;
- (b) Establish and strengthen security for all people;
- (c) Address injustices and increase people's access to justice;
- (d) Generate employment and improve livelihoods;
- (e) Manage revenue and build capacity for accountable and fair delivery of service.

As an intergovernmental organization, the Group has a unique approach to achieving the stated goals, which is underpinned by the principle of "nothing about us without us". The principle speaks volumes about the ownership and inclusive approach to recovery from conflict situations taken by the member States. The belief remains that every country should be the chief sponsor of change within that same country. As a result, inter-State communication among fragile States is an essential part of the plan for progress of the Group. The member States can indeed learn from each other, and, through that learning, support each other.

Membership

Pursuant to the Charter of the Group of Seven Plus, any country in conflict or recovering from conflict may notify the General Secretary of its willingness to adhere to the Charter. The General Secretary must then provide a copy of the request to all member States. The member States must decide by consensus whether the State in question will be granted membership in the Group.

The Group has grown from 7 members on 10 April 2010 to 20 as at 1 June 2019; the following States are signatories to the Charter:

Afghanistan
Burundi
Central African Republic
Chad
Comoros
Côte d'Ivoire
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Haiti
Liberia

Papua New Guinea
Sao Tome and Principe
Sierra Leone
Solomon Islands
Somalia
South Sudan
Timor-Leste
Togo
Yemen

Institutional structure

The institutional structure of the Group consists of a Ministerial Forum, advised by the Advisory Council, a secretariat and the secretariat staff. The Ministerial Forum resembles the General Assembly. Each member State appoints a delegate to the Forum.

The Ministerial Forum must meet at least once a year. The Chair of the Forum may convene a meeting at any time. The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Forum are chosen by the Forum to serve a two-year term. The position of Chair rotates among the member States.

The Advisory Council meets once a year and may be called upon by the Forum or the Chair of the Group to provide advice through a general meeting of the Council.

A secretariat is established in the Charter, and the secretariat and its staff are responsible for providing advice and assistance in and coordinating the implementation of the decisions of the Forum. The secretariat provides support to the Chair of the Group and helps to coordinate the activities of the member States.

The General Secretary acts as the Secretary to the Ministerial Forum and to the meetings of the Ministerial Forum and Advisory Council, and such other councils, committees and working groups established by the Forum. In addition, the General Secretary has the power to enter into legal undertakings on behalf of the Group.

Advantages for the United Nations in granting observer status to the Group of Seven Plus

The objectives of the Group are of the utmost importance to the United Nations and its purposes of maintaining international peace and security and promoting sustainable development. It is essential to the United Nations that the States members of the Group recover fully from conflict, consolidate peace and pursue development. Fragility creates a conducive context for the resumption of conflict and extremist manipulation. The success and stability of the Group and its member States will therefore be essential to the United Nations goals of maintaining international peace and promoting sustainable development.

Furthermore, the Group can and will provide invaluable insight into and share experiences of the recovery of fragile countries that could result in a more effective and less costly peacebuilding and State-building agenda for the United Nations.

The goal of pursuing peace and justice and building strong institutions is strongly linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by all States Members of the United Nations. States members of the Group are very active in leveraging support and establishing partnerships for the implementation of the Goals, especially Goal 16.

Implementing Goal 16 in the States members of the Group is meant to promote peace and inclusiveness in society and will further advance progress locally and globally. With the Group as an observer, the world will be a step closer to peace and stability.

Advantages for the Group of Seven Plus in obtaining observer status in the General Assembly

Obtaining observer status in the General Assembly will further enhance the opportunities for the Group to achieve its goals. The capacity to follow the deliberations of the Assembly will open the door to networks and information to which the Group does not currently have access.

The Group would benefit from closer interaction with the organs of the United Nations should the need arise for the United Nations to engage with one of the States members of the Group.

In the global fight for peace and stability, the Group of Seven Plus will prove itself to be a treasured asset and ally to the United Nations.

Annex II**Draft resolution****Observer status for the Group of Seven Plus in the General Assembly**

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Group of Seven Plus,

1. *Decides* to invite the Group of Seven Plus to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;
 2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the action necessary to implement the present resolution.
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