



Non-Paper on the Group of Seven Plus

The Group of Seven Plus (g7+) is seeking to attain observer status at the United Nations General Assembly. The observer status will enable the group to have the avenue through which it can provide collective input in the agenda and work of UN, particularly on sustaining peace and security, improving peacekeeping operations, the 2030 Agenda and general effective engagement. The group can benefit in its close collaboration with the United Nations and its organs in its struggle to achieve lasting Peace and stability.

Introduction:

Established in 2010 as an Inter-Governmental organization of conflict affected countries to help achieving Peace, and stability through peer learning in areas of country owned Peace and Statebuilding and advocating for better engagement therein.

The g7+ is comprised of Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Liberia, Papua New Guinea, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Timor-Leste, Togo and Yemen. The g7+ Charter was endorsed by g7+ Member States during the 3rd g7+ Ministerial meeting held in Lome, Togo on 30 May 2014. The current Chair of the Group is Sierra Leone represented by H.E. Dr. Francis Kai-Kai, Minister of Planning and Economic Development and the Deputy Chair is Afghanistan, represented by H.E. Naheed Sarabi, Deputy Minister for Policy of Ministry of Finance. The Headquarters of g7+ is hosted in Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste with a hub in Lisbon, Portugal.

Objective:

Article II of the g7+ Charter defines the purpose of the g7+ group which is summarized as follows:

1. Facilitate peer learning and sharing of experience among conflict affected countries in the areas of peacebuilding, statebuilding, stability and development.
2. Advocate for effective and country-owned and country-led cooperation in areas of peace and statebuilding, humanitarian and development engagement that supports achieving resilient State institutions capable of serving the citizens.
3. Promote home grown peace through National dialogue and reconciliation founded on the principles of country ownership.

Major achievements:

g7+ is the first ever self-organized inter-governmental Group of countries affected by war, conflict and fragility established to collectively voice the priorities of these countries at regional and global level. Recognizing the transition of some of the countries that successfully have achieved relative Peace and stability owing to their National leadership and will, the Group has promoted cooperation and peer learning founded on the pillars of solidarity and volunteerism. Consolidating such experiences, the Group has promoted a narrative that better defines challenges and solutions thereto that is sensitive and responsive to the context of countries emerging from wars and conflict. Using the narrative, the g7+ has become a platform to negotiate the principles of engagement with donors. Hence, it agreed upon the New Deal *for engagement in fragile situation*ⁱ (endorsed by more

than 40 countries and organizations) with donors and civil society. The New Deal contains a set of principles guiding effective Peace and Statebuilding and development cooperation policies.

Using the New Deal principles, the Group made an impact of reforming aid policies of bilateral and multi-lateral donors to become more responsive to the needs of conflict affected countries. Globally the g7+ collectively succeeded in securing a stand-alone goal on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding within the global agenda 2030 (Sustainable development Goal number 16). Since 2012, the group has regularly engaged in the margins of the UN General Assembly High-Level week to consolidate the voice of conflict affected countries on related matters. Since the adoption of the agenda 2030, the g7+ has also engaged regularly during the High-Level Political forums to promote the contextual implementation of the SDGs in conflict affected countries. Owing to its collective engagement at the United Nations and other global forums, the g7+ has become an interface on debate relating to sustaining peace and conflict prevention.

The g7+ developed and operationalized a concept of cooperation among conflict affected countries that is called “fragile-to-fragile cooperation” to facilitate sharing of tangible knowledge on related matters such as Peace and reconciliation, Public Finance Management, Natural Resources Management, Managing UN peacekeeping operation, promoting Justice and development. Using this model, the g7+ helped in facilitating dialogue between the warring factions in Central African Republic. In addition, it facilitated sharing of tangible experiences in conducting elections, responding to emergencies, managing Public Finance management in member countries as few of the examples. The Group regularly convenes forums and Ministerial level thematic meetings of member countries to share experiences and consolidate its position on related matters. It has also established formal partnerships with UNDP, UN office of South-South Cooperation, International Labor organization, World Bank, Rwanda Cooperation Initiatives and other international think-tanks and organizations to promote such experiences.

In order to further consolidate and promote sharing of country experiences that can help in achieving peace and stability, the g7+ established a “g7+ foundation”. Officially launched at the g7+ High Level Side event in New York in September 2016, the foundation supports the vision of g7+ Members and the Group’s Secretariat through capturing the essence of country led pathways toward resilience. It will help the g7+ with tested analysis and research on the often-untold-stories of their own that can provide ample lessons for reforms that are more conducive to the context of conflict affected countries.

ⁱ http://www.pbsbdialogue.org/media/filer_public/07/69/07692de0-3557-494e-918e-18df00e9ef73/the_new_deal.pdf