



# Newsletter

Special Edition May 2017

## Welcome message from the g7+ Chair



### H.E. Momodu Lamin Kargbo

Minister of Finance and Economic development of Sierra Leone and Chair of the g7+

On behalf of the g7+ family I welcome readers to our special newsletter edition, which covers some of the main issues the g7+ have been working on in recent months. I call it 'special edition,' as we are excited to share with you some of the most important milestones we have achieved during our mission to Portugal, as well as g7+ outreach conducted in the margins of the World Bank and IMF Spring Meetings in Washington, DC.

Especially notable has been the continued efforts in both Copenhagen and Washington, DC to take forward the 'New Way of Working' agenda, which emerged from the 2016 Global Humanitarian Summit. I commend our development partners and civil society that have shown their interest and commitment to work with g7+ countries in our quest to exit fragility by seeking to overcome the humanitarian-development divide.

I would like to take a moment to congratulate our brothers and sisters from Afghanistan who have demonstrated their desire to achieve sustainable peace through holding a successful national peace process agreement in Kabul. At the same time, we keep in our thoughts those living in Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen, who are experiencing famine and extreme food insecurity. We look to our development partners to redouble efforts to assist these countries at this devastating time.

Thank you and I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter. I also wish those of you attending the Global Conference on Implementing the SDGs in Fragile States, taking place in Dili, Timor-Leste, every success. Let's work harder to bring to bear our collective efforts in realizing the SDGs in our member states.

## The g7+ opens European branch office in Lisbon, Portugal

The g7+ visits to Lisbon in early April resulted the Lisbon Municipality in granting an office space in central Lisbon, which will become the g7+ hub in Europe. This office will help serve our members better and remain actively engaged with development partners in Europe. It is will to be inaugurated in the summer of 2017.



The g7+ delegation including the g7+ Chair H.E. Momodu Lamin Kargbo, the g7+ Eminent Person H.E. Xanana Gusmão, the Minister of Finance of Timor-Leste H.E. Santana Cardoso and the g7+ General Secretary Helder da Costa travelled to Portugal for high-level meeting with the Portuguese authorities and other meetings.

The delegation met with the President of the Republic of Portugal, H.E. Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, the President of the Portuguese Parliament, H.E. Eduardo Ferro Rodrigues, the Portuguese Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Augusto Santos Silva, the Mayor of Lisbon, H.E. Fernando Medina, representatives of the Ministry of Finance of Portugal and members of the Parliamentary Group for Friendship between Portugal and Timor-Leste.

The meeting provided an opportunity for the g7+ to raise awareness of its global advocacy work and for the Portuguese authorities to express their political support to the activity of the g7+ and the cause of peacebuilding.

The delegation also travelled to Coimbra, in central Portugal, to meet with representatives of the University of Coimbra. The meeting led to agreement to co-host an international conference on the challenges of peacebuilding and statebuilding in late May, which will be following with a signature of a Memorandum of Understanding to support future collaborative research initiatives on peacebuilding and statebuilding.

## From a 'new way of working' to 'our way of working': Supporting the role of State in overcoming the humanitarian-development divide

On 22 April, the g7+ together with the WB, UN and Denmark, co-organized a high level meeting on the margin of the World Bank Spring Meetings on the Role of National Stakeholders in the Implementation of the New Way of Working (NWOW) that aim to support and strengthening state role to tackle humanitarian development. The NWOW is adopted on the outcome of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in Istanbul, which recognized the need to reduce risk and strengthen resilience in the face of numerous challenges.



The International community including the multi-laterals such as the United Nations (UN) and the World Bank Group (WBG) have been discussing how to operationalize this New Way of Working.



Eight Ministers from g7+ countries namely: Afghanistan, Chad, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan Timor-Leste and Yemen attended the meeting. They emphasised and believed the fragmentation in the actions of the humanitarian and development work has undermined resilience of the States in crisis

The g7+ manifests the role of the State institution as in stewarding and leading the humanitarian and development intervention. The discussions focused on how government and national stakeholders could be better supported in advancing the new ways of working. Officials from the g7+ Ministers highlighted the importance of the importance of country ownership, predictability and timely assistance to address the challenges facing the countries. Canada emphasized the importance of listening to people and governments affected by conflict and fragility.

Timor-Leste's Deputy Minister of Finance, Helder Lopes, was in agreement and added that recognizing country context and leadership is an essential to the sustainability of development impacts.



In regards to unfolding humanitarian crises, Somalia's Minister of Finance, Abdirahman Duale Beyle, emphasized that "assistance from the international community in a timely manner is crucial" to address famine.

In addition, Chad Minister of Finance, Ngueto Tiraina Yambaye said "more than 30% of refugees hosted in Chad are residing in host families." This raises the challenge of how the international community can support the Chad Government to resettle the refugees or assist them in returning to their former homes.



Afghanistan's Vice Minister of Finance, Mohammad Qahir Haidari noted that, "peace, security and jobs are essential elements for stability in Afghanistan." He expressed his hope that the new way of working will be able to stop protracted conflict and humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.

Development partners and civil society equally reiterated the importance of the role People and the National Government of the countries affected by conflict and Fragility. They committed to adjust their approach and support government leadership through both short-term humanitarian assistance, as well as longer-term capacity development for resilience.

In practice, this would mean: channelling of humanitarian and development assistance through National and Government mechanism, avoiding fragmentation for greater harmonization, longer term agile, risk-willing programs adapted to context and aligned to the National Priorities, support for flexible funding for governments to make 'smart' short term changes, financial instruments that support resilience, cash-based support and predictable funding to avoid financing gaps.

Participants reinforced their commitment to the principles of New Deal to support the government ownership and leadership in advancing the NWOW in fragile states. In addition, they committed to see how to reform their system to advance the principles of NWOW at country level

## Crises stigmatize gains on private sector development in conflict-affected countries



Washington, 21 April 2017 - The International Finance Cooperation (IFC) invited Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Sierra Leone and the g7+ Chair, H.E. Momudu Lamin Kargbo, to provide g7+ perspectives on challenges facing the private sector conflict-affected

states. Together with high-level officials from multilaterals and including Professor Paul Collier in a panel, the Chair of g7+ highlighted the potential of strengthening the private sector and the challenges facing the same in conflict affected states.

Minister Kargbo recognised the limited development progress and lack of appetite of business in conflict affected states is because “the stigma attached to Sierra Leone as an affected Ebola country scares the investors while there are numerous untapped opportunities” he stated.



Panellists emphasized on the importance of supporting entrepreneurship in conflict-affected countries for the sake of eradicating extreme poverty.

Minister Kargbo underlined the importance of support to the g7+ Governments to help address complex political, regulatory, operational and security-related challenges

He asked IFC and MIGA (Multilateral Investment Guarantee) to adopt a new approach to promote market growth, job creation and to increase opportunities that attract investors to expand their presence on the ground and deploy new financial instruments to stimulate greater investment levels and local currency financing.

With over 60% of the world’s poorest people projected to be concentrated in countries affected by fragility and conflict by 2030, promoting the development of a robust private sector is critical to avoiding this bleak future.

### g7+ collaboration with the European Commission

In April 2017, the g7+ led by H.E. Minister Kargbo, the Chair of g7+ met with the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), Stefano Manservigi, to discuss how to strengthen collaboration for furthering the effectiveness of the intervention of EC in countries affected by conflict and fragility



DG DEVCO is responsible for formulating European Union development policy and thematic policies in order to help in reducing poverty through providing development aid to least developed and developing countries.

The agenda of the meeting included discussing shared areas of interest, such as peace, security and resilience in conflict-affected states. The Chair of the g7+, Momudu Lamin Kargbo, reiterated the need for constant support for g7+ countries to achieve resilience and development to sustain peace. He underlined the importance of strengthening the domestic revenue generation capacity of the countries affected by conflict and fragility. He commended and further encouraged the modality of Budget support under the “Statebuilding Contract” to conflict affected countries by EC

Mr. Manservigi informed the g7+ delegation of the EC development consensus, a policy statement that commits the EU members for eradicating Poverty, and mentioned that said Consensus singles out fragility, which needs to be addressed. He further expressed that supporting Statebuilding, Security and Jobs creation are the 3 inter-related elements that need collective support. He underlined the importance of the principle of alignment of Support to the National priorities.

At the end of the meeting, both sides agreed g7+ will be given opportunity to be represented during the “European Development Days” or other related platforms through higher level side events and bilateral meetings. This will provide a forum for g7+ and EU countries to share perspectives on the contemporary issues.

### Afghans possess the ability to seek peaceful and fundamental solutions to their own conflicts and problems



Kabul, 04 May 2017, The Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan welcomed Veteran warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the leader Hizb-i-Islami, to Kabul after a peace agreement signed between him the Government of Afghanistan eight months ago. Under the deal Mr. Hekmatyar agreed to accept the Constitution and avoid violence.

This is the first peace agreement that was done without UN or international mediation. Based on the request of the Government of Afghanistan, the UN dropped all the sanctions on Mr. Hekmatyar. It is hoped that the deal will encourage other major militant group of Taliban to join the peace process.

This important milestone in the trajectory of Afghanistan reconfirms that peace is possible when national actors take ownership and lead the process. This is a significant start to create lasting peace and stability in the country, which will enable the next step of development to unfold.

It is also an example of the principles of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States being realized. The New Deal advocates for country owned and country led approaches to achieve peacebuilding and statebuilding. It also emphasizes that international intervention is to support and strengthen government capacity in addressing conflict and violence.

The g7+ encourage other member countries to follow Afghanistan's initiative and work towards peace in the national interest.

## Timor-Leste's National Parliament ratifies g7+ Charter and Headquarter Agreement



On 17 May 2017, the National Parliament of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste voted unanimously to ratify the g7+ Charter. As soon as this decision is published in the official journal in Timor-Leste will thus become the second g7+ member state to complete the ratification process, after Afghanistan did so in February 2017.

In accordance with its Article XII, no. 3, the g7+ Charter enters into force upon receipt by the General Secretary of the instruments of ratification by two or more Member States.

This historic step in the formalisation of the g7+ as a group will therefore occur in the very near future, following which the General Secretary, Dr. Helder da Costa will initiate the process of lodging the Charter with the United Nations so that the g7+ will be formally recognised as a group by the UN

The National Parliament of Timor-Leste considered that the g7+ Charter “meets all the constitutional, legal and regulatory requirements” to be ratified and that “this organisation constitutes a paradigm shift in the promotion of development cooperation and in the effective implementation of international aid.”

During the same session, the National Parliament also approved the ratification of the Headquarters Agreement between the Government of Timor-Leste and the g7+. This Agreement confirms Timor-Leste as the host country of the g7+ Secretariat and lays out the rights and obligations of both parties in this respect.

Dr. Helder thanked member countries that have signed the Charter and wish this event would encourage other g7+ countries to sign and ratify the Charter at the to show the group political commitment in advocating and promoting effective aid implementation and development in g7+ countries.

## Upcoming Global Conference on Implementing Agenda 2030 in Fragile States



The Government of Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste with the support of the g7+, will host the Global Conference on Agenda 2030: “A Roadmap for the Sustainable Development Goals in fragile and conflict affected countries” in Dili, Timor-Leste, from 22 - 23 May 2017.

The Conference will bring together Ministers and high level officials from the g7+ member states, other conflict-affected countries in the Middle East, Association of Southeast Asian (ASEAN) and Pacific countries, Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPCP), development partners, civil society organizations and private sector actors to discuss challenges and share lessons on the implementation of Agenda 2030 in countries affected by conflict and fragile situations.

On the first day, a high-level segment for policy makers including the Heads of Governments, g7+ Ministers from Afghanistan, Central Africa Republic, Sierra Leone, Somalia and South Sudan, and other senior state representatives will be held, to express political leadership and commitment to implement the SDGs.

The second day will consist of technical deliberations on the best approach to strengthen cooperation between fragile and conflict-affected states. The g7+ experience of fragile-to-fragile cooperation will be featured, with side events also on Timor-Leste’s experiences of economic diversification and use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the health sector.

The g7+ will share an update at the Conference on the group’s efforts to jointly monitor priority SDG indicators, with a full report to be launched at the High Level Political Forum in July 2017.

The conference is expected to approve a Conference Declaration on implementing the SDGs in conflict affected states.

## From the desk of the General Secretary



As we produce this special edition of the g7+ newsletter, the Secretariat is busily preparing for the Global Conference on Implementing the SDGs in Fragile States. We will have six Ministers from Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Sierra Leone, Somalia and South Sudan represented at the meeting and look forward to welcoming them back to Dili.

As part of our preparations, the Secretariat has been compiling an update on g7+ reporting against the priority SDG indicators agreed by our Ministers at the 2016 Kabul Ministerial Meeting. This is a fascinating exercise that will add real value to global discussions on supporting SDG implementation in our countries. We look forward to receiving country reports from those members still working on them so that we can produce a full synthesis for the High Level Political Forum in July 2017.

In early May, we attended the Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development and participated in a debate on the relevance of multilateral commitments in an increasingly multipolar world

Behind the scenes, the Secretariat is also taking forward research on priorities identified by g7+ members, such as use of country systems. We look forward to sharing this research with you in the coming months and ask our members to contribute information and research from their respective countries so that we can ensure our research and voice are fully representative.

I hope you enjoy reading about the work we are doing and developments in our member countries.