



# Newsletter

September 2016

## 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+

Dear readers,

Welcome to our 2016 third newsletter edition. On behalf of the g7+ family, I would like to commend the work of the g7+ in the past few months. This period has featured the adoption of a g7+ refined list of SDGs indicators during the g7+ Technical Meeting that was held in Nairobi in June 2016. I am particularly happy to announce that an online portal will be set up at the g7+ Secretariat to jointly monitor the select list of g7+ SDGs indicators to ensure that the g7+ countries are not under-reported.

Under the Peer Learning and Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation, it was a pleasure to see a bilateral sharing of experience and knowledge between Afghanistan and Timor-Leste on Public Finance Management. I strongly encourage other g7+ member countries to pursue similar bilateral events. Furthermore, I commend the initiative of the g7+ delegation, led by the g7+ Eminent Person, H.E. Xanana Gusmão, to visit and support the Central African Republic in their peace and reconciliation process. I am confident that this will be continued in other member countries should it become necessary.

Let me also, on behalf of my fellow g7+ Ministers, thank our development partners, particularly the UNDP and the World Bank, for collaborating with the

g7+ Secretariat in conducting fragility assessments in Guinea Bissau and Sierra Leone. In addition, I would like to thank the ILO for inviting the g7+ Secretariat to deliver our perspectives on how we can align SDGs Goal 16, Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation and Job for Resilience to Sustaining Peace in Fragile and Conflict-Affected countries.

I express my deepest sympathy to the people of Afghanistan, Burundi, Somalia, South Sudan, Yemen and other countries who are facing active conflict and violence and commit to working with other partners for a speedy resolution of these conflicts.

Let me take this opportunity to extend invitations to all to attend the g7+ UNGA Side Event "Peer-Learning among Fragile and Conflict-Affected Countries on Sustaining Peace and Sustainable Development" that will be held on 23 September 2016, from 1:15 - 2:30pm at Conference room 11 in United Nation Headquarters in New York.

We trust this newsletter will set a tone for our collective enthusiasm for the successful implementation of our 2016 - 2017 work plan. I hope you will enjoy reading this newsletter and that it will provide you the information you need on the work of the g7+.

**Sincerely,**

H.E. Momodu Lamin Kargbo  
Minister of Finance and Economic development of Sierra Leone and Chair of the g7+

## The g7+ Calls on the International Community to Support the Central African Republic and its Government in Fostering Peace and Stability



A former French colony that became independent in 1960, the Central African Republic (CAR) has been through phases of instability and violence. With a population of 4.7 million people, the country has experienced periods of stability marked by bouts of destabilization and civil war. The most recent conflict, beginning in 2012, involved fights between the Séléka ("alliance") and Anti-Balaka ("anti-machete") groups. Conflict began as a struggle over political power and access to State resources, but victims of the conflict have been the common citizens of the country. This conflict resulted in the killing of thousands of civilians and military forces and displacement of more than a million of people half of whom migrated to neighboring countries with another half displaced internally.

The appointment of Catherine Samba-Panza as interim president, in 2014, in advance of scheduled popular elections in 2015, was accepted by the 2 major warring factions. A national forum on reconciliation, the "Bangui Forum for National Reconciliation", was held in May 2015, which proved to be an important step towards peace in CAR. Commitments to holding election, fostering DDRR (Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration and Repatriation), releasing of child soldiers etc were important agreements reached in Bangui. The g7+ was represented at the Forum that was attended by more than 600 participants. Participants, including civil society and religious groups, also agreed to establish a national Truth and Reconciliation Commission and set priorities for economic and social development.



Popular and peaceful elections for the Presidency and the National Assembly were held in CAR on 30 December 2015. A run-off was held in early 2016, since no candidate received more than 50% of the votes. Former Prime Minister and Academic Faustin Archange Touadéra was elected President with 63% of the votes. President Touadéra campaigned as a peacemaker who will bridge the communal and ethnic divide. He has vowed to pursue DDDR and to bring peace and development to CAR.



In the spirit of solidarity with CAR as a member of the g7+, the Organization led a mission to Bangui, capital of CAR, in September 2016. This was the 3rd mission to CAR since 2015 and was aimed at appraising the progress made since the Bangui Reconciliation Forum. The mission that was led by the g7+ eminent person met representatives of the Government, National Assembly, Civil Societies, ex-Séléka and the Anti-Balaka factions' leaders, internally displaced community and donors.



The mission noticed that the Government, the people and even the leaders of the ex-factions are committed to peace and to protecting the population. The Cabinet Ministers with meager or no resources in their reach and with ill-equipped offices are committed to necessary reforms. The Ministries of Interior and Defense are willing to take charge of the security of their own people rather than continuing depending on foreign peacekeepers. Resettlement of one million of the IDPs is on the top of the Government's agenda. Parliament, which is representative of all ethnic and religious groups, is willing and committed to foster reconciliation and to help in consolidating the war torn country and its populations. The Civil Society with limited capacity and resources want to help the Government in delivering the agreements made during the Bangui Forum. The leaders of the ex-war factions, who recognized that conflict resulted in nothing but the fracturing the country, have laid their arms and are trying to pursue the DDDR program. The citizens, on the other hand, expect and are positive about a change; a change in course of direction towards peacefulness and stability. Despite the daily hardships, which could be notice during a simple walk in the Capital, let alone in other parts of country, one can notice that the people are hopeful about a peaceful future.



The thousands of IDPs who are settled near the Bangui Airport see a hope of assistance in every plan that arrives. They flock around the Minister of Reconciliation, who considers resettlement of the displaced people as a life mission, every time she visits the camp. In the interaction with the g7+ delegation, on the occasion of a visit to the IDP camp, the g7+ delegation learned about how resilient and hopeful the people are. On the other hand, it was deeply sad and heartbreaking to see their living condition. Upon the arrival of the g7+ delegation in the camp, the kids, men and women celebrated, even knowing that we had come there empty handed. They were touched by the solidarity of the g7+ and it gave them moral strength to pursue a better future. It was apparent that these people are willing to go back to their homes, work on their farms; but to do that, they want to be sure that they will be safe and their villages and will be guarded by the national police rather than live with the fear of being evacuated, killed or robbed.



The UN peacekeepers under MINUSCA, whose annual operational cost is estimated to be 1 billion US dollars, have been stationed in CAR to protect the civilians and foreign peacekeeper troops. They could be seen in Bangui mostly stationed near the airport or other important Government offices, Embassies and NGOs buildings. However, it is very rare to notice any national police or national army patrolling in the streets. This is despite the fact that the people are willing to see their national security forces well trained and equipped to take charge of their security.

The country is going through a critical juncture of its trajectory. The people and its Government know this and are willing to change the bitter past for a brighter future. To do so, they need resources in order to translate their vision into reality. However, and unfortunately, they don't have a magic lamp which can produce those resources. They will need some minimum infrastructure and capacity to be able to explore the natural treasures their country has been blessed with. The country that has been labeled "aid orphan" in the aid industry is at the mercy of international assistance. If the international community fails to mobilize those resources and respond to the needs of the Government and its people, it will be considered another missed opportunity in the history of the global aspiration of "leaving no one behind".

To ensure their seriousness in the pursuit of their vision for a peaceful and stable CAR, the Government has shared with the g7+ delegation its Strategic Plan that will be presented to the international community in the coming months at Brussels Pledging Conference.

**While the g7+ will produce a short report of this mission, below are some of the key recommendations the g7+ would like to make to the international community:**

- The government needs an urgent support for the settlement of refugees and IDPs. This includes their safe return and ensuring their security. This will contribute greatly to peace and stability.
- DDDR (Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration and Repatriation) has been agreed and committed to by more than 10 war factions some of whom have laid their arms while others are ready to do so. The Government will need to provide them with immediate alternative livelihood programs to reintegrate them into their societies. This will be impossible without investment by donors in the areas of needed infrastructure, small and medium enterprises and skill development.
- MINUSCA needs to work more closely with the Government and communities. The mission needs to work through the local institutions who will be the ultimate bearer of the responsibility of protecting and serving the citizens. This will ensure a smooth transition.
- The international community needs to trust on the potential of the elected Government and its Parliament. This will enable them to gain the trust of their citizens, which is indispensable for stability.

The case of CAR is an urgent call and represents another important moment for all of us to test the relevance of the principles of peacebuilding and statebuilding agreed upon in the New Deal for engagement in fragile states. The experiences of other g7+ countries affected by conflict and fragility have demonstrated that avoiding the perceived risk of engaging with development partners in these countries cost more than actually facing that risk. So we hope that our development partners prove it right once again and support CAR to avoid it from relapsing into crisis.

## Outcome of the g7+ Technical Meeting "Tracking SDGs Progress and g7+ Work plan"



Following on the decisions made at the 4th Ministerial Meeting that the g7+ held in Kabul, Afghanistan, in March 2016, a Technical Meeting with the focal points and the officials from statistic offices/ Bureaus was held on 30 - 31 May 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya. Hosted by the World Bank office, the purpose of the Meeting was to work out the action plan for the priorities agreed upon during the Ministerial Meeting.

Attended by focal points and officials from 17 g7+ countries, members of Civil Society Organizations, donor organizations and IDPS (International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding), the meeting focused on the following outcomes of Ministerial meeting:

- **The implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** Participants reviewed and refined the list of priority indicators of SDGs to be jointly monitored. These indicators were identified last year in December and presented at the Ministerial meeting in Kabul. After in-depth discussion and consultation with the member countries, the indicators were modified, refined and agreed upon. The indicators will be jointly monitored and reported through a portal that will be established by the g7+ Secretariat.
- **Mapping out Fragile to Fragile cooperation:** The Technical Meeting was an opportunity to identify and map out relevant areas for cooperation and peer learning among the g7+ countries. The participants outlined thematic areas from which countries can learn and share experiences with each other. The result of this consultation enabled the Secretariat to facilitate peer learning among member countries and to secure donors' support for the s .Fragile to Fragile Cooperation, which is one of the flagship programs of the g7+ that has attracted great interest from member countries and development partners. It has facilitated the sharing of relevant experiences and cooperation out of solidarity.



The Meeting was also an opportunity to appraise the progress made in member countries and to discuss the challenges for implementing the 2030 Agenda. A common constraint and challenges that stood out was the lack of sufficient capacity, financial resources and data to monitor the implementation. Participants unanimously called for contextual support to be provided to strengthen the institutional capacity in the area of data collection.

## Strengthening the Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation: Afghan Officials visit Timor-Leste for the Study of Freebalance V7 Implementation



Within the g7+ Peer Learning framework, four delegations from Ministries of Finance from the Republic of Afghanistan visited the Ministry of Finance of Timor-Leste from 09 August to 13 August 2016.

The objective was to exchange experience on the Public Finance Management reform with a particular focus on the Integrated Financial Management Information System Unit (IFMISU).

The Ministry of Finance of Timor-Leste uses the FreeBalance v7 (IFMISU) to enable the effective and expeditious management of public finances. It is an integrated system, meaning that one can start from allocating the budget using the performance budget module to committing the funds using the budget & appropriation module, procuring goods using the procurement module, managing the contracts with the management contract module, managing the assets with the asset accountability module and so forth.

With the v7, anyone from anywhere can perform a transaction like approving a payment as long as they have access to the internet and a unique password with the right level of security.

The delegation also met with different directorates in the Ministry of Finance who shared their experiences and knowledge on Planning, Budgeting, and Institutional Performance Evaluation Function, human resources management and other related technical issues.

The delegation also took time to visit Timor-Leste's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.



**The Delegations was composed of:**

- Masood Kharooti, IT Manager
- Mohammad Basir Anwari, AFMIS Network
- Nisar Ahmad Nooreen, AFMIS Functional
- Vishal Gandhi, Treasury Advisor

**The g7+ Secretariat outreach**

From late May until July 2016, the g7+ Secretariat has undertaken various networking and outreach activities with the aim of advancing the g7+ work priorities that were agreed upon at the 4th g7+ Ministerial Meeting in Kabul

**Here are the highlights:**

Following the Pope Francis visit to Bangui in October 2015, and the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste to the Vatican, the g7+ Secretariat had the courtesy to brief the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Vatican, Mgr. Paul Richard Gallagher, on 15 July 2016. The g7+ mission presented the work of the g7+, especially its mutual assistance mechanism under the Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation, whose focus in 2015 was on Peace and Reconciliation Process in Central African Republic. The discussion focused on how to maintain peace in a sustainable manner in a post-conflict environment as well as on the various challenges that need to be overcome in the g7+ countries. Mgr Gallagher commended the work of the g7+ in pursuing peaceful resolutions of conflict and conflict prevention in post-conflict affected states.

In addition, in order to ensure that g7+ countries are not left behind in the development agenda of the ILO, the g7+ Secretariat delivered a presentation on the g7+ work in operationalising the Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation as a subset of South-South Cooperation at the ILO Conference on South-South and Triangle Cooperation, held from 11 to 14 July in Turin, Italy. The Secretariat emphasized the linkage between Goal 16, i.e., "Promote Justice, Peace and Inclusive Societies" and ILO Jobs for Peace.

Peace and Job are two sides of a coin. In order to have a peaceful society, people need to have a decent livelihood. Opportunities in social and economic development help in preventing people to participate in conflict and violence. In line with that, the g7+ group also emphasized the Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation through which our member countries share experiences and knowledge that are relevant to other members in areas such as vocational training, capacity building and diversification in domestic revenues. This enabled us to contextualize Job for Peace at the country level.

We also met the UN Office of South-South Cooperation in New York on 19 July 2016. It offered to facilitate the sharing of knowledge activities and to mobilize resources for implementing the 2030 Agenda. It suggested the extension of the knowledge sharing to non-g7+ countries. A possible joint event on this issue will be discussed.

In addition, during the High Level Political Forum Side Event "Building Capacities of Public Institutions for Implementing the SDGs: Concrete Challenges and Potential Solutions", that was held on 20 July, the g7+ Secretariat also proposed three recommendations that can help addressing some of the challenges the g7+ countries face, such as the contextual implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. The g7+ highlighted that the New Deal Principles are important guidelines that can facilitate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the g7+ countries and the mobilization of resources from development partners such as the World Bank, UNDP and others stakeholders in order to support the Central Statistics Offices in improving information management.

**From the Desk of General Secretary**



Helder da Costa [General Secretary]

work with the CAR's Government and its partner in mobilizing resources for the peace and reconciliation process

On behalf of g7+ Secretariat, I wish to express our thanks to our member states and partners for their ongoing support. I hope to meet the g7+ Ministers of Finance during the World Bank Annual Meeting on 08 October 2016 in Washington, DC. I personally would like to invite the g7+ Focal Points and the Heads of Statistics Departments from g7+ countries to attend the g7+ Technical Meeting that will be held in November in Dili, Timor-Leste. It will be an opportunity for us to track progress on the implementation of the SDGs and to work on our work plan for 2017-2018

Dear g7+ readers, as we approach the end of 2016, the g7+ as a group have achieved so much. Yet, few member countries continue to tackle the complex challenges of peacebuilding and statebuilding.

I congratulate the people and the new Government of CAR on its progress and achievements since the successful election. The g7+ Secretariat will continue to

## Launch of the g7+ Oral History "Strength in Fragility: We are writing our own History"

"Strength in Fragility: We are writing our own History" tells the story of the emergence of the g7+ as a group and the journey through its establishment.

The g7+ was founded in 2010 in response to the gaps between current development assistance and the unique needs of countries in fragile situations. The g7+ promotes peace building and state building as the foundations for sustainable development and advocates for country-owned and country-led processes. As part of this goal, the g7+ is pleased to share our history from our own perspective in "Strength in Fragility." This oral history includes the development experiences of g7+ member countries, the common challenges faced by countries in fragile situations, achievements of the g7+ to date, and our priorities moving forward. Read more at <http://www.g7plus.org/en/resources/strength-fragility-we-are-writing-our-own-history>.

## Meet the New g7+ Focal Points

**DRC:** Herman Kakule - Director Coordination of Natural Resources  
**South Sudan:** Arop Deng - Senior Inspector for Aid Coordination

## g7+ Events

### g7+ UNGA Side Event on "Peace and Reconciliation"

### g7+ UNGA Side Event on "Peer-Learning among Fragile and Conflict-Affected Countries on Sustaining Peace and Sustainable Development"

Date: Friday, 23 September 2016

Time: 1:15pm - 2:30pm.

Venue: Conference Room 11, UN HQ, NY.

### World Bank Annual Meeting

Date: Saturday, 08 October 2016

Time: 11:30am - 12:30pm

Venue: World Bank Office, Washington DC, USA

### g7+ Technical Meeting on SDGs Implementation and g7+ Work Plan in Dili on 22 - 26 November 2016

### IDPS Steering Group Meeting

Date: TBC

Venue: Nairobi, Kenya.

### 2nd High Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation

Date: 28 Nov - 01 Dec 2016

Venue: Nairobi, Kenya

## g7+ Member Countries Independence Day

Happy Independence Day to g7+ countries. May the Independence Day fills our life with Peace, Stability, happiness, and Prosperity.

### August:

7 August - Côte d'Ivoire's Independence Day

11 August - Chad's Independence Day

13 August - Central African Republic's Independence Day

19 August - Afghanistan's Independence Day

### September:

16 September - Papua New Guinea's Independence Day

24 September - Guinea Bissau's Independence Day

## g7+ Countries in the Olympic Games:



The g7+ Secretariat congratulates the 17 g7+ member countries that participated in the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio Janeiro, Brazil, from 05 August to 21 August 2016. We feel proud to see your flag waving in the field. Once again, congratulations on your achievements. We wish all success in your endeavors! Keep up the good work!

- Afghanistan
- Burundi
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Comoros
- DRC
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Haiti
- Liberia
- Sao Tome & Principe
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- South Sudan
- Timor-Leste
- Togo
- Yemen