

Newsletter



High Level Delegates at the Dili International Conference

RECENT ACTIVITIES

In this first edition our “Recent Activities” will cover the first three months of 2013. Here we can only touch on some of the many g7+ related activities that have occurred at both the country and international level.

In January preparations were made for a series of meetings between the Government of Chad and development partners. The planned meetings will focus on the New Deal and its country level implementation. The International Dialogue and UN played a supporting role in this preparation phase.

Also in January the g7+ was involved in an International Dialogue meeting in Nairobi, Kenya to gather stakeholder feedback on New Deal indica-

tors. Country indicators were discussed, analyzed and reduced in number to facilitate further work on the indicators process at both the country and global level for the PSGs, TRUST and FOCUS.

In February much of the energy of the g7+ Secretariat was focused on the preparation of an International Conference hosted by the Government of Timor-Leste with support from the Pacific Institute of Public Policy, United Nations ESCAP, AusAID and the g7+. The conference, which took place between the 26th and 28th of February was focused on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and was entitled “Development for All: Stop conflict, build states and eradicate poverty”.

Welcome!

Welcome to this first edition of the g7+ bi-monthly newsletter. With a very busy few months of 2013 already behind us and plenty of work ahead we hope this will help keep you up to date with our many activities and let you know about the developments on the ground in our 18 member countries. It will also be a chance to meet some of our wonderful Ministers, beginning in this edition with Minister of Planning from the Comoros. Enjoy!

Emilia Pires

Chair of the g7+



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COUNTRY UPDATE - AFGHANISTAN



Afghanistan joined the g7+ countries in 2010 and continues to be a very active and articulate member of the group. Afghanistan is a co-chair of the Working Group on New Deal Im-

plementation. We asked the g7+ Focal Point, Ms Sousan Rahimi Rauli to give us a country update. She writes:

The Presidential election will be the most important event in Afghanistan considering the Transition Period. The election is scheduled for April 2014, however the preparations will begin mid-2013. The Presidential

election is an opportunity to further consolidate democracy and make the political transition a transparent and inclusive process.

Afghanistan is also preparing for a period of transition with most foreign troops planning to leave the country by the end of 2013 and the security transition will be completed by the end of 2014. [\[continued page 2\]](#)

RECENT ACTIVITIES CONTINUED ...

g7+ members were also well represented in the one day closed door roundtable on Pacific Issues held on the 25th of February which produced a statement with key conclusions regarding the challenges and issues facing Pacific island States.

March started in a very energetic and productive way with the g7+ technical meeting held in Dili after the International Conference. Here the focal points of the g7+ gathered to discuss the three main work areas of Governance, Policy and Communications and to look at ways to improve and capitalize on the g7+ secretariat work to benefit all member countries.

After returning from Dili members of the Solomon Islands Ministry of Planning and Aid Coordination held a one-day Consultation Workshop discussing indicators for the Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals. Key ministries of government, development partners and NGOs looked at consolidating PSG indicators for the Solomon Islands context. Also in March the working group on the New Deal Implementation met in Dubai and was attended by one of the two co-chairs of the group, Mr. Habib Ur-Rehman Mayar. Mr. Mayar, from the Ministry of Finance



Photo: Ms. Susan Sulu, Director for Aid Management and Coordination, Solomon Islands, at the g7+ Technical Meeting in Dili, March 2013

of Afghanistan, has been seconded to the g7+ Secretariat and is currently working in Dili, Timor-Leste as a g7+ Senior Policy Analyst.

Lastly the Steering Committee of the Global Partnership met in late March in Bali, Indonesia. The g7+ was represented by Dr. Helder da Costa and Mr. Habib Ur-Rehman Mayar. For our g7+ members, we encourage you to send information regarding country-level activities related to the g7+ and the New Deal to the Secretariat so we can share them with the g7+ family and the wider community.

COUNTRY UPDATE - AFGHANISTAN CONTINUED ...

Key to this movement towards self-reliance has been the process of building the capacity and capability of the Afghan National Army and National Police. The Council of Peace and Reconciliation is working towards making this transition peaceful.

Economic transition is another challenge that has required the Government to develop national policies and strategies for the period of transition and beyond. Under the Government Development Agenda there are 22 National Priority Programs developed from which 20 have already been endorsed. The remaining two will be tabled for endorsement very soon. The "One Vision One Plan" concept, as articulated in the New Deal FOCUS Principles, is the 22nd National Priority Program.

New Deal Implementation in 2013

A recent achievement, set to have a positive impact on aid effectiveness in Afghanistan, is the endorsement

of the Aid Management Policy (AMP) during the last meeting of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board in February 2013.

The Afghan Aid Management Policy captures the New Deal Principles as it prioritizes transparency, risk sharing, the use and strengthening of country systems, strengthening of capacity and the provision of timely and predictable aid. The AMP Implementation Working Group has been established and has regular meetings with development partners. The main priorities discussed by this group include the aid effectiveness agenda and New Deal implementation.

In addition to the recent endorsement of the AMP, the New Deal implementation has been promoted in Afghanistan by the creation of the Lead Donors Working Group. The work at the national level is also ongoing in terms of developing the TRUST and FOCUS and identifying the PSG indicators.

Afghanistan has a COMPACT which is the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework, signed by the Afghan Government and the International Community, based on the aid effectiveness principles. To implement the aid effectiveness indicators in practice, the Aid Management Policy plays the main role.

Afghanistan's g7+ focal point noted that the New Deal brings hope, unity and prosperity for the people in fragile countries. In Afghanistan, considering the unique security situation, New Deal implementation must emphasize the use of national systems under the aid effectiveness agenda.

For more information click [here](#).



MEET THE MINISTER

This year, as a feature of our newsletter and website, we will be publishing interviews with our g7+ Ministers. The media team were delighted that Madame Soifiat Alfeine Tadjeddine was happy to talk to us from her office in the Union of Comoros, the newest member of the g7+. To begin we asked the Minister of Planning to tell us a little about her country and the people of Comoros.

Minister: Despite what the press and the media have tended to suggest, Comoros is a wonderful and peaceful country. There were indeed many examples of institutional turbulence and coups in the past, but we now enjoy a great security and peace in the whole country.

I would describe the people of Comoros as peaceful, happy, supportive, determined and resilient.

Amongst our islands there are an infinite number of activities and rhythms in our social life with men, women and young people often gathering together for social occasions. Many people like to go to the beach. Personally, I like to garden during my spare time!

After asking the Minister about her role in the Ministry of Planning we are not sure that she has much spare time for gardening! She explained:

I have been the Minister of Planning since 2007. In a nutshell, my role is to coordinate the activities regarding elaboration, implementation and follow-up of the development framework, as well as mobilizing resources. I am also responsible for the technical coordination of development aid.

g7+ Media: How will Comoros benefit from g7+ membership?

Minister: Since the Comoros has joined the g7+, we have had the opportunity to participate in the annual technical meeting that was held in Timor-Leste in March 2013. So already we have benefited from the exchanges between the different countries and from being exposed

to examples of New Deal implementation in other g7+ countries.

Since independence, the Comoros has experienced a long period of peace building and stability in what is an unstable regional geostrategic environment. In this context, we would like the g7+ to assist us as we create new and innovative tools for our national development framework that take into account our national characteristics

For us, the New Deal is an attractive instrument that allows us to define our own plan with our own vision of where we want to go and how to get there.

g7+ Media: What do you see as the biggest strengths and challenges for the citizens of the Comoros?

Minister: I would consider that the main strengths of the Comoros are: [i] Our developing human capital - with young people and women being increasingly educated and qualified, this represents a great opportunity for change, [ii] A very dynamic diaspora (mostly based in France) who is sending remittances to the Comoros and [iii] A high potential for tourism, mainly up-market tourism and ecotourism, with our beautiful and un-spoilt environment.

The main challenges for the Comoros are: [i] Vulnerability to climate change and [ii] Economic governance. Even if important reforms have been undertaken recently and some improvements have already been made (such as those regarding transparency and accountability), there are still important reforms to establish regarding economic management to make our government more effective and efficient.

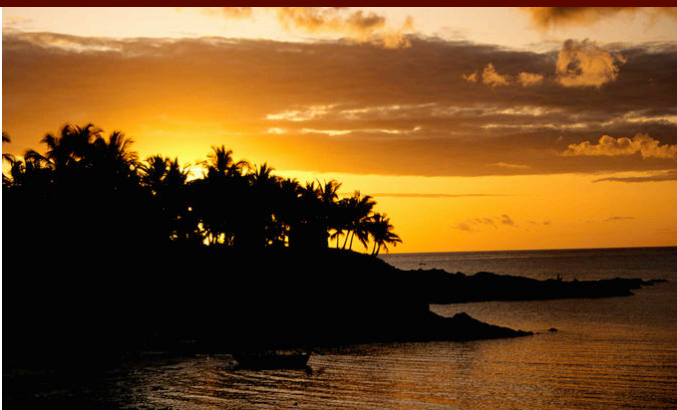
We finished our interview with Minister Tadjeddine asking if she had any final message to pass on to the g7+ family.

Minister: I would like to say to all the g7+ members that the Union of the Comoros is happy to join this new family and to derive the maximum benefit from our shared experiences. In addition, the Government of Comoros would love to be the host of a g7+ meeting, so we can prepare an excellent program for you to discover our beautiful country. We are also candidates for the fragility assessment, as a first step to implement the New Deal in our country. This assessment should help us to better set our priorities.



Mme Soifiat Alfeine Tadjeddine

Comoros - high potential for tourism



"Within the g7+ family we are not alone. We have the opportunity to learn from the successful models used by other countries and it is our collective interest to prevent countries in transition from sliding back into conflict."

H.E.
Gordon Darcy Lilo
Prime Minister
Solomon Islands



Links



www.g7plus.org



www.facebook.com/g7plus



[g7plus](https://twitter.com/g7plus)

CALENDAR 2013

These are some of the upcoming meetings involving the g7+.

18th April: Meeting of International Dialogue Core Group, Washington DC, USA

19th April: 10h-14h: Side Event - Private Sector Investment and Job Creation in Fragile States, hosted by the g7+, IFC and MoFA Denmark, Washington DC, USA

19th April: 14h-18h: Global Meeting of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS), Washington DC, USA

19th-21st April: World Bank, IMF Spring Meetings, Washington DC, USA

May: g7+ Technical Meeting (tbc)

5th-6th June: International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) Director Level Meeting, London, UK

July: International Dialogue for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS) Technical Meeting, working group meeting on New Deal Implementation.

23rd-29th September: 67th United Nations General Assembly, New York, USA

11th-13th October: World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings, Washington DC, USA

October: 3rd g7+ Ministerial Retreat, Guinea Bissau (tbc)

November/December: 1st Ministerial Meeting of the Global Partnership (tbc)

December: International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) Director Level Meeting, London, UK

IN THE MEDIA

Here are a number of links to recent articles and blog posts on the g7+, the New Deal and development in g7+ countries. A longer list is now up on the g7+ website. If you see something over the next months that you think should be in the June edition of the Newsletter please let us know by emailing us at g7plusmedia@gmail.com

[Solomon Islands media on Prime Minister Lilo's participation at the Dili International Conference](#)

[A blog from Timor-Leste on the g7+ and the new Development Paradigm](#)

[Save the Children's Elin Martinez](#) looks at MyWorld survey and Dili Consensus and argues that education should be a top priority for g7+ in post-2015 debate.

[President of the World Bank, Jim Kim writing for Huffington Post](#), outlines Five Steps to Help Fragile Countries

[Somali Government issues a Press Release on New Deal Task Force](#)



Nothing about us without us!
H.E.
Kosti Manibe,
Minister of
Finance
South Sudan

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