

# Newsletter



The New Deal was central in discussions at the annual Timor-Leste Development Partners Meeting, June 2013

## RECENT ACTIVITIES

Just as the last edition of our Newsletter was being finalised two important meetings were being held in Dubai UAE. The 3rd g7+ Technical Meeting was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of May with the Chair of the g7+, the g7+ Secretariat, Country Focal Points and support staff gathering to work on the Fragility Spectrum, the Monitoring of New Deal implementation and the governance structure of the Indicators Working Group. A [report](#) on the meeting is available on the g7+ website. Following on from this meeting the [International Dialogue for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding](#) convened a meeting of the New Deal Implementation Working Group on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of May. This working group considers and promotes the most practical approaches and opportunities to accelerate New Deal implementation.

One of the [Ten Strategic Policy Priorities](#) of the g7+ for 2013 is to influence the Post-2015 Development Agenda to ensure the needs and vulnerabilities of the g7+ are addressed. Consequently the meeting of High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda held in New York on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of May was an important event for the g7+. The [Report of the High Level Panel](#) was released and after strong contributions from panel members including g7+ Chair, H.E. Emilia Pires, the report does address the important needs of fragile and conflict-affected states.

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## Welcome!

Welcome to the third edition of the g7+ bi-monthly newsletter. This edition features a country update from Guinea-Bissau and an introduction to the g7+ Secretariat. It is my honor to lead the Secretariat in our mission to serve g7+ member countries while seeking to enhance a deeper and more meaningful understanding with our partners worldwide.

As we travel the path toward resilience, we are thankful for the support provided for the g7+ Secretariat. Our work will continue to strengthen, based on a spirit of volunteerism, solidarity and partnership. I am indeed very proud of our g7+ family. It has been deeply rewarding to see the group develop in a few years from an idea and a fledgling gathering to a strong and articulate voice that is beginning to reshape the development assistance paradigm.



Helder da Costa PhD  
Head of the g7+ Secretariat

## COUNTRY UPDATE - GUINEA BISSAU



Guinea-Bissau (GB) became a member of the g7+ in July 2010. Located in West Africa the country has a population of 1.6 million and a land area of 30,000km<sup>2</sup>.

Currently, the main revenues of the country are cashew nuts and fishing. There are a lot of reserves of bauxite, timber and phosphate but their exploitation has not started yet.

There is also a tremendous potential in agriculture with a very fertile land.

The political situation of the country is quite precarious as there was a military coup on 12 April 2012. The next day, all development partners suspended their aid and cooperation with the country ...

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## RECENT ACTIVITIES CONTINUED ...

Of five central themes the fourth focuses on the need for peacebuilding and statebuilding and stresses the need to “Build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all.” The role of the g7+ is given a special mention.

At the country level the New Deal was very much at the centre of discussions at the annual [Timor-Leste Development Partners Meeting](#) held in Dili on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of June. The outcome document from the meeting confirms “commitment to

the New Deal and our alignment to its themes of country-led and country-owned development, prioritizing and following the principles articulated in the Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals, FOCUS and TRUST.”

Between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of July the World Bank held the IDA17 Meeting in Nicaragua. A special welcome was given to the g7+ the g7+ made an intervention as part of the discussions.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> July Somalia launched the first Fragility Assessment consultation meeting in Mogadishu.

Amongst many other activities related to the g7+ in June and July were activities of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in accentuating the special needs of g7+ countries and the importance of inclusion in the Post-2105 Agenda, and a fact finding mission to Guinea-Bissau to prepare for the proposed 2014 g7+ Ministerial Retreat.

## COUNTRY UPDATE - GUINEA BISSAU CONTINUED ...

... including the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP), the African Union, the United Nations, the European Union and the African Development Bank. Before the coup, the development partner's aid represented up to 60% of the total State budget. The only donor still active in the country is the Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS).

Nevertheless, things are moving in the right direction. Indeed, a new inclusive transitional government, in place since 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2013, has a new program and new dynamics are in place. The transition Minister of Economy and Regional Integration, H.E. Soares Sambu, mentioned that “the National Parliament, the only elected and legitimate body in the country, just voted the 2013 budget, thus slowly coming back to the constitutional normality.”



H.E. Soares Sambu  
Transition Minister of Economy  
and Regional Integration

This new transitional government should lead the country to democratic national elections, scheduled for the end of 2013 or early 2014 at the latest. Development Partners are offering help for the organization of the elections, and hopefully they will resume their cooperation with the country afterwards.



H.E. Jose Ramos Horta (centre right) with  
members of the g7+ Advance Team and  
Guinea-Bissau Focal Points

Dr. Jose Ramos Horta, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and former President of Timor-Leste, was nominated last February as the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General to Guinea-Bissau. He's aiming at creating a better political climate in the country and encourage stakeholders (military and political parties) to speak to each other. According to Dr.Horta, “Guinea-Bissau leaders have to accept in their minds that there will be no winners or losers but that all have to work together in

the next 5 years towards the development of their country. Guinea-Bissau has a lot of natural resources and is potentially much richer than Timor-Leste. But the country needs 3 essential things: good political leadership, political stability and good governance.”

Guinea-Bissau volunteered to organize the next g7+ Ministerial Meeting. It was originally planned for November 2013 but since the elections should take place around that time, it has been decided to move the g7+ meeting to end of February 2014 after the elections have taken place. H.E. Soares Sambu assures that “there is a strong commitment from the government of Guinea-Bissau to host the g7+ Ministerial Meeting in February 2014. The government is enthusiastic and willing to host this meeting as it is important for the country's visibility and it can raise its international profile.” Back-to-back with the g7+ event, a donors' pledge conference will be organized to promote trust and confidence and attract donor support for the upcoming 2-3 years.

Antonio Co, the g7+ focal point, mentioned that Guinea-Bissau wants to commence its Fragility Assessment in the coming months and present the results at the g7+ Ministerial Meeting in February 2014.

## MEET THE SECRETARIAT

The g7+ Secretariat exists to serve and help the member countries realize the vision and mission of the g7+ based on guiding principles of Volunteerism, Solidarity and Cooperation.

Established in 2010 in Dili, Timor-Leste, the Secretariat serves the g7+ family across the globe from a medium Kobe House container office space in the compound of the Ministry of Finance. The core team consists of 8 young and enthusiastic staff under the leadership of Mr. Helder da Costa, PhD (Head of the g7+ Secretariat) and H.E. Emilia Pires (Chair of the g7+). The core mandate of the Secretariat includes: providing quality services to g7+ members and helping the materialization of the objectives of the g7+ and its New Deal for engagement in fragile situation through policy discourse and public discourse at the national

and global level. The core values of the small team working in Dili include trust, honesty, dedication and dynamism.

Despite coming from different backgrounds, the spirit of TEAM work in the secretariat is always alive. This will enable us to accomplish the principle spelt out by those letters: "Team Effort Achieves More". To stay responsive to its member countries which exist on different time zone of the globe, the team members of the secretariat are used to working beyond the call of duty (office hours). Financially, the g7+ Secretariat to date is grateful to the generous support of the Government of Timor-Leste. The plan to secure funding sources from g7+ member countries on a voluntary basis is forthcoming. The Secretariat is also supported by its partners such as ODI and ACCORD.



**Mr. Helder da Costa, PhD**  
**Head of the g7+ Secretariat**  
 Mr. da Costa was one of the founders of the g7+ and has led the g7+ Secretariat since its formation in April 2010.

**Mr. Habib Ur Rehman Mayar**  
**Senior Policy Specialist**  
 Mr. Mayar joined the g7+ Secretariat in February 2013 and is on secondment from the Ministry Of Finance Afghanistan



**Dr. Nelson Martins, PhD**  
**Senior Policy Researcher**  
 Dr. Martins is a Timor-Leste national and was seconded to the g7+ Secretariat in June 2013 to lead the development of the g7+ Research Program.

**Ms. Felicia Carvalho**  
**Programme & Coordination Officer**  
 Ms. Carvalho is a Timor-Leste national who has worked within the g7+ Secretariat since its formation in 2010.



**Ms. Mafalda Marchioro**  
**Programme Officer**  
 Ms. Marchioro is an Italian national who began working with the g7+ Secretariat in November 2011. She was seconded from the ODI.

**Ms. Mena Savio**  
**Executive Administration Officer**  
 Ms. Savio is a Timor-Leste national who began working with the g7+ Secretariat in April 2010.



**Ms. Elise Vanormelingen**  
**Programme Officer**  
 Ms. Vanormelingen is a Belgian national who began working with the g7+ Secretariat in February 2013. She also works for the World Bank.

**Mr. David Butts**  
**g7+ Media**  
 Mr. Butts is an Australian national who has been spreading the message of the g7+ since early 2010 and among other things coordinates this newsletter.



“Countries already come together informally in many settings to discuss what they can do to achieve more, and more sustainable, development. These global cooperation forums, such as the g7+, G-20, the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, and regional forums, are playing important roles...

The g7+, for instance, has drawn attention to the special challenges faced by fragile states in defining country-owned and country-led plans to move from conflict to peaceful and sustainably developing societies.”

The **Report of the HLP** on the Post-2015 Development Agenda



## Links



[www.g7plus.org](http://www.g7plus.org)



[www.facebook.com/g7plus](http://www.facebook.com/g7plus)



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

## CALENDAR 2013

These are some of the meetings involving the g7+.

**25-26 July:** Steering Committee meeting on Global Partnership for effective development cooperation, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**29-30 July:** 4<sup>th</sup> g7+ Technical Meeting, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**26-28 August:** Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: from the Millennium Development Goals to the UN Development Agenda beyond 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

**2 September:** Launching of the HLP on Fragile States in Monrovia, Liberia

**17-19 September:** IMF Conference on Economic Growth and Natural Resources, Dili, Timor-Leste

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

**23 September:** UNGA g7+ High Level (Ministerial) Side Event entitled “Putting Peace at the Heart of Sustainable Development”

**24-29 September:** UNGA Post-2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage.

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

**November:** 5th g7+ technical meeting (date and location tbc)

**December:** International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) Director Level Meeting, Paris, France

**Early 2014:** 3rd g7+ Ministerial Retreat, Guinea Bissau (date tbc)

## 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.

[Erik Solheim writes about the New Deal in Project Syndicate](#)

[Institute of Development Studies looks at achieving the MDGs in Fragile States.](#)

[Blog on Contesting the Role of Media in Fragile and Conflict Afflicted States](#)

Claire Leigh writes on the perils of ranking fragile states: [Telling countries they're the worst in the world doesn't really help them](#)

African Capacity Building Foundation has launched its third Africa Capacity Indicators Report focusing on capacity development for natural resource management. [Executive Summary here.](#)



“The g7+ knows from bitter experience that without peace and stability there can be no development, and that conflict is development in reverse. As such a comprehensive approach is needed that addresses the specific challenges and root causes in each particular conflict setting.”

**H.E. Sofia Borges**

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to the United Nations

## g7+ Secretariat

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