

Welcome from the g7+

Fellow members and friends of the g7+, 2014 will be remembered as a challenging year for many of us.

The experience of the Ebola outbreak in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone has reminded us of how easily we can slip back into fragility. This is a test of our resilience not only as individual countries but as a group of the g7+ family. Along with undermining our public health infrastructure, the outbreak has exposed the weaknesses of our roads, communications, energy and water and sanitation infrastructure thereby highlighting the core issues under the Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals (PSGs).

Despite the setbacks, we remain focus as a group and with the support of all member states and the Civil Society; we will continue our march towards resilience. Let me on behalf of the affected countries, convey our thanks to the g7+ for their solidarity, advocacy and assistance.

The good news is 2014 has also been a year with many positive outcomes such as peaceful elections in several of our member states, the use of dialogue to resolve potential conflicts, improvements in service delivery and strong advocacy, and in many cases, improved relations with partners and registering effective development cooperation.

Our advocacy work on the post 2015 global development agenda is yielding fruits as underscored by the successful High Level Side Event on having Peace and Capable Institution in the post 2015 Agenda, which was held on the margins of the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. The meetings with the World Bank, IMF and IFC during the 2014 Annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund were also constructive. We applaud the appointment of a Senior Director for Fragility, Conflict and Violence as well that of a Special Director on Jobs by the World Bank Group. The Joint g7+/IFC workshop on Public Private Partnerships also resulted in an agreement to develop a framework for IFC's engagement in fragile states. This shows that we are gradually building consensus on how to work better with key partners.

I wish to welcome H.E. Michel Presume of Haiti, who recently assumed the role of Deputy Chair of the g7+ and convey thanks to all our g7+ focal points, Secretariat staff, IDPS Secretariat, INCAF and CSO Platform.

Enjoy the newsletter and the remaining weeks of 2014. We look forward to working together in 2015 with renewed energy and determination for our g7+ family.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a brilliant 2015!

[Kaifala Marah](#)

Chair of the g7+



H.E. Kaifala Marah, Chair of the g7+

Recent Activities

Following the trend of the last few years, the period from August through to November was again a demanding and productive time for the g7+, particularly in terms of international advocacy. In this review we highlight some of the most significant activities undertaken.

Our August newsletter was completed in time to share with the participants of the Round table Discussion on the g7+ and G20 held in Korea on the 18th - 20th of August. This event was important in establishing a rapport between the two groups and exploring areas for collaboration. The Korean Development Institute [KDI] and g7+ Secretariat co-hosted the event which was attended by senior officials from g7+ countries including the Minister of Planning of the Democratic Republic of Congo, H.E. Célestine Vunabandi, officials from some G20 countries, development scholars, think tanks and the IDPS Secretariat. The roundtable discussion was instrumental in opening windows for future collaboration between the two groups on mutual priorities.

The months of September and October are important from an advocacy point of view for the g7+ group. Two important global events, namely the UN General Assembly and WB/IMF annual meetings happen in September and October respectively.

A High Level g7+ Side Event hosted by Republic of Sierra Leone was held in New York City in the sidelines of the 69th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). This continues a pattern of HLSEs facilitated by the g7+ each year since 2010. Entitled "Peace and Capable Institutions as stand-alone goals in the Post-2015 Agenda", the event, held on the 22nd of September, was well attended by Ministers and Permanent Representatives of g7+ countries and other UN Member States, together with representatives of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding [IDPS], Civil Society Organizations and other partners. [\[continued on page 2\]](#)

A keynote speech was delivered by the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, H.E. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão and the event was chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Sierra Leone, H.E. Dr. Samura Kamara.

The event was successful on two fronts. Firstly it strongly promoted the g7+ position that peace and capable institutions should be considered as stand-alone goals in the Post-2015 Development framework, and secondly it broadened high-level g7+ participation with the inclusion of Foreign Ministers and Permanent Representatives who were effective advocates on the day.

During the meeting a g7+ Statement of Solidarity on the Ebola Crisis was tabled and an Outcome Note was produced shortly after.

Peace and Capable Institutions as stand-alone goals in the Post-2015 Development Agenda



High Level Side Event in New York City, 22 September 2014

Following on from the September activities were the g7+ meetings with the senior management of the World Bank (WB), International Monetary Fund (IMF) and International Finance Corporation (IFC), all held in Washington DC during the Annual Meetings of the World Bank in October. These meetings, which occur on a regular basis, are key opportunities for g7+ advocacy and are producing results evidenced by gradual improvements in the way these organizations engage in g7+ countries.

g7+ Ministers met with World Bank President Dr. Jim Yong Kim and senior Bank management on the 12th of October. The meeting initially focused on the impact of the Ebola crisis on member states and then turned to the relationship more broadly and proposals to improve cooperation. There was an agreement on conducting a joint monitoring exercise to evaluate Bank reforms undertaken in the areas of Job Creation,

Use of Country Systems and Enhancing the Capacity of Bank Staff in g7+ countries.

Following up on discussions held during the g7+ IMF High Level workshop in April this year, the g7+ and senior officials of the IMF met on the 12th of October. The IMF presented a draft Staff Guidance note for those working in fragile environment and invited comments from the representatives of the g7+. In turn the g7+ shared its perspectives on issues associated with IMF assistance in the areas of Domestic Revenue Mobilization and Natural Resource Management.

On the 10th of October the IFC and the g7+ jointly hosted a High Level Side Event on Public Private Partnership [PPP] support in g7+ countries. The workshop style event explored how the IFC's support can be leveraged to enable the use of PPPs, particularly in mega infrastructure projects in g7+ countries. g7+ Ministers shared their own perspectives on the importance of PPPs and described the kind of challenges faced in developing and implementing these kind of projects in their own countries.

The regular meetings with the g7+ held during the World Bank Annual meetings over the last few years have contributed to building a robust relationship which is allowing increasingly more direct discussion with a focus on achieving results.

In the sidelines of the Bank meetings the New Deal Implementation Working Group met on the 10th of October and the IDPS Steering Committee met on the 13th of October to reflect on progress and plan for 2015. Discussion focused on the findings of the New Deal Monitoring report and how to leverage action in the areas with less progress.

The Secretariat is currently working on developing a policy note on the g7+ version of South-South Cooperation, i.e. Fragile to Fragile cooperation and peer learning. In addition, it is following up with the member countries on the ratification of the g7+ charter endorsed in the 3rd g7+ Ministerial meeting in Lome.

Apart from international events there have also been specific events of significance in the New Deal journey of member countries. Most recently, on the 19th and 20th of November, a Ministerial High Level Partnership Forum; "Delivering Somalia's New Deal Compact", was held in Copenhagen, Denmark. Chaired by the President of Somalia, H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and Co-chaired by the United Nations (UN) the meeting looked to discuss and agree on steps of action to achieve the Somali Compact goals by 2016. Similarly, another International conference on Afghanistan is being planned to be held on 4th of December in London to review the progress on the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework. ■

Meet the Minister

In this edition we introduce the Central African Republic's Minister of Economy, Planning Cooperation and Development, Her Excellency Ms. Florence Limbio.

g7+ Media: Minister it was a pleasure to meet you in New York City for the g7+ High Level Side Event, what was the outcome of that meeting that you feel was helpful for the g7+? You made a number of interventions: (For those not present) what was your message regarding C.A.R?

Minister Limbio: I would like to first and foremost express my gratitude to the communication unit of the g7+ Secretariat for this initiative, enabling FCS to have their voices heard beyond our boundaries. The most important element to retain from this High Level Meeting is the unanimous message amongst the esteemed speakers, in expressing that it is impossible for all developing countries to meet the MDGs, as most of these nations are young and have undergone many years of crisis that have weakened the economy, destroyed basic social infrastructures and resulted into the overwhelming rise in internally displaced people. Additionally, new crisis such as the one in C.A.R, South Sudan, Syria, Iraq and Ukraine, including the Ebola virus, have further crippled State institutions and require a major sense of solidarity at the international level. This fragility has led to insufficient communication and scarce availability of information, making room for a culture of rumors, sparking hatred and additional conflicts.

One of the main challenges faced by the Post-2015 Agenda will be to develop access to information and open communication. Experience shows us that transition periods are often long and painful ; participants also pointed out that we need to help all post conflict countries and young States, to put in place sound institutions, to promote good governance, to acquire ownership when formulating strategies and ensuring a capable national leadership. All esteemed participants mainly stressed that, the indicators for the MDG 2015, did not reflect small countries: how can we draw a comparison amongst respective countries when a country such as South Sudan was only born recently! That is why; they all supported the implementation of an inclusive Post 2015 development program leaving no one behind. The Post 2015 development agenda should therefore be structured around three categories: (i) Under-developed countries (ii) developed countries (iii) ultra-developed countries, in order to have a fair comparison.



In regards to the Central African Republic, I expressed during the meeting that my country is undergoing a severe crisis since December 2012. This situation calls for a sustainable and committed mobilization from

our partners, through the Framework of the New Deal, for which we have accepted to be a pilot country.

g7+ Media: Also in New York there was the High Level Meeting on the Central African Republic – what was the outcome and did you feel it was helpful?

Minister Limbio: The representatives of the international community have been receptive to President Madame Catherine SAMBA-PANZA message regarding the situation in Central Africa. Their response was unanimous in applauding the efforts showcased in organizing the Brazzaville Forum, leading to a cessation of hostilities and the formation of a wide-spread government. All partners have expressed their commitment in bringing in their support to the consolidation of security process, in order to avoid turning C.A.R into a regional risk. They all recognized that C.A.R and their partners are at a critical crossroad where Brazzaville showed the way. We should now foster a dialogue and avoid confiscating and monopolizing how this process is managed. There have been several interventions, raising awareness that the current conditions aren't suitable to meet the initial timeframe for the elections, as much as they stressed for it to be a top priority, and suggested to urgently formulate a new consensus for a reviewed timeframe in this regard. Partners have been united in saluting the mobilization of the International Penal Court (IPC) in response to C.A.R's call to battle impunity for crimes committed during the crisis. Participants also stated clearly that they are fully against the suggested split of the central African territory. The C.A.R Relief and Sustainable program 2014-2016 also received a support from the international community, committed to accompany C.A.R to a donor's round table.

g7+ Media: What is the current country progress?

Minister Limbio: The situation in C.A.R has been defined, as previously mentioned, by a cessation of hostilities issued from the Brazzaville Forum, which has strengthened the beginning of a sense of tranquility amongst the population, in their everyday lives. The handover between MISCA and MINUSCA consolidates a renewed security in the capital, Bangui, and progressively in the rest of the country. The political dialogue that has started in Brazzaville will continue at the local level and will lead to national Forum for Reconciliation in January 2015.

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From the Secretariat

Those reconciliation efforts are the fruits of the national plan and deserve to be encouraged. Within the framework of the New Deal and the International Dialogue of Fragile States, we are envisaging a country fragility assessment, and will share the outcomes at the national conference for national reconciliation, for validation. Programs requiring high levels of labor, implemented with the support of our partners, are revealing and promoting a true demobilization of youth involved in conflicts.

g7+ Media: In your view what are the prospects for the proposed election in February 2015? What are the major challenges you are facing in achieving this goal?

Minister Limbio: Organizing the elections is a top priority for the transition government who also endorses a regulated constitution as a solution to exit the crisis. In response to the recurrent lack of security in certain parts of the country, the high authorities have decided to revisit the Transition Roadmap to prioritize electoral procedures, aiming at June-July 2015. The structure of National Electoral Authority put in place in this regard, has steered the country back on track. The government, with the support of the international community has to tackle the main challenges in re-establishing security across the whole territory and in creating peaceful conditions for both internally and externally displaced people, and to get the youth working.

g7+ Media: In relation with development partners, how would you like to see CAR's relationship with development partner's progress? Are there simple changes that could make an impact on accelerating results?

Minister Limbio: My main wish is to see the relationship between C.A.R and developing partners to be strengthened for more visible results. For this same reason, the Government has created a national coordination mechanism for multi-donor aid, by program and project, in order to maintain a sustainable dialogue with development partners across the country. ■

[see the full transcript of this interview online @ www.g7plus.org]

Members and friends of the g7+, a big focus for the Secretariat in these recent months was the facilitation of the World Bank, IMF and IFC meetings in October. These were very constructive and strongly demonstrated the benefits of advocating as a group. It feels like we haven't stopped running since and there are still many more activities before the end of 2014!

I am looking forward to revisiting Guinea-Bissau in late November as part of a joint International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS) mission. The success of the g7+ model of Fragile to Fragile Cooperation [F to F] is there for all to see and it will be good to follow up on progress.

The F to F model of the g7+, where member states, if invited and able, use their assets, experience and skills to assist fellow member states, is currently centered on three areas: support for New Deal Implementation, support for member states in dealing with acute and emerging crisis and support through peer learning and knowledge sharing, particularly in the areas of public financial management, natural resources management and peace and reconciliation. A prime example of this F to F cooperation is the announcement of the donation of USD 2 Million by the Government of Timor-Leste for the purposes of providing swift medical aid to the citizens of Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea suffering from the Ebola virus.

It is a great strength of the g7+ group that our own experiences of fragile situations, and of peacebuilding and statebuilding, has equipped us to be such effective cooperative partners when we reach out to each other.

We have come a long way and fortunately the Secretariat will finally experience a brief moment to stop and reflect at our Staff Retreat and Professional Development Session in early December 2014 when we will consider the progress and challenges of 2014 and plan ahead for 2015, always with our eye on our goal: to serve our member states to the very best of our ability.

Helder da Costa, PhD

General Secretary of the g7+



Helder Da Costa Ph. D.
General Secretary g7+

"I urge the international community to embrace these goals so that we can ensure that no nations, and no people, are left behind by the new global development agenda."

Prime Minister of Timor-Leste
H.E. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão



Photo left to right:
H.E. Kaifala Marah, Chair of g7+,
H.E. Emilia Pires, Special Envoy of g7+,
H.E. Michel Presume Deputy Chair of g7+

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