



Newsletter

June 2016

Welcome from g7+ Chair



On behalf of the g7+ group and secretariat, I would like to welcome you to our second quarter 2016 newsletter.

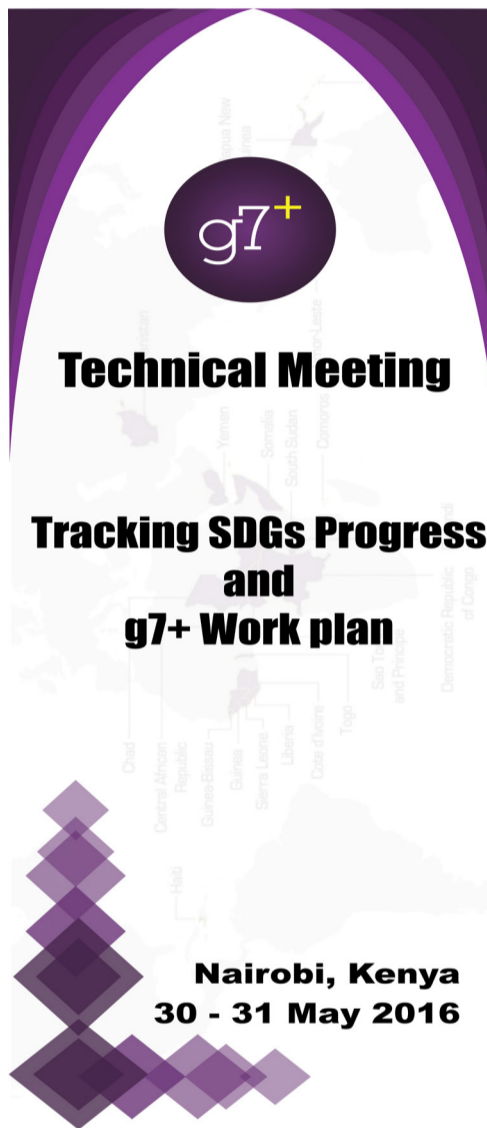
I am honoured and humbled to be the new chair of the g7+, replacing Dr. Kaifala Marah who is now the Governor of the Bank of the Sierra Leone. In the past three months, I have seen the g7+ group achieved remarkable results at different levels of high-level engagement.

I congratulate and thank g7+ members for holding a successful Ministerial Meeting on 23 - 24 March in Kabul, Afghanistan and for producing an actionable outcome in the form of the Kabul Communiqué.

I commend the effort of our development partners in their continued support to the g7+ group agenda in Peacebuilding and Statebuilding at the country level.

H.E. Momudu Lamin Kargbo
Minister of Finance and Economic
Development of Sierra Leone and g7+ Chair.

Technical Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, 30 - 31 May 2016



The g7+ will hold a technical meeting on 30 – 31 May in Nairobi, Kenya. The discussion will follow on the previous meeting held in December 2015 and the 4th g7+ Ministerial meeting held in Kabul, Afghanistan. The meeting is kindly hosted by the World Bank hub in Nairobi.

The expected outcome of this meeting is the finalization of the 19 key indicators that were identified in the previous technical meeting and agreed upon during the 4th g7+ Ministerial Meeting. The g7+ Ministers reiterated their commitment to the operationalization of agenda 2030. While the g7+ member countries are encouraged to adapt the country indicators that suit their context, the selection and prioritization of 19 indicators to be jointly reported will show common trends in progress and challenges.

The report on these indicators, which will be issued frequently will provide evidence to support our advocacy for contextually suitable policies for countries affected by conflict and fragility.

This technical meeting will also be an occasion for us to plan the operationalization of the 2016 – 2017 work priorities agreed upon at the Kabul Ministerial Meeting. This will include detailing the plan for fragile-to-fragile cooperation by identifying the relevant areas of cooperation within member countries.

The 4th g7+ Ministerial Meeting in Kabul, Afghanistan



The highly successful 4th g7+ Ministerial Meeting was expertly hosted by the government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and co-organized by the g7+ Secretariat. The meeting that took place on 23 - 24 March 2016 in Kabul, Afghanistan was attended by senior delegates from 14 g7+ Countries: Afghanistan (host country), Burundi, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra-Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Timor-Leste, Togo, and Yemen. Representatives from non-g7+ countries and international organisations included the diplomatic corps in Kabul, the World Bank Group, the United Nations, CSOs, private sector and the media.

The success of the meeting reflected the growing strength of the g7+ group in being a voice for change in government–donor relations and for a renewed focus on country owned and country led peacebuilding and statebuilding.

The two-day meeting was an opportunity to take note of progress made across the g7+ countries in fostering resilience and stability and challenges moving forward. The members made a unanimous resolve to home-grown reconciliation and peace as cornerstones for resilience, and supported political dialogue to that end.

The g7+ Ministers welcomed the launch of the 2030 Agenda and committed to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in their countries, using the New Deal principles. The group will jointly report on progress on key SDG indicators, which will be finalized through consultation among the members through a portal to be established by g7+ Secretariat.

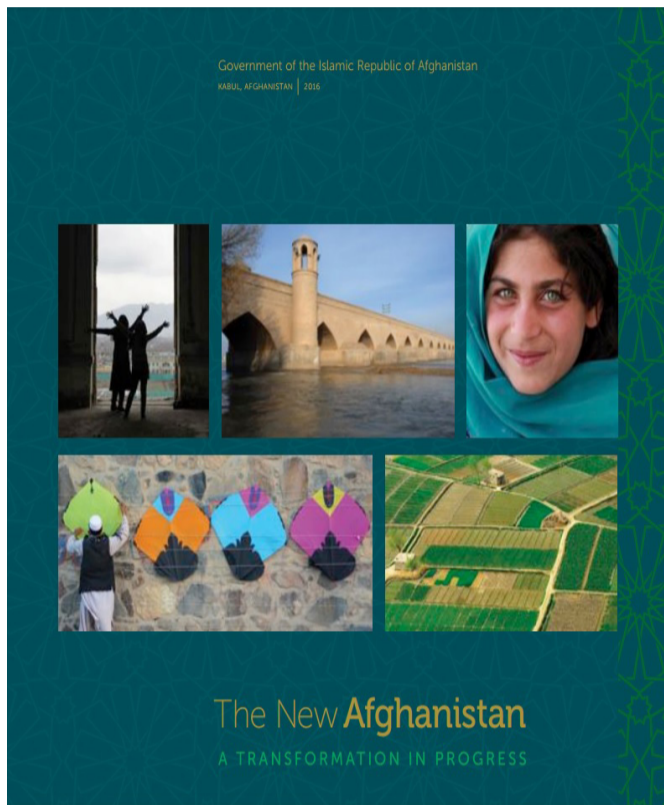
They committed to continue sharing experiences through “Fragile-to-Fragile” cooperation in peacebuilding and statebuilding in the spirit of volunteerism and solidarity.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss progress on g7+ work priorities. Participants discussed common challenges and identified solutions. The participants took note of the findings of the New Deal independent review and called for more concerted actions to address the challenges highlighted by the review.

Given the fact that it was the first g7+ high level meeting hosted in Afghanistan, it was an opportunity for g7+ members to learn more about the nature of development challenges and the background of conflict in Afghanistan.

Participants realized that media could have played a better role in portraying the image of Afghanistan. The media, which usually focuses on the sad incidents, should also highlight the tremendous progress that is made despite the challenges.

Representatives of the World Bank the expressed Bank’s willingness to work more closely with the g7+ in the future, in particular on: 1) IDA 18, 2) supporting private sector development through IFC and MIGA, and 3) peer learning, e.g. for domestic and foreign investors to learn from private sector experience elsewhere.




g7+ Secretariat

KOBE HOUSE 2TH FLOOR
MINISTER OF FINANCE
DILI, TIMOR-LESTE

Contact Us:

Landline: +670 3310126
Mobile: +670 7799 7727

g7plusmedia.org@gmail.com
g7plus.secretariat@gmail.com |

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g7+ Meeting with the World Bank Group President and IFC and MIGA



The g7+ Ministers met with the World Bank Group President Dr. Jim Yong Kim and his senior management team. The agenda of the meeting included discussion on IDA 18, SDG implementation, and support for private sector development in g7+ member countries.

The g7+ Eminent Person, H.E. Xanana Gusmão led the meeting by highlighting the outcome of the 4th g7+ Ministerial Meeting, emphasising the call to reform the international aid system to address fragmentation in g7+ countries, and for particular support in strengthening economic foundations, including creating jobs for women and youth and developing the private sector and infrastructure.

Recognizing the World Bank is continuous support and consideration of the issues facing conflict affected states,

the g7+ emphasized the importance of sustained and flexible support through IDA 18. IDA resources are valuable to achieve peace and resilience in Countries affected by fragility and conflict. Applauding the successful election in the Central African Republic, the g7+ demanded that development partners should double their efforts to help the country achieve resilience.

Recognising success made in the past with the help of external support in achieving resilience (especially in Europe after World War II), President Kim of the World Bank mentioned that tremendous and sustained support is needed in the aftermath of conflict. Showing discontent with the level of ODA proportionate to the GDP of developed countries, he emphasised that additional resources are needed to prevent a country falling back into traps of fragility.

The World Bank management echoed the voice of g7+ countries for increased and flexible support under the IDA framework for FCS and committed to work in this regard with the g7+ members and IDA donors.

The g7+ group requested to be included in the IDA18 negotiations as the constituency representing Fragile and Conflict Affected States while recognizing the g7+ members’ participation representing their geographical constituencies.

Launch of the independent review of the New Deal, 2010 - 2015

INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE NEW DEAL FOR ENGAGEMENT IN FRAGILE STATES

SARAH HEARN



NYU CENTER ON COOPERATION INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON PEACEBUILDING & STATEBUILDING

“The g7+ has become an increasingly influential constituency on the world stage.”

Independent Review of the New Deal, 2016.

“As an alliance, the g7+ group of countries has the opportunity to make a unique contribution to the sustainable development agenda as a leading coalition for leaving no-one behind. National leadership and ownership of policies and plans must be respected.”

Heran, S. (2016). New Deal Independent Review. CIC, New York, USA.

The International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS) commissioned an independent review of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States.

The Independent Review was carried out in 2015 and was launched on 17 April 2016 during the World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings in Washington DC, USA. The independent review was conducted by the Centre on International Cooperation of New York University.

The independent review confirmed the continuing relevance of the New Deal as a means of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, and found particularly positive results for the g7+’s increasing importance on the world stage as a voice for fragile and conflict-affected states.

Main Recommendation from the Independent Review of the New Deal

If the New Deal did not already exist, it would need to be invented. Strengthening the New Deal for the SDG era will require actors to address three main challenges:

1. Build whole-of-government (g7+ and development partner) and social ownership of the concepts at the country level to galvanize agreement and action on “what” needs to be achieved and “how”.
2. Involve a wider range of regional and international public and private actors to improve international coherence.
3. Make more effective use of limited resources and smarter aid measures to build resilience and institutions.

New g7+ Chair Profile, H.E Momodu Lamin Kargbo

H.E. Momodu Lamin Kargbo is the new Sierra Leone Minister of Finance and Economic Development, at the same time, Minister Kargbo assumed the responsibility of being the interim Chair of g7+ and for at least one year, until the next Ministerial Meeting in early 2017.

He is also appointed to Co-Chair of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding.

He has almost 40 years experience in the Public and Private Sectors. Prior to his appointment as Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Minister Kargbo served as the Governor of the Central Bank of Sierra Leone and is credited with significantly improving Foreign Exchange and Reserve Management.

In his previous term at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development of Sierra Leone, Minister Kargbo served as Deputy Minister and Minister of State responsible for Expenditure Control and Management, Revenue and Tax Policy Administration and Public Financial Management Reforms.

In the private sector, Minister Kargbo was Manager and Chief Executive Officer of the National Cooperative Development Bank. He also owned and managed a successful timber and furniture business.

In this regard, we wish Minister Kargbo will bring a wealth of experience to the g7+ and provide the leadership needed to take forward the work of the g7+ especially in the implementation of the SDGs.

Minister Kargbo holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and an MSC in Agriculture Economics from Rutgers University, USA. He also holds an MBA from Texas A&M University, USA.

Aid instruments for peace- and state-building: Putting the New Deal into practice

The g7+ Secretariat recently published a research publication called “Aid instruments for peace- and state-building: Putting the New Deal into practice,” which was first distributed during 4th g7+ Ministerial Meeting that was held in Kabul in March 2016.

The Study presents cases for using innovative tools to realize the principles of the “New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States”

Five case studies focus on programmes in five g7+ countries namely Central African Republic, Liberia, Somalia, South Sudan, and Timor-Leste, while the sixth focuses on an instrument used in multiple countries.





They focus on a range of innovative aid programmes and instruments which are in line with New Deal principles and commitments, and draw out ten lessons for development partners and for g7+ members

Overall, these case studies show that – from both a government and a development partner perspective – with political will and committed cooperation,

Key lessons for development partners

-  Lesson 1: Respond rapidly and flexibly to crises
-  Lesson 2: Align support with Government programmes, and use dialogue to strengthen collaboration on systems
-  Lesson 3: Develop long term partnerships and avoid stop-and-go approaches
-  Lesson 4: Pursue risk-sharing approaches which recognise the risk of inaction
-  Lesson 5: Recognise the role of multilateral organisations
-  Lesson 6: Make a particular effort to harmonise with others

Key lessons for g7+ members

-  Lesson 7: Develop a clear set of strategic priorities to guide donors
-  Lesson 8: Progressively strengthen systems, so as to leverage their use by donors
-  Lesson 9: Understand and respond to donor political constraints with innovative solutions
-  Lesson 10: Make the New Deal principles more visible in dialogue with donors

it is possible to develop innovative support modalities and programmes to support the New Deal principles, even in some of the most challenging development contexts. Furthermore, they illustrate that it is worth investing time and effort in such initiatives, as they can lead to more effective, country-owned, and sustainable results.

From the desk of the General Secretary



However, we kindly request more g7+ Ministers to attend meetings annually to show their commitment and political support for the existence of the g7+.

On behalf of the g7+ Secretariat, I would like to thank our g7+ Ministers and focal points for their continued support and engagement in the noble course of the g7+ advocacy role in providing a framework to guide international partners and donors to support countries affected by conflict and fragility.

I am also delighted to announce that the g7+ Secretariat has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNDP to support and facilitate g7+ activities on 5 April 2016 in Stockholm, Sweden.

In addition, we have also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with ISE to collaborate to further collective interest in strengthening state institution in g7+ member countries on 17 April 2016, in Washington DC, USA.

All in all, I want to conclude that our mission is focused on executing the 2016 - 2017 work plan that has been agreed at the Ministerial Meeting, starting by attributing tasks and milestones at the Nairobi technical meeting on 30-31 May.

Thank you for all your support and I hope you enjoy reading our June newsletter.

First of all, I would like to welcome H.E. Momodu Lamin Kargbo as the new Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Sierra Leone and the new g7+ Chair. I hope that the new Chair will bring a wealth of experience to the g7+ as a group and to individual states. It has been an honour to witness the successful 4th g7+ Ministerial Meeting in Kabul, Afghanistan on 23 - 24 March 2016 in collaboration with the extremely generous Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

It is encouraging to see an increasing level of engagement from g7+ member countries to actively participate in the meeting.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Fragile-to-Fragile cooperation visit by the g7+ Secretariat to the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea, (TBA).
- Visit by the Secretariat to the Pacific Islands Secretariat in Fiji, in June.
- Visit to Central Africa Republic in July
- UNGA (71th session) in New York, USA, 13 - 26 September 2016
- WB/IMF Annual Meetings in Washington, USA, 07 - 09 October 2016.
- The g7+ Technical Meeting in Dili, Timor-Leste, 29 - 30 November 2016.

g7+

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