

Newsletter



Signing of the Mutual Accountability Framework, Sierra Leone, 4 February 2014

RECENT ACTIVITIES

The end of one year and beginning of the next is often marked by a slow down of activities and relaxation of efforts. As we review the events and in country progress since our last newsletter published at the beginning of December 2013 it seems that this has **not** been the case for the g7+!

Members of the g7+ Secretariat travelled from the g7+ Technical Meeting in Kinshasa to attend the World Bank Country Directors and Country Managers meeting held in Nairobi on the 4th and 5th of December. Participants were keen to hear the joint presentation by General Secretary of the g7+ Helder da Costa and Coordinator of the International Dialogue Sifa Hage on "The Value of the New Deal, Successes so Far and the Way Forward". The participants then explored how the Bank could better support New Deal Implementation.

Mr. Habib Mayar, Senior Policy Specialist from the g7+ Secretariat, represented the g7+ during the IDA 17 Fourth Replenishment Meeting convened in Moscow on the 16th & 17th of December. The International Development Association is one of the five institutions of the World Bank and provides

interest free loans (or credits) and grants to governments with significant development challenges. The meeting in Moscow confirmed that in line with commitments made by the World Bank and donors the IDA17 will provide increased funding to fragile and conflict-affected states. The g7+ has effectively lobbied the bank to champion this policy.

At the INCAF Directors Level meeting held in New York on the 16th & 17th of January the g7+ was represented by three focal points Bamba Kote (Guinea Bissau), Peter Mae (Solomon Islands) and Bec George (South Sudan). These focal points underscored that the g7+ welcomed the reorganization of the International Dialogue and an increased focus on the political agenda of the New Deal. They reiterated that job creation has been raised as a top priority within g7+ countries and that the development of "Fragile to Fragile" Cooperation has become an important development that should be supported. The meeting discussed initiatives now underway to support New Deal implementation.

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COUNTRY UPDATE - TOGO

Togo has been an active and articulate member of the g7+. In the New York advocacy mission in April 2012 through to the most recent meetings in Kinshasa, this West African nation has made important contributions to the group. Recently the Government of Togo indicated its intention to undertake a Fragility Assessment in 2014.

Covering an area of 56,785 km², Togo has a population of 6.6 million people. Like many g7+ countries a large proportion are youth. In the case of Togo 60% are under 25 years.

Between 1991 and 2005 Togo suffered a socio-political crisis which led to a suspension of multilateral and bilateral aid. Since 2010, the political situation has greatly improved and recent Parliamentary elec-

tions held in July 2013 were recognised as democratic, transparent and without violence. The serenity that surrounded the July 2013 elections was considered by the Togolese people as a milestone in the healing process of the country. Currently of 91 elected members, 14% are women. [\[continued page 2\]](#)



Welcome!

A warm welcome to g7+ members and friends! The year is already rushing by and there so many tasks ahead of us.

Friends like many of you I have followed the recent troubles in CAR and South Sudan with distress and sadness. Please be assured that we have reached out on behalf of our g7+ family through the Chair and Secretariat to offer to assist in whatever way we can. We have also encouraged development partners to remain engaged as much as possible.

These crises bring us back to the basics and lead me to ask: "Have we failed in our g7+ mission?"

After all, it is our job to ensure that countries do not go back into conflict and to promote country owned and led pathways to resilience and development.

What I can say is this: we should seek to learn everything we can from these circumstances, share those lessons and increase our efforts - because what is clear is the catastrophic cost of conflict and therefore the vital importance of our mission.

Emilia Pires

Chair g7+



RECENT ACTIVITIES CONTINUED ...

Just before the INCAF meeting, there was a working lunch on Central African Republic where participants discussed how the g7+ and the ID can better support this country during the on-going crisis.

g7+ and International Dialogue advocacy on the importance of Peacebuilding and Statebuilding in the Post-2015 Development Agenda was in play in a Conference held in Rio de Janeiro on the 22nd of January. "The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Bringing Peace Back" conference explored a range of views about this issue. A keynote address by ID Coordinator Siafa Hage entitled "Promoting sustainable development and building durable peace" set out clearly the g7+ and ID policy on the Post-2015 Agenda.

Finally on the Country level a milestone occurred in New Deal Implementation with the signing of a Mutual Accountability Framework (MAF) in Sierra Leone on the 4th of February. The framework is an agreement detailing the way Development Partners and the Government of Sierra Leone will work together aligned to the principles of the New Deal. Other g7+ countries have called this type of framework a New Deal Compact.

Through the MAF partners have pledged to put resources behind the goals and aspirations of Sierra Leone's National Plan the "Agenda for Prosperity". The importance of this agreement was underscored by the participation of the President in its launch. President Koroma said that the adoption of the MAF affords the opportunity to do things differently for better results. ●



g7+ Focal Points attended the INCAF meeting in New York

From the Desk of the GS

As you will note from our Recent Activities report the work to support our five priorities for 2014 is very much underway. The priorities proposed in Kinshasa last year were to:

1. Influence the policy discourse on global development cooperation
2. Realize the New Deal principles at the country level
3. Strengthen the g7+ as a group
4. Ensure Goal 10 and Goal 11 of the High Level Panel Report are incorporated into the Post-2015 Development Agenda and
5. Have greater focus on thematic work, conducting research and supporting peer learning.

The Secretariat in Dili stands committed to support our member countries throughout 2014 in order to make significant progress in each of these priorities. We look forward to engaging with our focal points and Ministers to be of service to our g7+ family.

Helder da Costa
General Secretary
g7+



COUNTRY UPDATE - TOGO CONTINUED ...

On 19 September 2013, following the July 2013 legislative elections, the second government action program was adopted by the National Parliament. This comprehensive program expresses the will of Prime Minister AHOOMEY-ZUNU for Togo to become a middle income country by 2035.

The agricultural sector in Togo accounts for 41% of GDP and employs more than 75% of the workforce. Cotton, coffee and cocoa are the traditional agricultural exports.

Estimated at 5% in 2012, growth is mainly explained by the performance of agriculture and industries, especially in the sectors of cotton and phosphates as well as in construction and public works. Growth in 2014 is expected to reach 5.5% thanks to the continuation of the public investment program in infrastructure combined with the recovery of the phosphates and cotton sectors.

Revenue collection is improving and the Government is making efforts to control expenses. The budget deficit reached 7% of GDP in 2012, due mainly to the delay of privatization of banks and liberalization of telecommunications.

Following the development partners' roundtable organized in Brussels in 2008, the bilateral and multilateral donors have gradually resumed their cooperation with Togo, prioritising the repair and rebuild of essential infrastructure and supporting developments in areas such as water and sanitation, education, agriculture and health. The United Nations, European Union, African Development Bank, China and the World Bank are among the major partners.

The Government has set up an Aid Management Platform (AMP), which publishes reports on official development assistance in order to improve governance and transparency in the use of resources. The AMP is online at: www.pgatogo.tg.

Togo has adopted its 2013-2017 Accelerated Strategy for Growth and Employment (SCAPE in French). The main themes are: (i) development of sectors with high growth potential, (ii) development of economic infrastructure, (iii) development of human capital, social protection and employment, (iv) strengthening governance and (v) promotion of participatory, balanced and sustainable development.

The New Deal has an impact on relations between the government and development partners, even if all have not yet changed their behavior.

The priorities of the Togolese Government for 2014 are:

- Deepening decentralization and holding local elections in 2014;
- Development of youth employment;
- Implementation of reforms to improve the management of public resources, customs and tax collection;
- Continued improvements to essential infrastructure including the modernization of the international airport, the Port of Lomé and major roads. ●

Togo Focal Point
Awade M Essobouzou



MEET THE MINISTER

It was a pleasure for the g7+ Media Team to meet Sierra Leone's Deputy Minister of Finance and Economic Development, H.E. Mabinty Daramy, during the g7+ Technical Meeting in Kinshasa. Early this year we were able to reconnect for an interview and began by asking her to share her impressions of that meeting:

Deputy Minister Daramy: My first impression was that as a group the g7+ can be a formidable force in influencing the Global Development Agenda and also help direct the attention of the International Community to issues affecting g7+ countries such as the conflict in CAR

Secondly, I enjoyed the oneness of purpose. Unlike other meetings I have attended, the g7+ Technical meeting was not about special interests; it was about one focus - what we need to do as a group to make aid more effective. I noted that despite the diversity in the group, there was a meeting of minds and the desire to move our countries out of fragility so much so that when decisions were taken they were in the interest of the group and not a particular country. As a result the meeting lasted for hours and late into the night without complaints from participants. I was also impressed with the commitment of participants to this meeting and the friendliness with which it was conducted.

Sierra Leone



g7 + Media: At that meeting you reported a number of exciting developments regarding the New Deal in Sierra Leone. Can you update us on some of these such as the Compact and the Dashboard, the nation-wide sensitization of the New Deal and Indicator Piloting?

Deputy Minister Daramy: For us in Sierra Leone, localizing the New Deal was a priority immediately after Busan. We started by conducting a Fragility Assessment, the findings of which were inputted into the development of our Agenda for Prosperity (AfP) which is our one Vision One Plan. Next we developed a Mutual Accountability Framework (MAF) as our COMPACT within the New Deal Framework. The TRUST principles are also largely addressed with the MAF. To ensure effective implementation of the MAF, we developed a Dashboard consisting of the results framework of the Agenda for Prosperity, the Busan indicators, the PSG indicators, the MDGs, public financial management and human rights indicators as well as the Millennium Challenge Corporation indicators.

We recently signed the MAF at the Presidential Development Partnership Committee (DEPAC) meeting held on 4th February 2014. Going forward we will review progress in the implementation of the MAF at the quarterly DEPAC meetings.

g7 + Media: Sierra Leone seems to be on a good pathway, what is ahead in 2014?

Deputy Minister Daramy: 2014 is going to be a busy year for us. We are undertaking the New Deal survey. This process has begun with data collection and knowledge sharing. We will continue with our nationwide sensitization of the New Deal as we implement the MAF. Furthermore, we want to update the Fragility Assessment and estab-

lish a New Deal – Civil Society forum. Most importantly we will be looking forward to hosting the Global Meeting of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding on 17-19 June 2014. This will afford us the opportunity to share experiences and learn from the experience of other g7+ countries as well as our friends from INCAF.



H.E. Mabinty Daramy

g7 + Media: What would you consider the main strengths of Sierra Leone?

Deputy Minister Daramy: We are a very religious and tribal tolerant people. Inter-marriages between tribes and religions are very common and we accommodate each other regardless of tribe or religion. There are many families with Christians and Muslims living together in perfect harmony. These are problematic issues in many countries in the world from which conflicts usually result. Thankfully our conflict had nothing to do with tribe or religion. For this, we consider ourselves to be really blessed.

g7 + Media: What are your main challenges?

Deputy Minister Daramy: Our main challenges are addressing poverty and providing jobs for our young people. Our population, like in many other g7+ countries, is youthful. That is why our Agenda for Prosperity which is our third PRSP focuses on job creation particularly for the youth. We are using a two prong approach in addressing this challenge. We will first make the youth employable by providing them with the skills needed in the job market and then create the environment for them to get these jobs. It is all part of our inclusive growth strategy that ensures that everyone is included in and benefits from the development process.

g7 + Media: Deputy Minister we would like to know a little more about you and about your day-to-day life in Sierra Leone.

Deputy Minister Daramy: As a born again Christian, my day-to-day life in Sierra Leone starts with prayers, then I head for my office where I am in charge of revenue and tax policy matters in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. This involves putting policies and measures in place to maximize the mobilization of revenue from taxation for use in the development of the country. I also deal with issues relating to developing and streamlining incentive policies for multinational companies. I sit in a high level policy task force with the responsibility of cutting down on leakages and broadening the tax base.

As the Minister in charge of New Deal, I work closely with the g7+ and New Deal Focal Person in the Ministry on all New Deal issues. I end my day typically with the way it starts - prayers.

g7 + Media: How long have you been the Deputy Minister of Finance and Economic Development and what were some of your different roles before this one?



MEET THE MINISTER ...

Deputy Minister Daramy: I have been Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development since January 2013. Prior to that, I was Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Trade and Industry from November 2007 to January 2013. Before assuming ministerial responsibilities, I worked as a Senior Accountant at the Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board for many years before proceeding to the United States of America. In the US, I worked as a Financial Planner and managed a portfolio of US\$50 million, a job I held until I was called upon for ministerial duties back home.

g7 + Media: When you are not working in your role as Deputy Minister what activities do you enjoy?

Deputy Minister Daramy: I enjoy praying and interceding for my family and my country. I have three lovely boys currently residing in the US. So I use my leisure time to talk to them and try and perform my duties as a mother.

g7 + Media: What are some of the favorite pastimes of Sierra-Leonean's?

Deputy Minister Daramy: Taking time to relax at the beach and attaining family functions. The young people, especially young men enjoy football or soccer a lot especially the English Premier League.

g7 + Media: Lastly Deputy Minister, is there any message that you would wish to pass on to your fellow g7+ members through the newsletter?

Deputy Minister Daramy: I see the New Deal as the way forward for making development cooperation more meaningful in our countries. Through the one vision one plan, we are able to present our development challenges in a coherent manner and for better results. I therefore urge Governments in the g7+ to give more priority and prominence to the New Deal implementation. If we can achieve what we commit ourselves to within the New Deal, we will be able to stabilize our economies, consolidate our peace and achieve our development goals. Only then can we effectively plan our way out of fragility. ●

CALENDAR

5-6 March: International Dialogue Steering Committee Meeting, Dubai

17-21 March: "Designing a Blueprint for Fragile State Data Needs", Rockefeller Foundations' Bellagio Centre Italy

20-21 March: "If you want Peace cultivate Social Justice", High Level Side Event, Geneva, Switzerland

March/April: g7+ Roadshow, Afghanistan, Burundi, Comoros, PNG, Solomon Islands, Yemen [TBC]

April/May: g7+ Ministerial Retreat

11-13 April: WB/IMF Spring Meetings, Washington DC, USA

15-16 April: Global Partnership Ministerial Meeting, Mexico DF, Mexico

June: G20/g7+ Technical Meeting [TBC] Seoul, Korea

16-17 June: IDPS Global Meeting, Freetown, Sierra Leone

July: World Bank Fragility Forum Side Event, Washington DC, USA

16 September: United Nations General Assembly, New York, USA

September: g7+ Heads of State Summit, UNGA, New York, USA

10-12 October: World Bank Annual Meetings, Washington DC, USA

IN THE MEDIA

General Secretary of the g7+ Secretariat, Helder da Costa and Coordinator of the International Dialogue, Siafa Hage write for Foreign Voices journal on [Putting Peace at the Core of the Post-2015 Agenda. The g7+ Strategy.](#)

Mr. Habib Mayar, Senior Policy Specialist at the g7+ Secretariat writes in the Effective Development Cooperation Blog: [Fragile States should not be left behind in development cooperation.](#)

Also from Habib Mayar an article posted in the Fragile States blog: [Donors Must Make Concrete Commitments to Advance Partnership with g7+](#)

In the allAfrica news site an article on the release of the African Development Bank's High Level Report on Fragile States: [Liberia: Ellen Presents Final Report on Fragile States at AU Summit](#)

That report is available for download [here.](#)

On the issues surrounding a Peace Goal for the Post -2015 Agenda Paul Stephens writes in the Devex Blog: [Political realities threaten post-2015 peace and security agenda](#)

For more links please visit the [g7+ In the Media](#) page on our website.



"The adoption of the Mutual Accountability Framework affords the opportunity to do things differently for better results. It provides guidelines for fulfilling our international commitments to the Busan and New Deal principles and it offers us an opportunity to do more, deliver more and achieve more."

H.E. Dr Ernest Bai Koroma
President of Sierra Leone

"Through the Mutual Accountability Framework, we as donors pledge to put our efforts and resources squarely and transparently behind the goals and aspirations set out in the Agenda for Prosperity, working with the government and people of Sierra Leone in tackling the country's growth and development priorities."

Dr. Phil Evans
DIFD Country Representative



g7+ Secretariat

Ministry of Finance, Kobe House, Palacio do Governo, Dili Timor-Leste
g7plus.secretariat@gmail.com | hdacosta@mof.gov.tl | habiburrehman.mayar@gmail.com
 [+670] 331 0126, [+670] 331 0128, [+670] 7799 7727 (mobile), [+670] 7717 5017 (mobile)

Please refer enquires regarding the newsletter to the g7+ Media Team at g7plusmedia@gmail.com