



# Newsletter

March 2016

## Welcome message from g7+ Chairman



Dear readers,  
This being the first edition of 2016, I would like to renew my sincere wishes for the year ahead of us.

The last edition of the Newsletter featured covering the launch of Agenda 2030 at the 70th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). As we have fully embarked in the first quarter of 2016, I am pleased to see that we have spared no efforts in maintaining the continuity and the momentum we have generated end of 2015. We have demonstrated by our prompt actions that we are fully committed to turn promises into actions and that the true value of the victory at the UNGA 70 resides in our leadership in owning, shaping and delivering this agenda for the next 15 years. This proactiveness was evidenced by the g7+ who met in Nairobi less than 3 months after the launch of Agenda 2030 to discuss a strategy on how to monitor and localize the SDGs at the country level and ensure that this time around, we are not going to be under-reported. I am proud of seeing the leadership role that g7+ is taking in this regard.

In the new landscape outlined by the new Agenda, we should keep in mind that the New Deal not only remains relevant, but is an indispensable framework to ensure the alignment of our peacebuilding and statebuilding

efforts with the sustainable development goals, to create a comprehensive mechanism where we can progress simultaneously both at the national, regional and global level. In this regard, I was pleased to see the political momentum built during a joint g7+/IDPS mission to Mogadishu, where we ensured the widespread country awareness and appropriation of the New Deal.

Additionally, I commend the efforts of the people of CAR, where both the population and the government authorities have aligned their ambition to conduct elections in a peaceful environment. I feel confident that this may very well be a turning point for the country and a positive sign of a new chapter for a "New CAR". This is a testament to the fact that since the Bangui Forum for National Reconciliation last year, the people have never given up on their dream for peace and did not allow the recent relapses of violence to disrupt the bigger picture. We remain committed to support our member state until the end of their journey to reconciliation.

Lastly, I look forward to seeing you all at the 4th Ministerial Meeting in Kabul. In this regard, I would like to express my gratitude on behalf of the rest of our g7+ family to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for hosting us and for the kind cooperation our counterparts on the ground have demonstrated, working closely with the Secretariat, and for having been so accommodating during the preparations. Last year was the year where we routed for peace. Let this year be the first concrete step towards it.

Sincerely,  
H.E. Kaifala Mara  
Chair of the g7+  
Minister of Finance and Economic  
Development Sierra Leone



## FOURTH MINISTERIAL MEETING

Kabul, Afghanistan  
23-24 March 2016

The Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoIRA) will host the 4th g7+ Ministerial meeting on 23 and 24 March 2016. Ministers and focal points from g7+ countries along with some development partners will participate in the meeting. Marking an important milestone towards consolidation of the group, the meeting will be an opportunity to review progress made since the previous Ministerial meeting held in Lome, Togo in 2014 and also agree on strategic roadmap for the year 2016 - 2017.

The themes of the meeting include discussion on peace and reconciliation efforts pursued in member countries, economic resilience, New Deal implementation and localizing the SDGs. The government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan will also share an update on the report of fragility assessment which itself is an important milestone for the Afghanistan in terms of New Deal implementation.

The g7+ family is grateful to the government of Afghanistan for taking all necessary measures to make the meeting successful.

## SDGs implementation and Monitoring in g7+ countries

Agenda 2030 is relevant to the countries affected by conflict and fragility. In fact, a goal on peace and statebuilding (SDG 16) makes this agenda inclusive for g7+ countries.

However, its relevance will be proved by its implementation at the country level. Its inclusion of SDG 16 in the agenda 2030 is a paradigm shift in recognizing nexus between peace and development. As we have reached this turning point, the work ahead of us will include tackling the fundamental challenges for the next 10-15 years. Successful implementation of this agenda will highly depend on country leadership. Countries will need to undertake preliminary steps, namely; **(i)** ensuring that the SDGs are localized by aligning them with the country context and priority; **(ii)** the choice of indicators are compatible with the national context; **(iii)** country owned and efficient monitoring framework is in place.



For the g7+, the priority will be to promote and support the country level implementation of the SDGs. In this regard, the g7+ group organized a technical meeting in Nairobi during the month of December 2015 to discuss the aforementioned preliminary steps. The meeting was attended by focal points, officials from the national statistical offices of g7+ countries, development partners and think tanks. The participants recognized that importance of aligning SDGs to the national development strategy considering the context. In addition, political

buy-in at the country level coupled by flow of financial resources will be indispensable to make this agenda a success. The meeting was concluded with the following next steps:

- A list of 20 indicators (essentially one per SDG and 3 indicators on SDG 16) to be presented at the Ministerial meeting as set of indicators that can be jointly monitored and reported. The indicators will be proposed at the 4th g7+ Ministerial meeting hosted in Kabul, Afghanistan.
- The World Bank offer to host another g7+ Technical Meeting in 2016 to maintain the momentum of this initial meeting and continues monitoring on the progress within our member countries,
- g7+ with the help of supporter (possibly Saferworld) to conduct an assessment of the impact of support for capacity building needs of National Statistical Office (NSO) in g7+ countries. This will include taking stock of some success stories in similar areas by looking at non-g7+ countries. The findings will be used to advocate and help in mobilizing contextually suitable support for member countries in the concerned areas.

## g7+ country update

### Launch of Agenda 2030 in Liberia and Somalia- step toward localizing SDGs.

It is encouraging to see political buy in for the country level implementation of the agenda 2030. Since the adoption of this Agenda, we have seen that g7+ member countries are undertaking country level consultations on the implementation of the SDGs. These consultations are marked by official launch of the SDGs.



President Sirleaf Launches National Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development Goals

The Minister of Planning and International Cooperation of Republic of Somalia launched the SDGs on January 6th 2016. The Somali government prioritised key actions such as tackling poverty, protecting the environment and improving security, and increase the understanding among its people before starting the national implementing.



Somalia Launches Sustainable Development Goals

While Liberian government held a two days national launch from 26 - 27 January 2016, at the Monrovia city hall. Liberian President, H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in her speech challenged Liberians to engage in a national dialogue on how to translate global development into national priorities. At the same time, Finance and Development Minister, H.E. Amara Konneh emphasized that their government will prioritize seven key goals, including Health, education, Gender Equality, Infrastructure, Clean water, Partnerships and g7+ advocated goal 16 on Peace and Justice.

Mr. Konneh also proposed the establishment of an Inter-Agency Task Force led by Ministry of Finance and Development Planning to develop compatible mechanism, to coordinate the domestication, implementation, and to monitor and evaluate the progress.

As per the consensus developed during g7+ technical meeting in Nairobi in December 2015, the g7+ secretariat encourages country ownership of the SDGs and such exemplary consultations are the first step towards that end.

## Successful Election in Central African Republic.



Catherine Samba Panza  
(Former President)



Faustin Archange Touadera  
(Current President)

The g7+ family congratulates the people and government of Central African Republic (CAR) that has organized two rounds of peaceful and successful elections: (i) 30 December 2015 with almost 33.000 voters casted their ballot. (ii) 14 February 2016. This signifies the beginning of a new era of peace and reconciliation for the people of CAR.

The enthusiasm of voter's participations indicated that the people of Central African are determined to revert to peace and stability throughout their country. These events only reinforce the fundamental importance and relevance of g7+ strong advocacy to include Peace, Justice and Strong Institution in the 17 Sustainable Development Goal, vital for Fragile and Conflict-affected States to achieve their development.

Furthermore, under the Fragile to Fragile cooperation, Central African Republic also received donation USD\$1 million Dollar from the Government of Timor - Leste to support the electoral processes. The Government of Timor-Leste appointed the g7+ Secretariat as a conduit to execute the transfer.

## From the desk of General Secretary



Helder da Costa (General Secretary)

As we approach the first quarter 2016, it is encouraging to see an increasing level of engagement from g7+ member countries namely: Liberia, Somalia, and Timor - Leste by launching SDGs at the country level. This shows our commitment to be not left behind in the global development agenda.

I am looking forward to meeting you all at the g7+ fourth Ministerial Meeting in Kabul, Afghanistan on 23 - 24 March. It will be the main event of the g7+ family as we will be discussing how to operationalize the SDGs by launching the list of proposed set of 20 indicators for the sustainable development goals to be implemented by the g7+ family. The secretariat will set up an online monitoring portal to follow and evaluate the progress and their impact of the implementation of

monitoring portal to follow and evaluate the progress and the impact of the implementation of the SDGs in our respective countries and will share the lessons at the regional and global levels.

As part of our fragile to fragile cooperation, the Government of Timor-Leste provided USD\$1 million to support the election process in CAR and the g7+ Secretariat is proud to have been entrusted by the Government of Timor - Leste to act as a conduit to transfer the funds to the government of CAR. I congratulate the people and government of CAR for their peaceful and the successful election, the g7+ secretariat will continue to assist CAR development process.

In the context of strengthening the g7+ Secretariat, on the 08th of February, the Secretariat signed the new Memorandum of Understanding with Prime Minister of Timor - Leste, H.E. Dr. Rui Maria de Araujo symbolising country support to the operationalization of the Secretariat and to ensure g7+ global advocacy.

Enjoy reading this new edition and I thank our member states and development partner for their continued support.