



# Newsletter

October 2015

## Welcome from g7+ Chair



The past few months since July have marked a new landscape for stability and development at the global level. This period has featured the adoption of the new global development framework, Global Sustainable Development Goals at the 70th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York. Similarly the launch of the Addis Agenda for Action in July during the 3rd Financing for Development (FfD3) summit before the formal launch of the SDGs, The agenda 2030, indicates the congruity of the aspiration of SDGs with the means to implement.

I congratulate and thank g7+ members and development partners whose strong advocacy for peacebuilding and statebuilding in this transformative agenda bore fruit in the form of SDG number 16. While the whole SDGs are more important to countries affected by conflict and fragility than another group of countries, goal number 16 is of critical importance for the g7+ countries. However, the real success of the agenda 2030 will not depend on what has been promised, but what will be delivered; the delivery of this agenda depends to a greater extent on the countries leadership. I am particularly happy to announce that the g7+ will facilitate the ownership and leadership of the member countries in implementing and monitoring of this agenda. In this regard, the g7+ will establish a monitoring mechanism after consulting with the member countries to ensure that our countries are not under-reported.

The outcomes of UNGA reflect our successful preparation as reflected in the side event we organised in Addis Ababa on the theme Making financing for Development Work for Fragile Conflict Affected States in which we produced eight key recommendations and five solutions on how g7+ member countries can finance long term development through effective management of our natural resources.

It was also a pleasure for me to visit Timor-Leste, the host of the g7+ secretariat, where I witnessed the adoption of the resolution on SDGs by the national cabinet of Timor-Leste and the launch of the country's second fragility assessment in the company of the amazing leadership of Timor-Leste. The role of Timor-Leste in the g7+ has always been instrumental. The leadership ensured its continued support and active role in promoting the agenda of the g7+. We agreed that the group has to further strengthen its position on the implementation of the SDGs in the upcoming Ministerial meeting to be held in Kabul, Afghanistan in late March 2016.

On behalf of my fellow Ministers from g7+ I also sincerely thank the World Bank President, Dr. Jim Yong Kim and his team who met us in group during the World Bank/IMF annual meetings in Lima, Peru. As we continue meeting regularly, I am glad that our collaboration is becoming more focused and decisive around issues of promoting private sector investment, developing Infrastructure, IDA assistance and monitoring of the SDGs.

I commend the efforts of the member countries and their development partners in the implementation of the peacebuilding and statebuilding agenda. Of course this journey toward resilience in our countries is full of challenges, but these challenges cannot and should not surpass the patience and energy of the people of our countries. I expressed my deep sympathy with the people in Yemen, Afghanistan, CAR, Burundi, Somalia, south Sudan and other members of the group who are facing active conflict and wish them ever lasting peace. Please enjoy this g7+ October 2015 Newsletter and we hope it will set the tone for our collective enthusiasm for the successful implementing and monitoring of the SDGs, in particular, SDG 16.

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## 2030 Agenda, what it means for g7+ countries

*"Implementing the New Development Framework in Countries Affected by Conflict and Fragility"*

The world witnessed the launch of agenda 2030, a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) during the 70th UN General Assembly (UNGA) which also marked the 70th anniversary of the UN. This set of the 17 goals were finalized after a series of consultations and inter-governmental negotiations which took over a span of three years.



September 2012: The first g7+ high level side event on post 2015 agenda co-hosted by Afghanistan, Liberia, and Timor-Leste during 67th UNGA, attended by head of states and government, ministers, ambassadors and Heads of agencies.

In order to make sure that the voice of countries affected by conflict and fragility is not left unheard; the g7+ has been actively advocating for peacebuilding and statebuilding goals to be included in this global agenda. The link between peace and development has long been proved and thus we could not afford another 15 years to go without realizing this link in the global development framework.

The advocacy and discourse of the g7+ on different fronts resulted in SDG number 16. *Implementation matters:* The realization of the SDGs at the country level will mark the real success of our advocacy which will require actions beyond paper work and advocacy on the part of governments and the international community. This is very true for the countries affected by conflict and fragility where a major portion of the poorest reside.

The International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS) hosted a side event during the 70th UNGA which was attended by Ministers from g7+ countries, donor countries, ambassadors and heads of development agencies.

In their opening remarks, the co-chairs of the IDPS (H.E. Kaifalah Marah and H.E. Minister Isabella Lovin) reiterated the commitment of the IDPS to promote the implementation of the SDGs in line with the New Deal Principles.

*We the g7+ have planned to lead the implementation and monitoring of the progress on SDG*

@UNGA 2015 Side Event

H.E. KAIFALA MARAH  
Chair of the g7+

The chair of the g7+, H.E. Kaifalah Marah and the Eminent Person of g7+, H.E. Xanana Gusmao along with other g7+ Ministers and ambassadors emphasized the need for countries leadership in implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. Further emphasize was placed on eradicating the root cause of poverty from conflict affected countries which fuels conflict and crisis.

**Xanana Gusmao**  
**g7+ Eminent Person**

**"Next 15 years should be the years of ACTION. No more feasibility studies, no more papers but action"**

UNGA SIDE EVENT, 29 SEPTEMBER 2015

Unless there is sustainable peace, no development agenda will prosper. In a moderated debate during the side event, the participants emphasized and called on UN agencies and other development actors to champion the SDGs by extending timely support and changing the business as usual approach of operation.

There is an urgent need for policy coherence at operational and strategic level. The g7+ has committed to facilitate country level monitoring of the SDGs to ensure that our member countries are not left unreported or under-reported. A monitoring mechanism will be established where data will be consolidated from the member countries which will be further available to complement the existing mechanisms and share experiences.

## "Making Financing for Development work for Fragile Conflict-Affected States"



*g7+ side event during FfD 3 summit co-hosted by Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste and United States of America.*

The third global summit on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa on 13-16 July 2015 focused on mobilizing enough resources to achieve SDGs. The countries affected by conflict and fragility will continuously struggle with the limited resources at their disposal to implement the SDGs. These countries have the potential of sustainable flow of resources from within. There will be a need for innovative ways to harness those resources and ensure achievement of the SDGs.

The g7+, realizing challenges and opportunities presented an 8-point brief summarizing the big priorities to the g7+ group. (<http://g7plus.org/sites/default/files/resources/Financing-for-development-g7%2Bpaper-eng.pdf>). Following are the big asks of the aforementioned brief:

1. Support domestic tax resource mobilization through targeted technical assistance
2. Support domestic natural resource mobilization in a way that it helps in creating a functional economy in country themselves.
3. Leave no fragile state behind by ensuring fair and effective share of development assistance
4. Recognise need to priorities Peace and State building in fragile states
5. Mainstream "New Deal" aid effectiveness principles for conflict-affected countries
6. Develop and engage the private sector through supporting physical and soft infrastructure
7. Improve access to climate finance
8. Do no harm by avoiding development interventions which undermines the legitimacy of the state institutions

To share the voice on the priorities of the fragile and conflict affected countries in the summit, the g7+ secretariat, Republic of Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, and United States co-hosted a side event, "Making Financing for Development (FfD) work for Fragile Conflict Affected States (FCAS)" (<http://g7plus.org/en/resources/making-financing-development-work-fragile-and-conflict-affected-countries>) underlining the idea of "country leadership and ownership"; the g7+ emphasized that the discussion on mobilizing finances for the development should start from within the country

There should be genuine "partnership" between FCAS and donors focused on support for domestic resource mobilization, natural resource mobilizations, and private sector through localized assistance for tax collection, contract negotiations and private sector. Institutional capacity and infrastructure are critical to ensure sustainable flow of resources in FCAS.

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## Ministerial Meeting:

Our 4th Ministerial Meeting has been postponed to late March 2016 due to the finalization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the busy agenda in several member countries, preparing their national budget in the last quarter of every year.

## World Bank President, Dr. Kim ensured World Bank support g7+ establishing SDG tracking and monitoring tool



*g7+ Ministers met in group with the World Bank president, Dr. Jim Yong Kim and his vice Presidents during the World Bank/IMF annual meeting in Lima, Peru on 11 October 2015.*

The g7+ Ministers met with the President and Senior Management of the World Bank Peru, Lima on 11 October 2015. During the meeting, the Chair of the g7+, H.E. Kaifala Marah thanked the World Bank President, Dr. Jim Yong Kim for his continued support for the countries affected by conflict and fragility.

Underlining the concentration of the extreme poverty in Fragile and Conflict-Affected countries which can risk the achievement of shared prosperity, he emphasized on conceptualized and country sensitive support for these countries.

g7+ Ministers meeting with Dr. Kim focused on two main topics of discussion on their

agenda which were SDG implementation monitoring and promoting infrastructure investment to encourage the private sector. Dr. Kim ensured g7+ of the World Bank's support and engagement with the Group's initiative to lead the monitoring of the SDGs.

He further said that the Bank is increasing its focus on countries affected by conflict and fragility. Infrastructure is the core of that support. He encouraged the g7+ to help the World Bank team and design innovative ways to invest in these countries.

The Bank management assured of their readiness to work with the g7+ until the spring meeting in 2016 and explore how the Bank support to infrastructure can be further improved.

Emphasizing the policy coherence of the Bank with the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) framework, the g7+ further asked the Bank to promote the private sector through investments in infrastructure. Particularly the IFC and MIGA of the Bank group have to step forward and take a more robust approach to support conflict affected countries.

The IFC have made a commitment to increase their presence in infrastructure in FCAS which would be piloted in 4 or 5 g7+ countries that would cover capacity building, and support to evaluate projects from private investors.

Similarly, MIGA already had 15% of their projects in FCAS last year, and is committed to continue with this trend.

*g7+ Ministers photo group after meeting World Bank President*



## Official visit of the g7+ Chair, H.E Kaifala Marah to Timor-Leste



*g7+ Chair, H.E. Kaifala Marah with Timor Leste Prime Minister, Dr. Rui Maria de Araujo and g7+ Special Envoy, Vice Minister of Finance and the g7+ team*

H.E. Dr. Kaifala Marah, Minister of Finance and Economic Development and Chair of g7+ visited the Republic Democratic of Timor-Leste, host of the g7+ Secretariat from 19 – 22 September 2015. He was accompanied by Ms. Abie Kamarah, the g7+ focal point in Sierra-Leone. The Chair met the leadership of the country (Prime Minister, Ministers, Heads of agencies).

As his first visit as chair of the g7+, H.E. Marah met with Prime Minister, Honorable Dr. Rui Maria de Araujo, Minister of Finance, H.E. Santana Cardoso, Minister of Petroleum, H.E. Alfredo Pires, g7+ Eminent Person H.E Xanana Gusmao, g7+ Special Envoy H.E Emilia Pires, President of the ANP, Gualdino da Silva and other senior officials vice ministers and heads of agencies.

His visit also witnessed the resolution passed by the government of Timor-Leste endorsing the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Prime Minister, of the Republic of Timor-Leste assured the chair of g7+ of the government of Timor-Leste's continued support and active role in promoting the common agenda. This will include support in sharing and promoting peer-to-peer learning among the member countries.

He further emphasized on promoting support for peace and reconciliation within member countries. The chair also attended one day national validation workshop of the second phase of fragility assessment conducted in Timor Leste.

*g7+ Chair, H.E Kaifala Marah and Timor Leste Prime Minister, Dr. Rui Maria de Araujo*





*The Chair attending the national validation workshop of the second phase of fragility assessment conducted in Timor-Leste.*

He observed the productive exchange of dialogue on the progress made in Timor-Leste across the 5 PSGs and challenges therein. In an executive lecture delivered by the g7+ Chair, H.E. Dr. Kaifala Marah and Timor Leste Prime Minister; H.E. Dr. Rui Maria Araujo to the government officials and donors agencies and civil society; They both emphasized on the implementation of SDGs at the country level.

Development partners and civil society organizations were encouraged to work together with g7+ to end poverty and build a peaceful and capable society. In the same occasion, the chair also launched the g7+ revamped website ([www.g7plus.org](http://www.g7plus.org)) that is designed for easy navigation, with even advanced functionalities and displays comprehensive information about the group and its member countries.

The chair also paid a visit to the Timor-Leste National Petroleum Authority (ANP) and met the ANP President, H.E. Gualdino do Carmo da Silva. A detailed presentation about the experiences of managing the exploration of petroleum in Timor-Leste was delivered. At the suggestion of the Chair of g7+ Mr. Gualdino do Carmo da Silva expressed his willingness to share such experience with a wider membership of the g7+ through country missions.



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## From the desk of the General Secretary

Warm greetings to our readers. Let me reiterate by saying I am deeply honored and humbled to serve the g7+ Secretariat. The entire team and I have a profound respect and passion for this organization, as well as for our global community of practice. We are incredibly motivated to serve our people, our members at such an exciting time.

The last quarter has seen a historic moment, where world leaders adopted the Global Goals of Sustainable Development Goals at the UNGA in New York. The g7+ family deserved to be congratulated for securing the Goal 16 on Peace, Justice and Institutions in the Global Goals of SDG. The next challenge now is how to operationalise the SDGs at the country level. The g7+ family will devote its time and energy to monitor the SDGs, or at very least take the leadership to ensure the SDGs are implemented and monitored in the next five years and share the results across countries.

Another important milestone, in terms of institutionalising the g7+, has been the successful visit of g7+ Chair, H.E. Dr Kaifala Marah and the Focal Point, Ms Abie Kamara to Dili, Timor-Leste, the home country of the g7+ Secretariat in September 2015 to meet with the leadership of Timor-Leste. The visit was a resounding success by all accounts. Apart from meeting the Prime Minister, and senior government officials, the Chair was able to symbolically inaugurate the new office of the g7+ Secretariat, provided opening remarks in the national validation of the second fragility assessment for Timor-Leste, and together with the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, Dr Rui Maria de Araujo, launched the collective views of the g7+ on SDGs on the eve of their departure to New York to attend the UNGA summit.

On behalf of the g7+ Secretariat, I would like to commend the work of our g7+ Focal Points, our champions around the world on Goal 16, and Member States of the g7+ for their continued support and engagement in the noble course of the g7+. But we have plenty of work ahead to ensure our collective success.

In the short term, our mission is crystal clear: We are 100 percent focused on executing and delivering our work plan. I could not be more proud to lead the g7+ Secretariat and thank you all for your support.

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## g7+ upcoming events:

04 – 05 November 2015:  
IDPS Steering group meeting in Paris

December 2015:

- g7+ Technical meeting on SDGs monitoring (TBC)
- g7+ Retreat (TBC)
- g7+ Roadshow in pacific (TBC)

# 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS