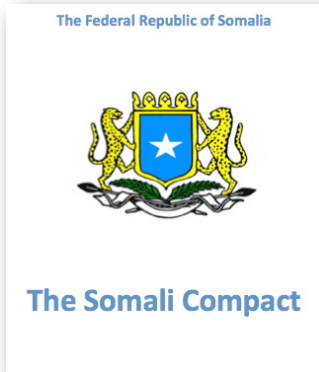


# Newsletter



A New Deal for Somalia Conference, 16th September



## RECENT ACTIVITIES

The last two months have been an extremely busy and productive time for the g7+.

At the end of August the chair of the g7+, H.E. Emilia Pires, along with a team led by the head of the g7+ Secretariat, Dr. Helder da Costa, traveled to Africa to advance the work of the g7+ and hear directly from g7+ Ministers about their country situation. The trip linked into an existing commitment of Minister Pires to speak in Monrovia, Liberia, at the launch of the African Development Bank's High-Level Panel on Fragile States on the 2nd of September. Countries visited on the "African Roadshow" included Chad, DRC and Liberia.

Progress in Africa on the development of compacts has been ongoing with South Sudan holding a series of New Deal Compact Consultations in ten states. This process has been designed to encompass a broad range of stakeholders and enhance national ownership. The construction of their compact is well underway and the South Sudan

New Deal Compact is scheduled for completion and signing in December.

A landmark occasion in regard to compacts was the Conference on A New Deal for Somalia held in Brussels on the 16th of September. During the conference Somalia's New Deal Compact was endorsed by the Federal Government of Somalia and development partners with commitments undertaken to support its implementation.

The various stakeholders agreed that the best platform to achieve the development and peacebuilding goals of Somalia was the New Deal framework developed by the g7+ group and endorsed in Busan in 2011, specifically aimed at supporting fragile countries in transitioning towards stability. The communique from the Conference noted that "the compact ensures a clear focus on Somalia's most vital political, social & economic priorities."



## Welcome!

Just a few days ago during the United Nations General Assembly, I heard a range of people talking about the g7+ and the New Deal. There were Heads of State who made mention of us during their UNGA addresses, Ministers from g7+ countries speaking of our mission in special events and various development partners and CSO representatives discussing the role of the New Deal in conflict-affected situations. This made me reflect on just how much our "little" g7+ has been able to achieve since our first official meeting in Dili, April 2010. In less than four years we have certainly made an impact! And not just in thinking but on the ground too. There is always so much more to do - but we should take stock and celebrate what has been a remarkable journey so far!

*Emilia Pires*

Chair of the g7+



## COUNTRY UPDATE - DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



The Democratic Republic of the Congo was a g7+ pioneer in the process of establishing the g7+. DRC's Minister of Planning in 2010, currently a Member of Parliament, H. E. Oliver Kamitatu, was

an outspoken advocate for a better framework for development partnerships in fragile and conflict-affected states.

The DRC is the third largest country in Africa and has a population of around 70 million. Like many other g7+ countries the DRC is rich in terms of natural

resources with huge forests producing timber and also many mineral deposits such as cobalt, copper, coltan, diamonds, tin, zinc and petroleum.

In 2005, a new constitution was approved by referendum, with the election of Joseph Kabila as president. [\[continued page 2\]](#)

## RECENT ACTIVITIES CONTINUED ...

Peacebuilding and Statebuilding were at the forefront of a High-Level Ministerial Breakfast held on the 23rd of September in the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York City. Hosted by the Governments of South Sudan, Timor-Leste and Denmark, this event presented by the g7+ and the International Dialogue, was entitled "Putting Peace at the Heart of Development".

The input of g7+ Ministers made for valuable insights into linkages between peace and development experienced in their respective countries and added to the discussion of the role of peacebuilding and statebuilding as essential components of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.



H.E. Abdalla Kadre Assane, Minister from CAR

Other events at UNGA also featured conversations and statements about taking into account the needs and vulnerabilities of conflict affected countries in the shaping of the Post-2015 Agenda.

These included the side event "Ensuring Peaceful, Just and Resilient Societies in the Post-2015 Development Agenda" on the 26th of September and several High Level statements delivered in the General Assembly. President Taur Matan Ruak of Timor-Leste, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia and President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud of Somalia were among the Heads of State who reflected on these issues.



Ministers [L to R] from Denmark, South Sudan and Timor-Leste at the Ministerial Breakfast UNGA

## COUNTRY UPDATE - DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO CONTINUED ...

There has been relative stability in the country since the elections, with pockets of conflict, particularly in the eastern border regions.

The main development partners active in the DRC are the World Bank, Belgium, the European Union and UNDP.

### New Deal activities in DRC

DRC is one of the seven New Deal pilot countries. The Minister of Planning officially launched in August 2012 the beginning of the New Deal implementation process in DRC in an event involving all the stakeholders.

DRC undertook its fragility assessment in September 2012, following many consultations with national stakeholders, development partners and civil society. This fragility assessment has been useful as it has allowed the Government to assess strengths and weaknesses, identify the causes of crisis and measure the progress made since 2006. Now the country is in the process of undergoing regional fragility assessments to complement the national one. The New Deal commitments not only include the na-

tional and international engagements for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding of the Congolese State but it also involves innovation by including the regional factors that add to the external causes of the Congolese conflict.

DRC has been able to produce a draft Fragility Spectrum for the country which has identified 180 causes of conflict and 104 progress indicators as well as a list of 34 common indicators shared by other fragile or post-conflict states. The Fragility Spectrum also identifies the priority actions for the Compact between development partners and the Congolese government. This Compact should be finalized in the coming months and allow to identify priority actions to undertake and integrate them in the government priority action plan. This Compact can assist the DRC in moving along their pathway towards resilience.

In February 2013, the President of the Republic and 10 others Chiefs of State of the Great Lakes region signed a **framework agreement for Peace, Security and Cooperation for DRC** (also known as the Addis Ababa Agreement). Within this framework the Congolese

government has committed to implement a series of reforms for peacebuilding and statebuilding in DRC which correspond to the five Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals (PSGs).

The implementation, by the President of the Republic, of a National Mechanism to follow up this framework agreement involves a series of reforms which are strictly connected to the PSGs. This is a step forward to facilitating political endorsement of the New Deal implementation process in DRC. It has been suggested that the framework agreement will serve as a basis for the elaboration of the Transition Pact envisaged in the New Deal.

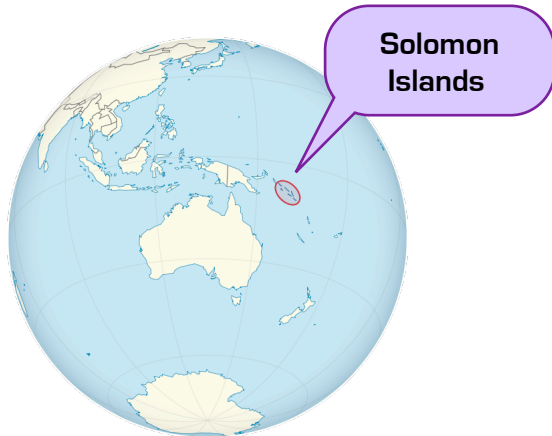
The most important events coming-up in 2014 in DRC are the general census of population and housing (30 years after the last one was conducted in 1984) as well as the municipal, local and senatorial elections.



## MEET THE MINISTER

Amongst the hustle and bustle of Mid Town Manhattan, with the United Nations General Assembly underway, and representatives from around the world rushing from meeting to meeting, we were pleased to be able to catch up with Solomon Island's Minister for National Unity, Peace and Reconciliation, H.E. Hipolite Taremae.

The Minister was generous with his time and he even let us interrupt his breakfast early one morning as we questioned him about his role and the experiences of the Solomon Islands.



**g7+ Media:** How long have you been a Minister?

**Minister Taremae:** I have been a Minister since 2010. In fact I was there in Dili in April 2010 at the very beginning when the g7+ met for the first time.

**g7+ Media:** So what does a Minister of Peace and Reconciliation do?

**Minister Taremae:** Between 2001 and 2003 there was conflict in our country, mainly between the two largest provinces. So after 2003 we started the ministry. Our purpose is to get those who were in conflict during that time to come together and reconcile.

**g7+ Media:** How is that done?

**Minister Taremae:** What we do is get those who were in conflict involved in trauma counseling. This comes first. After that they will usually request to go into reconciliation where we use our own cultural traditions, with symbolic exchanges to formally express forgiveness and reconciliation.

**The people want this process because they realize that without peace there is no development.**

**g7+ Media:** What did you think when you came to Dili in 2010?

**Minister Taremae:** I really appreciated that time. When I came to Dili. I learned a lot. It was not only us in Solomon Islands that faced ethnic tension but across the globe others

were facing the same thing. When we discussed this I could see what different approaches other countries were taking and this gave us different options to think about. It really helped.

**g7+ Media:** Is RAMSI now finished?

**Minister Taremae:**

RAMSI is the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands. Now it is a transition period up to 2017. That means that the development side of RAMSI will now transfer to bilateral relationships.

The main bilateral partners are Australia and New Zealand. A number of Australian companies are in the Solomon Islands.

**g7+ Media:** What are some of your resources and industries?

**Minister Taremae:** The main island has many companies with Palm Oil and Coal Mining. There is also Gold Mining and in the western province there is a cannery for tuna fish. Now that there is peace business is better and life is better for most Solomon Islands people. We also export cocoa, but we don't make chocolate yet – maybe one day! The success of these businesses depends on commodity prices.



**g7+ Media:** When you are not doing your work what do you do?

**Minister Taremae:** Being a Parliamentarian keeps me very busy. I have a constituency to represent and people to manage. I live in Honiara but my village is in another province. My family do live with me along with many guests in our house - I have 25 students living with me that are doing their studies in college and institutions – they have no accommodation in the town so I have to keep them!

Many thanks from the g7+ Media team to Minister Taremae for his insights and generosity.



H.E. Hipolite Taremae

On Somalia's New Deal Compact: "This compact represents a paradigm shift in how the international community engages with Somalia and I welcome this transformation whole-heartedly.

The New Deal will help Somalia preserve unity and sovereignty, lay a strong foundation for building reliable, transparent, and accountable functioning state institutions, respectful of the fundamental rights and freedoms and equality of its citizens."

H.E. Mr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud  
President of the  
Federal Republic of Somalia  
at the 68th Session of UNGA  
2013



## Links



[www.g7plus.org](http://www.g7plus.org)



[www.facebook.com/g7plus](http://www.facebook.com/g7plus)



[g7plus](#)

## CALENDAR

**7 October:** KOICA Event on the New Deal, Seoul, Korea

**11-13 October:** World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings, Washington DC, USA

**27-28 November:** 5th g7+ Technical Meeting, Kinshasa, DRC

**29-30 November:** Steering Group Meeting of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, Kinshasa, DRC

**3 December:** Launch of the South Sudan New Deal Compact, Juba, South Sudan

**15-17 January:** International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) Director Level Meeting, New York, USA

**February 2014:** 3rd g7+ Ministerial Retreat, Guinea Bissau (date tbc)

## IN THE MEDIA

Here are a number of links to recent articles and blog posts on the g7+, the New Deal and development in g7+ countries.

Reporting on the UNGA:

[Leaders from fragile countries stress the need for development cooperation](#)

On the Somali Compact:

[New Deal Conference will give Somalis the future they deserve](#)

Also:

[Somalia set for 'New Deal' at Brussels conference - BBC News](#)

On the Guardian's Poverty Matters blog

Helen Clark writes on why

[Peace and Stability must be at the heart of the Global Development Agenda](#)

And finally one that has been around for a while but is interesting:

[The New Deal in difficult places](#)



"Of the estimated 7 billion people in the world, 1.5 billion live in situations of conflict and fragility. This data puts fragile states in the center of the new post 2015. We hold the view that the peculiarities and special circumstances of post-conflict nations should be accommodated by international partners.

The achievement of sustained economic growth and development in these countries is critical in reducing their vulnerability to new political and economic shocks, fueled in many cases by high expectation gaps that need to be mitigated. We therefore call on all our partners to renew their support to the New Deal on Fragile States, which calls for stronger Ownership, Harmonization, Results and Mutual Accountability."

H.E. Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf - President of Liberia  
At the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly 2013

## g7+ Secretariat

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