



# Newsletter

Special Edition June 2018

## Experiences of the g7+ group form relevant inputs to the global agenda of Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace

Advocacy for better policies and country-specific approaches to build lasting peace and resilience through sharing of relevant experiences is one of the pillars of the g7+ mandate. Since its formation, the perspective and views of the group are gaining global recognition, particularly at the UN.

Considering the relevance of its experiences in their trajectory towards peace and statebuilding, the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák invited the g7+ Eminent Person, H.E. Xanana Gusmao to share the group's perspective at the High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace on 24 and 25 April 2018.



Being one of the largest gathering of Heads of State, Ministers, and Civil society representatives since the Assembly's general debate in September 2017, the aim of the meeting was to discuss and highlight the need for conflict prevention, mediation, dialogue and diplomacy. The g7+ delegation was led by H.E. Xanana Gusmao and was accompanied by the g7+ Secretariat, Dr. Heder Da Costa and Habib Mayar.

***“Traumatised by conflict, our people know that security is the most fundamental commodity their State can provide”***

Provision of security to their citizens becomes the most urgent priority for the countries in the immediate post conflict situation. However, decades of war and conflict leave behind state institutions including security, Rule of Law and Justice fragile and weak. Its revival through reform becomes indispensable to sustain peace.

Efforts by international actors to strengthen Security are challenged by fragmented approaches and lack of resources at the discretion of States. Experiences in the g7+ countries show that ownership by the states of these efforts determines the success of the reform processes.



Security Sector Reform (SSR) and its relation to the sustaining peace agenda was one of the central themes of the High Level meeting on Peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

The co-chairs of Group of Friends of SSR, Permanent Representative of South Africa and Permanent Representative of Slovakia convened a High-Level Roundtable on Security Sector Reform and Sustaining Peace. The g7+ Eminent Person H.E. Xanana Gusmao was invited to share views from g7+ group on the SSR. The speakers included the President of the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly H.E. Miroslav Lajčák and the UN Deputy Secretary-General, H.E. Amina J. Mohammed.

In his remarks, the Eminent Person of g7+ emphasized the need to address the root causes of problems to achieve permanent solutions. Referring to the experiences in g7+ countries, he mentioned that those solutions had to be rooted in the national context rather than international theories; only then we can achieve sustainable resilience. Other speakers recognized that the New Deal principles of Peacebuilding and Statebuilding remain relevant for the pursuit of reforms in security, rule of law and Justice in conflict-affected countries.



***“The g7+ has learnt the hard way that we need to support inclusive process of national dialogue and reconciliation. And true partnership with the international community must be based on respect, understanding and, most importantly, national ownership.”***

Addressing the root causes of conflict and fragility with full recognition of the countries’ unique context is at the core of success towards peace and resilience. Assistance from abroad is needed to support the National process of peacebuilding and statebuilding, which led and owned by the Nations themselves. This has been evident from the trajectory of the g7+ countries.

The g7+ Eminent Person H.E. Xanana Gusmão was invited to share these lessons at the High Level lunch hosted by the president of the General Assembly. He was joined in the panel, H.E. Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.



The g7+ Eminent Person H.E. Xanana Gusmão addressed the audience comprised of heads of state and heads of governments, Ministers and the UN General Secretary. The g7+ eminent person emphasised the importance of country leadership in reconciliation for the pursuit of peace is indispensable. To sustain and strengthen peace - A strong and effective institutions, democratic governance and security sector reform, are needed while remembering that there is no template solution to peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

On the issue of how to strengthen partnerships for peacebuilding and sustaining peace, H.E. Xanana Gusmão recalled that many g7+ member countries have experienced prolonged and often ineffective international interventions. He called for renewed partnerships that truly listen to the voices of the people on the ground, and he urged the international community to focus on the nexus between conflict and inclusive development, in order to address the global inequality and entrenched injustice that constitute powerful drivers of conflict. The g7+ Secretariat led by Dr. Helder Da Costa, represented the group in other related side events and meetings where he presented the perspective of the group. \*\*\*\*

## **g7+ presence at Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development**

The g7+ delegation comprised of representatives from the Secretariat and three member countries took part in the Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development on 7-9 May 2018. The forum co-hosted by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute and the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, It is a global event dedicated to promoting interdisciplinary exchange between members of the international security and development communities. This year forum brought together participants from 47 countries and 140 institutions for three days of discussions under the theme ‘The politics of peace’.



The high-level representatives from g7+ countries included H.E. Gbehzohngar Milton Findley, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Liberia; H.E. Hassan Hajji, Minister of Justice of Somalia; and H.E. Adela Raz, Deputy Foreign Minister of Afghanistan.

All three dignitaries were invited to speak at the opening plenary panel together with the President of the UN General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák and the Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden and Minister of International Cooperation and climate of Sweden who was also serving as the co-chair of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS), H.E. Isabella Lovin.

The theme of the opening session was ‘The urgency and logic of investing in violent conflict prevention’. The speakers emphasized that Security, justice and economic development, which are embedded principals of the New Deal, are indispensable pillars for sustaining peace and conflict prevention.

Political support from the regional powers and organizations was cited as crucial for overcoming conflict that, in most cases, is due to factors external to subject countries. In addition, terrorism is among the main reason for conflict in some countries. The opening session was concluded by gratitude remarks from the g7+ to Minister Lovin, who finished her role as the Co-Chair of the IDPS.

The g7+ presented a gift prepared by the Secretariat as a token of appreciation. The g7+ welcomes H.E. Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of International Development and La Francophonie of Canada, as the new co-chair of the IDPS and look forward to working with her to strengthen the Dialogue.



The IDPS has proved to be a relevant forum to facilitate political dialogues between g7+ countries, international partners and civil society. There is a need of strengthen the forum through galvanizing political support from within the members and ensuring accountability over the agreed principles of the New Deal.



During the 3 days forum, the Deputy General Secretary of the g7+, Mr. Habib Mayar, participated represented the g7+ in discussions related to UN intervention in conflict affected countries, Customary Justice system, forging social contract and discussion related to strengthening IDPS (international Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding).

### *Summary of key messages he delivered during the forum:*

- Ability of the states to provide fair and equitable justice to its citizens is crucial for the legitimacy of the state, which in itself is an enabler of sustaining peace and conflict prevention. Dependence on the customary justice system has been a normal practice in many conflict-affected countries and hence there is a need of recognition of the customary justice system while strengthens the formal justice institutions.
- Peace operation should complement sovereignty of state, not to be seen as occupying force. They have to support the state in consolidating peace and help to save lives and they need to be impartial. Working with and through the state actors and the people of the conflict affected countries is the only affordable option to deliver on the intended reforms and achieve peace.

### *Upcoming Events*

- *High Level Meeting in Belagio, Italy, 22 - 24 June 2018*
- *High Level Political Forum in New York, 09 - 19 July.*
- *The g7+ Workshop on the OECD's 2018 Fragility Report, 14 September 2018*
- *United Nations General Assembly in New York, 18 September - 5 October 2018*

### *The g7+ European Hub's first steps: Deepening partnerships in Europe*



Actively engaged with development partners in Europe, the g7+ signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Clube de Lisboa on May 4 2018.

The Clube de Lisboa is a Portuguese association that aims to promote critical thinking in order to address global challenges such as sustainable development and climate changes. The MoU between the g7+ and Clube de Lisboa provides for a partnership in the organisation of international conferences and studies publication relevant to the g7+'s mission.

The g7+ family proudly announce that the g7+ European Hub office is now officially inaugurated by H.E. Teresa Ribeiro, the Secretary of State of Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Portugal. The Hub will serve as the main avenue for sharing experiences under the g7+ flagship programme, Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation, based on the spirit of voluntarism, solidarity and cooperation in thematic areas (peace and reconciliation, Elections, Justice, Natural Resources Management and managing UN peacekeeping mission)\*\*\*\*

## From the desk of the g7+ General Secretary



Dear Readers,

On behalf of the g7+ family, I warmly welcome the new Chair of the g7+, H.E. Nabeela F. Tunis, Minister of Planning and Economic Development of Sierra Leone, who replaces the outgoing Chair, H.E. Momodu Lamin Kargbo, former

Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Sierra Leone. The new Chair will be carrying her duties as Chair until the next g7+ Ministerial Meeting (TBC). I would also like to sincerely thank our former Chair, H.E. Momodu Lamin Kargbo for his leadership, wisdom and guidance.

At the country level, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the new President of the Republic of Liberia, H.E. George Manneh Weah, elected on December 2017, and to send my warm congratulations to the new President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, H.E. Julius Maada Bio on 12 May 2018 as well as welcoming the new Prime Minister Republic of Guinea, H.E. Ibrahima Kassory Fofana, who was sworn in on 24 May 2018. Timor-Leste held peaceful parliamentary elections. The election commission announced the victory of Alliance of Change for Progress (AMP) led by former President Xanana Gusmão, securing more than 49,5% of the votes (i.e. 34 seats of the 65 seats in the legislature). We saw two rounds of a peaceful and successful general election in Liberia. The first election run by the country institutions and security forces. This shows our advocacy on strengthening national capacity is working.

I am very pleased to share that the recently opened g7+ European Hub based in Lisbon is working full steam ahead and is now set to strengthen g7+'s cooperation with donor countries based in Europe. The g7+ European Hub will also serve as a meeting venue for g7+. I hope you will enjoy reading our Newsletter's special edition on the work the g7+ is doing alongside our Member States.

**Dr. Helder da Costa**  
**General Secretary of the g7+ Headquarters**

## Meet the g7+ new chair:



**H.E. Nabeela F. Tunis**  
**Minister of Planning and Economic Development,**  
**Sierra Leone and Chair of the g7+**

Nabeela F. Tunis is Minister of Planning and Economic Development of Sierra Leone with over 20 years experience in conflict prevention and mediation, gender, environmental governance and human rights issues. Minister Tunis automatically replaced the outgoing the Chair of the g7+ Group of Fragile and Conflict Affected states and Co-Chair of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, H.E. Momodu Lamin Kargbo.

Prior to her appointment as Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Minister Tunis worked at the United Nations in various capacities and was the Programme Manager/Co-Founder of Women's Network for Environmental Sustainability (WoNES). She has been a strong voice in promoting gender equality and inclusivity at national and international fora.

During her work at the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in Sierra Leone, she managed and contributed to successful intra and inter party political mediation and the formation and institutionalisation of Cross Political Party Associations.

Minister Tunis holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and English and a Masters in Rural Development. She has several post graduates certificates in peacebuilding, conflict analysis and Management, environmental governance, gender and human rights.\*\*\*