



Newsletter

September 2018

Welcome from the chair



Fellow members, partners and friends, welcome to the second edition of the g7+ newsletter for 2018. I want to take this opportunity to express my excitement on assuming the role of Chair of the g7+ family. I was honoured to represent the Group in the launch of the OECD States of Fragility Report and the Standing Up for SDG16 events in New York, during this year's HLPF.

I look forward to continue representing the Group in these engagements as we strive to make our collective voice heard louder in international fora. At this point, I would like to extend our solidarity with the people of Afghanistan, Somalia and Yemen, who are experiencing horrific incidents that are claiming the lives of our compatriots in these countries. We strongly condemn these barbaric attacks and call on our development partners and international community to work towards ending these atrocities.

I wish to congratulate Guinea and Togo for submitting their Voluntary National Report (VNR) to this year's High Level Political Forum (HLPF). Four other member countries: Central African Republic, Chad, Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste will present their reports at the 2019 HLPF, when, SDG16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) will be reviewed. It is imperative for our group to advocate and fully engage in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. I therefore encourage and urge other g7+ member states to submit their (VNR) reports, to ensure no one is left behind in this ambitious journey of becoming resilient states. As three of our member states Afghanistan, Sao Tome and Principe, and the Democratic Republic of Congo are due to hold elections before the end of 2018, we wish them safe, free and transparent elections; and peaceful transitions. We hope you enjoy reading updates from the g7+ as we keep you informed of the exciting activities we undertake on the peacebuilding and statebuilding agenda.

The g7+ Headquarters welcome contributions and articles to be featured on our next newsletter. Our work is only meaningful when we fully engage together as a group. I look forward to meeting with many of you during the course of discharging my duties as g7+ Chair.

Happy Reading.

Building a strong and effective institution are the key for Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace.

High Level Political Forum (HLPF) is the United Nations platform for a follow-up and review mechanisms of the Sustainable Development Agenda of 2030 - an universal global goal aims to end conflict and poverty by 2030.

HLPF in 2018 highlights key theme of "Transformation towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies", encourages member states to submit their voluntary national review based on six goals as follow; SDGs 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and communities SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production, SDG 15: Life on Land and SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals.

The voluntary national reviews (VNRs) aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences including successes, challenges and lessons learned with a view to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the country level. In 2018, 47 countries conducted voluntary national reviews including two of g7+ countries: Guinea and Togo. Summary of key findings from both countries emphasise challenges faced by national statistical in collecting data and preparing the report.

"Weak National Statistical System hinders Guinea and Togo to collect data for HLPF Report"

After the Ebola epidemic struck in 2015, Guinea came up with the National Economic and Social Development Plan (2016 - 2020) in which aligned with the SDGs. The plan becomes the single framework to initiate any development intervention in the country. The New Deal Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Pillars (Inclusive Politics, Security, Justice, Economic Foundation and Revenues and Services) are used as the accelerating framework to achieve the objective of the 2016 - 2020 Plan.

Two years after the implementation of the National Development Plan, Guinea voluntarily submitted their national report to the HLPF. The findings of the report shows that Guinea needs to invest in human capacity in order to improve their work effectively in collecting and interpreting data. This way, it will eventually build a strong institution that can deliver the work effectively.



Togo Prime Minister, H.E. Komi Selom Klassou - Photo: HLPF Media

On other hand, this is the third time for Togo to submit the voluntary national review to the HLPF. The country has also integrated the SDGs into their National Development Plan. Their objective was to have a “structurally transforming the economy for a strong, sustainable, resilience, inclusive growth and creating decent jobs”. Togo’s report outlined the SDGs progress at the country level against six goals that were reviewed this year. Three main challenges Togo is facing in preparing the report are lack of national statistical system, human capacity and finance.

These root challenges have been acknowledged by the former UNSG, Ban Ki-Moon back in 2015 that limited capacity, ineffective institutions, lack of data will become the major challenges for each country in advancing the implementation of the SDGs agenda. These challenges will be even harder for countries affected by conflict and fragility to overcome in one night. Therefore, the g7+ group believe that strengthening national institutions and increasing the capacity of national statistics are extremely important to enable the country to implement, monitor, evaluate and eventually eradicate poverty by 2030. ****

“Stand Up for SDG16+” – Kick off preparation for the HLPF 2019

The new Chair of the g7+ and Minister of Planning and Economic Development, H.E. Nabeela F. Tunis delivered keynote speech at the side event “Stand Up for SDG16+” in the margin of the High Level Political Forum on July 16 in New York. The event was organised by Pathfinders, a group of countries and international organization that are working collaboratively to support the implementation of the Goal 16 – fostering Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

In her intervention, Minister Tunis underlined the existing of conflict in most of g7+ member countries limited the chances for countries have to walk out of fragility and achieving sustainable development. Therefore, she calls upon “the international community to scale efforts in supporting dialogue and reconciliation in fragile countries”. She emphasised that “we can truly success in our endeavour, if we strengthen our national monitoring and evaluation system to track our efforts and context” in implementing and achieving SDGs in g7+ countries.



Photo: Pathfinders Media

In this direction, there is a need to strengthen g7+ statistical offices to accurately measure on g7+ 20 selected indicators.

The g7+ secretariat will organise a High Level discussion on Brainstorming of SDGs 16 on 28 September 2018 in the margin of the 73th UN General Assembly in New York. The aim of this event is to listen to g7+ countries in particular Chad, Central African Republic, Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste who will submit their Voluntary National Review at the 2019 HLPF. The g7+ will use this event as an opportunity to consolidate our inputs and to manifest leadership on monitoring countries progress on SDG 16.

The g7+ believes that having peace is more important than a ceasefire. Strong, Just, Effective, accountable, professionalism as well as proper governance are the ingredients for fragile country to achieve the SDGs at the country level, at the same time preventing conflict and sustaining peace. ****



Combating Extremism in Fragile States with New Deal Approach

Decades of long wars, conflict and fragility in g7+ countries leave behind legacy of fractured societies, social friction and collapse of economic foundation, which led our countries to live in extreme poverty, mass unemployment, illiteracy, lack of security and epidemics that become our stigma.

Against, this background, the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) invited g7+ to share firsthand experience in dealing with Extremism in Fragile countries on 16 July in Washington DC. USIP is an American non-partisan, independent, federal institutions that provides analysis of and is involved in conflict around the world.



Representing the group, Deputy of the g7+, Habib Mayar met with the Task force on Extremism in Fragile States which led by the Governor Tom Kean and Congressman Lee Hamilton, to share g7+ views and experiences.

The Task Force was officially launched in April 2018 to develop recommendations to more effectively prevent the underlying causes of extremism in Fragile States, including burden-sharing approaches with international partners.

The Task force members include: Secretary Madeleine Albright, Senator Kelly Ayotte, Ambassador William Burns, Ambassador Johnnie Carson, Ambassador Karl Eikenberry, Mr. John Gannon, the Honorable Stephen Hadley, Mr. Faroq Kathwari, the Honorable Dina Powell, Dr. Rajiv Shah, and Mr. Michael Singh.

In his remarks, Habib Mayar, emphasised that “fragility creates a conducive context for extremist masterminds and hence can more easily manipulate people into joining their ranks”. Therefore, he proposed addressing fragility and extremism requires multi dimensional approach in order to tackle root causes.

For g7+ group, international community intervention is very crucial for the stability and development of our countries, however, most of the time, the assistances often was uncoordinated and seems to overlap with the government program, which at the end of the day creating a state within the state.

In order to address any form of extremism in Fragile and conflict affected states, the g7+ group believe that applying the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States is the rule.

The New Deal addresses the need to approach development and international aid differently in fragile states. It acknowledges the need for country owned and country led development pathways, with donors playing a supportive role over five peacebuilding and statebuilding goals: Legitimate and Inclusive Politics, security, justice, economic foundations and Revenues and Services. The New Deal empower g7+ government to be legitimate and able to deliver basic service to its people which will allow countries to have power to tackle the extremist group. However, the new deal has not been fully adapted into practice by donors.

Therefore, Habib Mayar said “g7+ would very much welcome the US assistance with giving a new boost to the New Deal, we believe that the support and adaption of its principles by the US Government will lead others to follow”. The g7+ group stands ready to work collaboratively with the US to address Fragility and Extremism in g7+ context. ****

SAVE THE DATE

HIGH LEVEL SIDE EVENT IN THE MARGIN OF
73TH UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**ECONOMIC
RESILIENCE FOR
SUSTAINING PEACE:
LESSONS LEARNT
FROM COUNTRIES IN
TRANSITION**

28TH SEPTEMBER 2018
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 3, UN
HEADQUARTERS, NYC.

Co-hosted by

Follow us

 The g7+

 @g7plus

 @g7plus_20



Inauguration of the g7+ European Hub in Lisbon, Portugal – A center for convening g7+ advocacy work in Europe.

We did it! On 20 June 2018, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Portugal, H.E. Teresa Ribeiro, officially inaugurated the g7+ European Hub in Lisbon. H.E. Teresa Ribeiro said that the presence of the g7+ in Lisbon is an excellent idea to help influencing European Policy on the conflict prevention and sustaining peace agenda in Fragile and Conflict affected Countries.



Minister of planning and Economic Development and chair of g7+, H.E. Nabeela F. Tunis in a video message, thanked Secretary of State, H.E. Teresa Ribeiro for opening the hub and expressing eternal gratitude to the Lisbon City Council for granting the g7+ premise in the heart of Lisbon and to allow the g7+ expanding its advocacy on peacebuilding and statebuilding at the global level.

Secretary General of the g7+, Dr. Helder da Costa added that the g7+ European Hub will be the main avenue for sharing experiences under the g7+ flagship program - Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation, based on the spirit of voluntarism, solidarity and cooperation. The g7+ will ensure to make use of this facility effectively and treasure the generosity of the people of Portugal to g7+. ****

Upcoming Events

- 2018 Asian Evaluation Week “Making evaluation work at the country level” on 10 – 14 September 2018 in Chengdu, China.
- Lisbon talks “OECD State of Fragility Report” on Friday, 14 September 2018, in g7+ European Hub, Lisbon, Portugal.
- Engaging Young People in Fragile and Conflict Affected States on Tuesday, 25 September 2018 in Singapore.
- 16+ Forum Second Annual Showcases, from 07 to 10 October 2018 in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

From the desk of General Secretary



Dear Readers, I hope you enjoy reading this edition of our newsletter and find it to be informative. At the operational level, we really took our work seriously to strengthen the g7+ Headquarters and the Hub both at the global and national level.

I am thrilled to inform you that we have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Office of South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) on 17 July in New York. The MoU sets another important milestone for our group to expand our cooperation with countries in Southern hemisphere in six main thematic areas; 1. reconciliation, 2. peacebuilding and sustaining peace, 3. Natural Resource management, 4. conduct and management of elections, 5. public finance management and 6. managing transitions of UN peacekeeping and political missions.

At the country level, the g7+ staff paid a courtesy visit on the President of the National Parliament and the new Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste as the host country of the g7+ Secretariat. The visit was to brief the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister of State for Presidential of Council Ministers on the work of g7+ and to get their political buy-in the peacebuilding and statebuilding agenda. In the same week, the Eminent Person, Xanana Gusmao inaugurated the g7+ renovated Headquarters in Dili. On 17 August, we have also signed a MoU with BELUN - a local civil society organization that works on conflict prevention, increase community capacity development as well as research and policy in order to strengthen peace and development at the country level. The MoU is to foster partnership and sharing experiences in areas of mutual interest in peacebuilding, statebuilding, sustaining peace and conflict prevention through strengthening the early warning early response (EWER) system.

I am also pleased to inform you that the g7+ Secretariat will visit Guinea Conakry in October 2018 to meet the new governments and strengthen our work at the country level. We will be also hosting an informal gathering for the g7+ Ministers of Finance and Planning in the margin of the World Bank Annual Meeting that will take place in Bali, Indonesia, in October 2018, to meet the new Chair of the g7+ and discuss the future work plan of the group before the Ministerial Meeting that is scheduled to take place in 2019. Thank you and we welcome your suggestion and advice. Please Send us email to g7plus.secretariat@gmail.com to submit your contributions for the upcoming edition. ****