



"Goodbye conflict, welcome development"

g7+ Charter

"Pathways toward Resilience"

g7+ CHARTER

The Governments of Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Liberia, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Solomon Islands, São Tomé & Príncipe, South Sudan, Timor-Leste, Togo and Yemen (the “Member States”):

Preamble

- Having learned the difficult lessons common to all states that are or have been affected by conflict and seeking to transition to the next stage of development;
- Knowing that conflict or post-conflict affected states are best positioned to learn from one another about these hard-won experiences;
- United under the vision of “Pathways toward Resilience”, and “Volunteerism, Solidarity and Co-operation” and working under the motto “Nothing about us without us”;
- Recognizing the need for a vision for peace building and state building as set out in the Statement by the g7+ made in Dili, Timor-Leste on 10 April 2010, the Dili Declaration of 10 April 2010, the Monrovia Roadmap on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding in July 2011 and the Haiti Declaration of November 2012;
- Seeking to reform the way the international community engages with conflict-affected states as articulated in the New Deal for engagement in fragile situations;
- Desiring to work in concert with international development partners, the private sector, civil society, the media and people across countries, borders and regions to reform international engagement in development in Member States;
- Recalling the inaugural meeting of g7+ on 10 April 2010 in Dili, Timor-Leste where the g7+ members first gathered to express the will of the member states as an international organization, as well as the Ministerial meetings conducted in Juba, South Sudan (October 2011) and Port-au-Prince, Haiti (November 2012) since its creation; and
- Believing it is important for g7+ to formalize its constitution as an international organization so as to better provide for its future operation and receive full international recognition for its constituent organs, have agreed to the following charter:

ARTICLE I

Legal Status

1. The g7+ is hereby confirmed as an international, inter-governmental organization with legal personality.
2. The g7+ consists of Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Liberia, South Sudan, Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste, being founding members of the g7+, together with Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Somalia and Togo and such other conflict or post-conflict affected countries as may be admitted by consensus of the current Member States.

ARTICLE II

Purpose

The purpose of the g7+ is to serve as a platform to:

1. facilitate the sharing of lessons learned and good practices for Peacebuilding and State building among conflict or post-conflict affected states in order to further the shared goals of stability, peace, good governance based on nationally led democratic principles, economic growth and sustainable development following the principles of Volunteerism, Solidarity and Cooperation on the path to resilience;
2. promote co-operation amongst Member States which is country-owned and country-led through the provision of advice and the sharing of expertise and lessons learned;
3. advocate aid management policies founded on the principles of effective engagement in development tailored to the contexts of the Member States and respecting national ownership, transparency and mutual accountability;
4. promote good governance and effective institutions and to assist each other in development within our Member States in the sphere of politics, public administration, decentralization, natural resources, economics and finance; and
5. promote stable and peaceful societies in order to transition to next stage of development economic development while recognizing national ownership and leadership.

ARTICLE III

The Ministerial Forum

1. The preeminent decision-making body of the g7+ shall be the Ministerial Forum. Each member State shall appoint a ministerial-level delegate to the Ministerial Forum.
2. The Ministerial Forum shall make decisions on the basis of the principles of consultation and consensus.
3. The Ministerial Forum shall meet at least annually. In addition, the Ministerial Forum may, as determined by notice to the chair of the Ministerial Forum, convene a meeting at any time. Meetings of the Ministerial Forum shall be deemed to be properly constituted if a quorum of a majority of its members is present.
4. The Ministerial Forum shall choose a person being either a Minister of a Member State or a person with relevant qualifications equivalent to those of such a Minister, to serve as Chair of the Ministerial Forum for a two-year term and may stand for re-election. The Chair of the Ministerial Forum shall rotate among the Member States. The Ministerial Forum shall also select a Deputy Chair.
5. The Ministerial Forum may invite observers to attend its meetings, but such observers shall only have the right to speak at such meetings if they are requested to do so.

ARTICLE IV

The Advisory Council

1. The Ministerial Forum shall have an Advisory Council to provide advice and counsel to the Ministerial Forum to assist it in achieving its purposes consistent with the principles of Volunteerism, Solidarity and Cooperation.
2. The Ministerial Forum may on the basis of a consensus of Ministers in a Ministerial Forum, appoint members of the Advisory Council from amongst persons with relevant qualifications to provide it with advice and counsel.
3. The Advisory Council shall meet at least once a year. The Ministerial Forum and the Chair of g7+ may call upon any one or more members of the Advisory Council on an adhoc basis to provide advice and counsel or may ask the Advisory Council to provide advice and counsel in a general meeting of the Advisory Council. The Advisory Council will also assist the Secretariat, if required.

ARTICLE V

Establishment of the g7+ Secretariat

1. The g7+ shall have a secretariat to be known as the g7+ Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”).
2. The headquarters of the Secretariat shall be located in Dili, Timor-Leste. The Secretariat shall be responsible for entering into all necessary agreements with the Government of Timor-Leste for the provision of all facilities required for the proper organization and functioning of the Secretariat and to enable the Secretariat to carry out its activities.
3. The Secretariat and its staff shall benefit from the same privileges and immunities as the Member States in accordance with the provisions of Article X.
4. In addition, the Secretariat shall establish regional liaison offices of the Secretariat in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nairobi, Kenya and New York, United States of America and other territories as agreed from time to time by the Ministerial Forum. In each case, the Secretariat shall be responsible for entering into agreements with the relevant State for the provision of all facilities required for the proper organization and functioning of the Secretariat and to enable the Secretariat to carry out its activities and to benefit from relevant privileges and immunities granted to intergovernmental organizations under international law, including under diplomatic protocols and practices.

ARTICLE VI

Appointment of Secretariat Staff

1. The Secretariat staff (hereinafter “the Staff”) shall consist of a General Secretary, a Deputy General Secretary, and such other staff as may be appointed by the General Secretary in accordance with this Article.
2. The General Secretary shall be appointed by the Chair for a term of 2 (two) years. The incumbent General Secretary may be reappointed upon the expiry of such term. The Deputy General Secretary and other staff shall be appointed by the General Secretary. If for any reason the post of General Secretary is vacant, a Deputy General Secretary shall be directed by the Chair of the Ministerial Forum to carry out the functions of the General Secretary on an interim basis until the position is filled by consensus of the Member States.

ARTICLE VII

Functions of the General Secretary

1. The General Secretary shall act as secretary to the Ministerial Forum. The General Secretary shall also act as secretary to Ministerial and Advisory Council meetings and such other councils, committees or working groups as may be established by the Ministerial Forum.
2. The General Secretary shall be responsible, in close coordination with the Chair and Deputy Chair, for setting the agenda for meetings of the Ministerial Forum and coordinating responses by the Member States. The General Secretary shall also perform other functions and duties as directed by the Ministerial Forum, the Chair and the Deputy Chair. Where appropriate the General Secretary shall act on the advice of and in consultation with the Advisory Council and other councils, committees or working groups established by the Ministerial Forum.
3. The General Secretary shall be responsible for the management of the Secretariat.
4. The General Secretary shall be empowered to enter into legal undertakings on behalf of the g7+ for purposes consistent with the terms of this Charter or as directed by the Ministerial Forum.

ARTICLE VIII

Functions of the Secretariat

1. The functions of the Secretariat shall be carried out by the General Secretary, the Deputy General Secretary, and the Staff.
2. The primary role of the Secretariat is to provide advice, coordination and assistance in implementing the decisions of the Ministerial Forum, to support the Chair of g7+ and to co-ordinate the activities of the Member States by acting as a liaison for each group of Ministries of the Member States (such as the group consisting of Ministries of Finance or the group consisting of Ministries of Foreign Affairs).
3. Subject to the direction of the Ministerial Forum and the Member States, the Secretariat shall also:
 - 3.1. Follow the principles of Volunteerism, Solidarity and Cooperation, work to further strengthen and deepen links between Member States in accordance with the purposes of the g7+;

- 3.2. Promote the identity and activities of the g7+ and promote the common interest of the Member States in relation to Peacebuilding and Statebuilding;
 - 3.3. Work to advance partnerships between Member States and conflict or post conflict affected states;
 - 3.4. Engage with the multilateral, regional and bilateral donor organizations to promote the alignment of their policies concerning their engagement within the Member States in accordance with the principles of the New Deal for engagement in fragile situations;
 - 3.5. Devise and establish guidance notes to guide the multilateral, regional and bilateral donor organizations in their engagement in development of the Member States;
 - 3.6. Represent the g7+ in various international fora to maintain visibility and increase the impact of the work of g7+;
 - 3.7. Operate the budget and report on the finances of g7+;
 - 3.8. Work in accordance with any Secretariat protocol approved by the Ministerial Forum; and
 - 3.9. Undertake such other activities as are necessary for the attainment of the purposes of g7+.
4. The Secretariat shall work in cooperation and coordination with other intergovernmental, governmental, nongovernmental, private and charitable organizations to facilitate reforms to the way aid interventions in conflict and post-conflict affected states are managed, designed and delivered.
 5. The Secretariat under the direction of the Ministerial Forum, the Advisory Council and the General Secretary shall develop a protocol to be approved by the Ministerial Forum for the regulation of the conduct of the business of the Secretariat.

ARTICLE IX

Focal Points

Each Member State will appoint one or more Focal Points to act as its representatives. Each Focal Point will provide liaison between the Member State and g7+ and its organs and undertake the distribution of information internally within his/her own Member State.

ARTICLE X

Funding of the g7+ and its organs

1. Each Member State shall be encouraged to make financial contributions to g7+ to fund its activities and in particular to permit the proper functioning of the Secretariat. The level of such contributions shall be determined in accordance with a methodology to be established by the Ministerial Forum on the basis of a protocol to be developed by the Secretariat and the Advisory Council, such protocol to include financial rules and procedures in accordance with best practice international standards.
2. The General Secretariat shall be responsible for the administration of all funds belonging to g7+ in accordance with the regulations of the conduct of business of the Secretariat or as directed by the Ministerial Forum.
3. The Secretariat shall ensure that the funds of the g7+ are properly administered, will keep accounts which will be audited by a reputable independent auditor meeting recognized international standards.

Article XI

Privileges and Immunities

1. g7+ shall enjoy in the territory of each Member State such privileges and immunities as are usual for an intergovernmental organization under international law, including under diplomatic protocols and practices, and as the Member State and the Secretariat may agree are necessary to enable the g7+ to fulfill the purposes and carry out the functions of g7+. Member States shall take all necessary measures to confer such privileges and immunities upon g7+ in accordance with their domestic legislation. Where appropriate, such privileges and immunities may be set out in separate agreements between g7+ and relevant Member States.
2. When requested by the Secretariat, Member States shall take measures in accordance with their domestic laws to afford all appropriate immunities to representatives attending g7+ meetings,

Ministerial Forum and Advisory Council meetings, and meetings of other councils, committees and working groups, including immunity from suit and legal process and inviolability in respect of their official documents.

ARTICLE XII

Signature, Ratification and Entry into Force

1. This Charter shall be open for signature by the Governments of Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Liberia, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Timor-Leste and Togo and shall be ratified by the Member States in accordance with their respective national laws.
2. The original of this Charter, done in English and French, all texts being equally authentic, shall be deposited with the General Secretary who shall transmit certified copies thereof to all Member States.
3. This Charter shall enter into force immediately upon receipt by the General Secretary of the instruments of ratification of this Charter by two or more Member States.

ARTICLE XIII

Registration of the Charter

Upon entry into force, the General Secretary shall register the Charter with the Secretary General of the United Nations.

ARTICLE XIV

Adhesion and Accession

1. Any country in conflict or in a post-conflict situation may at any time notify the General Secretary of its intention to adhere or accede to this Charter.
2. The General Secretary shall, upon receipt of such notification, communicate a copy of it to all of the Member States. Admission shall be decided by a consensus of the Member States.
3. Following acceptance by the Member States, the applicant state shall be admitted upon the delivery of a ratification of the Charter in accordance with the internal laws to the General Secretary.

ARTICLE XV
Cessation of Membership

Any State which desires to withdraw as a Member State shall give one month's notice in writing to the General Secretary, who shall promptly inform the other Member States.

ARTICLE XVI
Amendment of the Charter

This Charter may be amended by consensus of the Member States. Any Member State may make a written request to amend the Charter by submitting a written request to the General Secretary to that effect. The proposed amendment may not be considered until all the Member States have been duly notified of it.

ARTICLE XVII
Miscellaneous

1. The official languages of the g7+ and all of its institutions shall be English and French.
2. All previous agreements, concords, declarations, protocols and other instruments made by or between g7+ and its Member States relating to the subject matter hereof and which have been in effect before the entry into force of this Charter shall continue to be valid save to the extent that they or any part thereof are superseded by the provisions of this Charter. In the event of any inconsistency between any of them then the terms of this Charter shall prevail.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned has signed this Charter.



THE LOMÉ COMMUNIQUE

Lomé, Togo, 30 May 2014

We, the Ministers and Delegates from the g7+ countries participating in the third g7+ Ministerial Meeting in Lomé, Togo, on the 29th and 30th of May 2014, are pleased to gather in the spirit of solidarity and cooperation that characterises our association.

We applaud the progress made in the implementation of the New Deal in several g7+ countries, and welcome the launch of the New Deal fragility assessments in Guinea-Bissau and Comoros.

We congratulate the people and government of Afghanistan and Guinea-Bissau for conducting successful elections.

At the same time we empathise with the people of the Central African Republic and South Sudan as they experience a period of crisis. We stand in solidarity with the government and people in those countries and commit our collective efforts to restore peace and resilience.

We welcome the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and the Republic of Yemen as new members of the g7+ family.

We endorse the g7+ Charter and confirm Dili to be the headquarters of the g7+ Secretariat.

We announce H.E. Minister Kaifala Marah of Sierra Leone as the new g7+ Chair and H.E. Deputy Minister

Alfred Metellus of Haiti as Deputy Chair.

We appoint the outgoing Chair H.E. Emilia Pires, as the g7+ Special Envoy and the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, H.E. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, as a member of the g7+ Advisory Board.

We reaffirm our commitment to the realization of the New Deal principles and call on our development partners to fulfil their commitment thereto.

We welcome the initiative of "Fragile to Fragile" (F to F) cooperation and encourage peer learning among member countries. We commit to explore ways in which the g7+ can increase awareness of emerging crises and tailor responses accordingly.

We endorse the 2013 Annual Report and the 2014/15 Work Plan.

We strongly support the inclusion of a separate goal on Peaceful Societies and Effective Institutions, in the Post-2015 Development Framework.

We conclude our meetings in Lomé, Togo, with deep appreciation to the Government of Togo for generously hosting this third g7+ Ministerial meeting.

We look forward to the next Ministerial meeting in Afghanistan.





The g7+ Secretariat

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