



*Remarks*

*Dr. Helder Da Costa. (General Secretary of g7+)*

**PBC Ambassadorial-level meeting in Timor-Leste**

*Sharing Experiences, Good Practices and Lessons Learned in the Context of  
South-South and Triangular Cooperation*

26 September 2022 (9 AM–12 Noon EST)

Conference Room 3

Excellency Chair of PBC

Honorable President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, all protocol observed.

Experiences from Timor-Leste and other g7+ countries provide valuable lessons that should inspire reforms in the way peacebuilding and statebuilding is conducted. Sharing of these lessons is one of the core pillars of the Group of Seven Plus. After listening to our leaders and other speakers today, I have 3 points to make as a shared perspective of g7+:

**First:**

National dialogue, truth and reconciliation must be at the heart of peacebuilding efforts. Conflicts and wars leave behind social, political, and

societal divisions that become the major risk factors and threatens lasting peace and stability. “Conflict prevention” makes little sense if it does not focus on healing and bridging these divides. These are not rhetoric but a reality that we at the g7+ are living. Therefore, pursuing social and political cohesion through an **ENDOGENOUS process of truth and reconciliation** is pivotal for making, building, and sustaining Peace!

**Second:**

Pursuit of peacebuilding is effective when it is rooted in countries’ contexts and is owned by its leaders and citizens in line with **the principle of country ownership and leadership** to manage transition. However, this principle has mostly been paid lip service rather than backing it by deeds. Ownership implies humility on part of international community that includes donors, the UN and other multinational organizations to listen to national leaders and citizens of the country; comprehending their perspective; and their historical trajectory and **hence be flexible and adaptive**.

Ownership implies putting the national leaders and people on a driving seat to manage transition. Peacekeeping operations hosted by g7+ countries have always been timebound and ad hoc where our national leaders and stakeholder have the least or no SAY at all on its deployment, management, and withdrawals. Therefore, the results of these missions are short lived.

### **Third:**

Peer learning among conflict affected countries have the potential to inspire peace and stability. The g7+ coined the concept of fragile-to-fragile cooperation (F2F) in the context of South-South and Triangular Cooperation, where we facilitate sharing of first-hand experience among our member countries that have had transformational impact. The F2F Cooperation has been recognized by the G7 (the industrial nations) in its meeting in Biarritz, France in July 2019 as an important “structure that encourages experience-sharing between fragile countries”.

We facilitated sharing of lessons and cooperation of Timor-Leste with Guinea Bissau, Sao Tome Principe, Central African Republic, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea on elections, national reconciliation and addressing humanitarian crises with sense of solidarity, these engagements have been effective.

We have engaged with non-g7+ countries such as **Rwanda** in our peer learning. We recently facilitated a sharing of Rwanda’s lesson with Yemen where 10 high level officials visited Kigali to learn from Rwandan experiences. We are conducting another mission comprising of 10 countries of g7+ to Rwanda in October this year to learn from the development trajectory of Rwanda, as a successful post-conflict country

Excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen,

We are keen to forge partnership with the UN Bodies, such as the Peacebuilding Commission, share the experience of our member countries. We believe peer learning among conflict-affected countries is effective in inspiring peace and stability.

The attainment of the UN Observer Status for the Group of Seven Plus in December 2019 was an important milestone and we have been discussing ways to optimize its use in pursuit of lasting, peace, and development in countries affected by affected.

Finally, I would like to conclude by sharing the declaration of g7+ high - level summit on “***Conflict prevention in a multipolar world; perspective from g7+ countries***” that took place Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, the speakers reiterated these points I shared with you in my intervention.

I Thank you for your attention