ANNUAL REPORT
2022
Dr. Helder da Costa,
General Secretary of g7+

On behalf of the Secretariat, I have the privilege to present the 2022 Annual Report outlining key milestones and challenges faced by this organisation. Major achievements included the successful high-level summit during the 77th session of UN General Assembly, the election observation mission in Timor-Leste, the peer learning missions of g7+ officials to Rwanda and launching of g7+ book that represents the human story from g7+ member countries.

I would like to express our appreciation to H.E. Dr. Francis Kai Kai, Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Republic of Sierra Leone, and Chair of g7+ and H.E. Xanana Gusmão, Eminent Person of g7+, for providing guidance and leadership amidst difficult times during the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Let me also convey our sincere gratitude to the unwavering financial support from the Government of Timor-Leste to help facilitate the g7+ operations at the global level.

Likewise, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Government of Finland, g7+ Foundation and other international partners for supporting the g7+ under the spirit of Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation. These results would not have been possible without the continued support and active participation of senior officials of member states, Ministers, and key stakeholders.

To my team both at the g7+ secretariat in Dili and in Lisbon hub for their commitment, hard work and dedication beyond the call of duty, which enabled us to execute the g7+ program in the past year.

To conclude, I hope you will find this annual report useful and informative. I look forward to continuing working with you in the coming years.
1) Introduction

In 2022, g7+ countries had to contend with the global pandemic, increasing conflicts and coups, worsening climate change and disasters, higher rates of extreme poverty, disruptions in the global supply chain and soaring energy and food costs brought about by the war in Ukraine, as well as debt crises and reduced fiscal space for governments to support their populations in the face of these complex crises — all of which disproportionately affected g7+ countries. Underlying these crises was widening geopolitical and economic fragmentation that made development cooperation and collective action more difficult.

Despite this daunting challenges and circumstances, the g7+ made significant strides in 2022 to support its member countries on pathways to peace and resilience, and strengthen the organization’s capacities, partnerships, and engagements to deliver on its mandate as the leading inter-governmental organization comprised of countries affected by conflict and fragility.

This year’s annual report highlights achievements across three main areas of g7+ engagement in 2022: policy leadership, fragile-to-fragile cooperation, and organizational strengthening. It also highlights major challenges and needed reforms within the global development community to support countries affected by conflict and fragility, which are the farthest off track to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Highlights:

**Policy leadership:** The g7+ shared insights, analysis, and recommendations on how to best support countries affected by fragility through high-level meetings, including during the UN General Assembly in New York and at the World Bank and IMF Annual Meetings in Washington DC. There were also a series of expert level meetings with the World Trade Organization on g7+ accession talks, during COP27 to increase support to countries on the front lines of conflict and climate change, with the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) on new ways of working across the humanitarian, peace and development nexus, and through regular engagement with the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS), of which it is a founding member, on advancing the commitments of the New Deal on International Engagement in Fragile States.

**Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation:** The g7+ convened a range of peer learning events and cooperation initiatives on dialogue and reconciliation, elections and observer missions and
women’s empowerment. The g7+ mission visited Rwanda to meet with government, civil society, business and other stakeholders on the country’s challenges, successes, and policy agenda.

**Organizational Strengthening:** The g7+ secretariat undertook missions to member countries and held discussion on the ratification of charter and consolidating of the membership. The Group established commitments for a future g7+ Parliamentary Assembly during the 2022 Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) session in Rwanda, which will expand the scope of g7+ engagements globally and within member countries. The g7+ also published a book on the organization’s history, challenges and global role called “Fragile States in an Unequal World: The role of g7+ in International Diplomacy and Development Cooperation”.
1. Policy Leadership

The g7+ High Level Summit on Conflict prevention in a multipolar world: Perspective from g7+ Countries’ during the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The g7+ co-convened a High-Level Summit on “Conflict Prevention in a Multipolar World: g7+ Countries perspective” at the Permanent Mission of Monaco on 23 September during the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The event was co-hosted with the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone and Permanent Mission Timor-Leste, and with the presence of President Republic of Timor-Leste, Vice President of South Sudan, Eminent Person of g7+, Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Planning and Finance, as well as Ambassadors from g7+ member countries, in addition to representatives from Finland, Portugal, Canada and Bangladesh, the United Nations (Assistance Secretary General) the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS), and Foundation for Post Conflict Development (FPCD).

The Summit concluded with a declaration\(^1\) that calls for immediate ceasefire, support for lasting peace and resilience, effective development engagement in conflict-affected countries, as well as commitment to hold future Summits during UNGA sessions and optimizing the impact of g7+ observer status at the UN The declaration was submitted to the office of the UN General Secretary.
During the g7+ team mission in New York, the secretariat consulted with the g7+ Permanent Representatives to the UN on the how best to strengthen coordination among members in New York. The members highlighted the importance of the g7+ secretariat staff presence in New York to represent the group in debates at the United Nations.

In addition, the secretariat engaged with partners on the inclusion of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in the peacebuilding. Considering that United Nation has recognised MHPSS as an important element in the peacebuilding efforts and friends of g7+ like Netherland who is ready to support the concept and CIC who has conducted some work on the areas, this will be an important momentum for g7+ member countries to endorse the idea. This view is relevant to g7+ member countries given that wars and conflict has caused citizen to suffer mental and psychological trauma.

1 https://www.g7plus.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/ADOPTED-Declaration-The-g7-High-Level-Summit-1.pdf
DECLARATION
High-Level Summit
“Conflict prevention in a multipolar world: Perspective from g7+ countries”
Friday, 23rd September 2022

We, the members of group of seven plus (g7+) countries met during the high-level week of the 77th session of United Nations General Assembly to:

- Reaffirm our commitment to the g7+ cause of achieving lasting peace, stability and development through national dialogue and reconciliations, effective international development cooperation founded on the principles of the New Deal for engagement in fragile states and sharing of experiences thereof.
- Share our collective perspective on how disproportionate the adverse impact of global challenges has been on the world’s conflict affected countries such as those in the g7+ and how best to address them.
- Collectively call on the United Nations and the international community to support our efforts in pursuing lasting peace, socio-economic development, and inclusive democracy in our countries.

We share our solidarity with the people and the vulnerable population of Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea Bissau, South Sudan, Yemen, Guinea, Mali, Burkina Faso and other conflict affected countries as they are going through sheer difficulties due to regime change, civil war, external influence, insurgency by armed groups and natural disaster. We call on their leaders to pursue dialogue, reconciliation and national unity and conflict prevention by addressing the root causes of conflict and other crisis.

We request the United Nations, regional and other international actors to support country-owned and led pathways towards peace and stability in conflict affected countries. Bound by sense of solidarity, we the members commit to scale up the g7+ efforts to facilitate and promote peaceful and democratic means of resolving conflicts and addressing differences.

We welcome the signing of peace agreement in Chad and call upon all parties to respect the terms of peace and hence maintain stability, harmony, and wellbeing of the people.

The world is facing unprecedented challenges, including but not limited to the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, political fragmentation, economic downturn, conflicts, and extreme
poverty. While no country, rich or poor is immune from the impact of these challenges, people in countries affected by decades of wars and civil unrest bear the brunt in the form of increasing poverty due to rising inflation, food shortage, energy shocks and uncertainty. Increasing geopolitical tensions has further undermined peace and stability particularly in conflict affected and post conflict context and territories.

Therefore:

- We call for an immediate ceasefire in all the Members States of g7+ and other countries that are experiencing conflicts. We further call for the promotion of an effective disarmament process in all territories with armed groups. We seek assistance from international community including the United Nations thereto.
- We call upon the regional and global powers to give primacy to the need of shared peace over their vested interests.
- We call on the international community to play a positive role and support peace, stability and development in conflict affected countries. Global peace and shared prosperity in the world rest on peace and stability in these countries; the absence of which is as much the legacy of colonization, cold war, supremacy, and undue interference of regional and global powers as it is due to lack of national unity and cohesion.
- Support the goals to halve emissions over the next decade and reach Net Zero emissions as soon as possible before 2050. While developing countries such as those in the g7+ countries contribute the least to global warming, they suffer the most from its consequences.

We reiterate our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030. In particular, we remain firm advocates for Sustainable Development Goal number 16 on peace, justice, inclusive societies and strong and effective institutions. We reiterate our belief that there is no development without peace and there is no peace without development; that peace cannot be sustained without access to fair and quick justice; and that effective institutions are crucial to sustainable development. We will regularly convene as group in various fora to share our perspectives on the realization of these goals.

We commit to strengthen cooperation and peer learning among the g7+ member countries under the umbrella of “Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation” that is founded on the principles of solidarity and voluntarism.

The g7+ group is a unique platform that is founded on the pillars of solidarity and cooperation which goes beyond economic and political interests that usually bind countries into alliance. It
has the potential to be a global agent of peace as the world is becoming increasing multipolar. We reiterate our commitment to strengthen the group through even more political buy-in and coordination. We welcome cooperation with like-minded countries and organizations to advance the agenda of peace and stability rooted in the collective will and context of ordinary people.

Having an observer status at the United Nations is an important milestone for the g7+, and thus we entrust our Chair and the g7+ secretariat, to optimize the use of this privilege by establishing representation in New York and facilitating coordination among members at the United Nations to highlight the group’s interest in related discourse and sharing of perspectives and lessons from the global south.

We agree to strengthen and intensify the presence of the Member States as global players in the international fora through endorsements of the candidacies of the Member States to positions and functions in the multilateral organizations within the scope of the United Nations system.

We will convene regularly at the highest level during the high-level week of United Nations General Assembly in New York every year to review progress and ensure that our countries are not left behind in debates on related agenda.

We thank the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone for its role in chairing and directing the affairs of the Group and the Government and people of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste for their continued support to the g7+ Secretariat. We also appreciate the assistance from other member countries, partners, and organizations.

Finally, we thank the Permanent Mission of Monaco for hosting the Group during this 2022 Summit.
H.E Prof. David J. Francis  
Minister Of Foreing Affairs and International Cooperation of Sierra Leone

“This High-Level Summit is a fulfillment of one of the key decisions reached during the g7+ Ministers of Foreign Affairs Meeting held in September 2020, in which it was agreed that the Group should convene regularly at the highest possible level on the margins of the High-Level week of the UNGA in order to galvanize the highest political support in advancing the work of the Group, most especially at this important phase when it has attained an Observer Status at the United Nations. ... We therefore urge all the members of the Group, along with our partners to reaffirm their commitment to the cause of the g7+ and play an active role in realizing it.

H.E. Mr. Abdelbaggi Ayii Akol  
Vice President of the Republic of South Sudan

“My country is affected disproportionately by the global crisis which we are going through. These crises have undermined peace and stability in conflict affected countries. Therefore, together with 19 countries, we have come together to as a group of Seven Plus (g7+) with one voice to pursue peace and stability through dialogue and reconciliation. In the spirit of unity and global solidarity for humanity, I call upon the g7+ countries to support the implementation of the New Roadmap in South Sudan because it is the best opportunity, we have to achieve peace and stability as a country.”

H.E. Ms. Elizabeth Spehar  
Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support

“Through the g7+, we are learning what peace investments are needed and when; and how the call of the Secretary-General for the prioritization of peacebuilding and prevention can be translated into action”
H.E. Mrs. Nialé Kaba  
Minister of Planning and Development, Republic of Côte d’Ivoire  

“To achieve political, economic and social stability, the process of national reconciliation and peace consolidation has benefited from several initiatives such as major reforms relating to land issues, the efforts undertaken by the Government have enabled the return to Côte d’Ivoire of several members of the opposition formerly in exile. The Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission was created in 2011 to identify the origins of the crisis and establish the list of victims to be compensated. In addition, the Ivorian approach to peacebuilding consists of strengthen the peaceful resolution of conflicts.”

H.E. MS Awaïf Altidvjiâni Ahmed Koiboro  
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs African-Integration and Chadians Abroad  

“This is why our organization must give itself the place that suits it, in view of its noble mission and strong of its principles, within the United Nations. It must also work to assert its observer status with the UN General Assembly, and strengthen its role in the process of conflict prevention and peacebuilding developed by the UN... That being said, to have an impact within the UN, I believe that it is necessary above all to consolidate the g7+, through revitalization and coordination between its Members States.”

Mr. Peter Mae  
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Traditional Governance, Peace, and Ecclesiastical Affairs  

As a member of the g7+ group of countries Solomon Islands will endeavor to continue working with other members of the group, sharing experiences, and learning from others in the group as we individually and collectively chart our courses into a future that awaits us with hope and a better and more secure and peaceful future for our countries and our people.
United Nations Ocean Conference - “Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: Stocktaking, partnerships and solutions”,

Lisbon, Portugal, from 27 June to 1 July 2022 and contributed to the conference declaration, “Our Ocean, Our Future, Our Responsibility, which was presented to the 77th session of UNGA. Using this opportunity, the g7+ Secretariat hosted a reception for the g7+ members’ representatives to consolidate views on the realization of the declaration.

The g7+ WTO Accession Group met during WTO Ministerial Conference in Geneva.

The g7+ WTO Accession Group met in Geneva on 15 June 2022, with Trade Ministers from eight g7+ member countries (Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Timor-Leste and Yemen) and two from non-g7+ countries, Lebanon and Sudan. The meeting reviewed accession criteria, various member milestones and how countries could support in each other in obtaining WTO membership. It also discussed the WTO’s trade for peace program and a future agenda for collaboration.
**International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding**
g7+ member countries joined an IDPS consultative meeting with donors and civil society organizations on 15 July to discuss the Dialogue’s workplan and preparations for a side-event during UNGA 77th session. The g7+ is a founding member of the IDPS and the Group’s country chair, Sierra Leone currently co-chairs the Dialogue with the Government of Canada.

**Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC)**

During the High-Level Summit of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) in Geneva, representatives from the g7+ joined a session on “Strengthening Dialogue in Fragile and Conflict Settings” on 13 December 2022. g7+ country representatives and secretariat leadership shared insights and recommendations on strengthening development cooperation in fragile contexts and achieving the principles of development cooperation effectiveness through support of regular monitoring missions in these countries. The secretariat leadership also met with the Ministers of few g7+ member countries to form collective inputs into the aid effectiveness agenda.
World Bank Fragility Forum sessions with the WTO and DCAF

During the World Bank Fragility Forum in March, the g7+ participated in a WTO session on “Trade for Peace: Addressing Fragility Through Economic Integration”. The g7+ Eminent Person, H.E. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao, observed that the geopolitical tension and fragmentation has undermined the pacification in the world that trade was supposed to bring about. Wars, and resultant fragility has undermined the potential for resilience and prosperity that conflict affected countries have. The world trade policies are dominated by the world’s most developed nations that hinder poorest countries’ access to fair share in the global trade. This event also featured Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, WTO Director-General, Minister Mawine G. Diggs of Liberia and Minister Amin Salam of Lebanon.

During the Fragility Forum, the g7+ and DCAF co-hosted a virtual session on “National ownership in developing security and justice institutions in Fragile and Conflict Affected Countries” on 7 March. The session featured H.E. Mr. Umaru Koroma, Deputy Minister of Justice, Sierra Leone, and Hon. Maj. Gen. Ndc Chol Biar Ngang, Undersecretary of Defence in the Ministry of Defence, South Sudan and Ms. Muska Dastageer, an academician from Afghanistan. The speakers highlighted challenges to security and justice development that include a lack of data, financing gap and strong competing influences of external actors in the country. They emphasized on the need of state’s ability to provide community services and repair trust in the justice sector that is eroded by decades of war.
The g7+ Secretariat participated at the COP27 official side event on “Climate-resilient Food Systems and Peace: Exploring the Interconnections” on 11 November in Sharm al Sheik, Egypt. The event was co-organised by the HDP Nexus Coalition, the Climate-Resilient Food System Alliance and Switzerland. The event aimed at highlighting the nexus among peace, climate change and the food systems in the world’s conflict affected countries. The panel discussion resulted in policy recommendations that included:

- State and non-state actors must commit to invest in strategic development solutions that help build resilient communities and foster climate action, through investments in infrastructures such as dams, canalization, and reforestation, or through investments in education, such as contributing to the creation of more diverse diets, reducing loss and waste.
- State and non-state actors must support vulnerable and at-risk countries in accessing climate finance and channelling these at the local levels. In particular, increased access to climate finance is needed for communities in fragile and conflict affected settings.
- Conflict affected and fragile countries need to include in global multilateral discussions and policy-making fora.
- Synergies at policy level on food, climate, and peace-building efforts, need to be built to implement systemic and interlinked solutions to effectively address the interlinkages between climate change, food insecurity, and conflict.
- Marginalized groups such as women and youth must be actively included in policy formulation and implementation.
2. Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation

Central to the g7+ mandate is the promotion of peer exchanges, learning and support across a range of contexts dealing with issues of fragility and conflict, what the group refers to as fragile-to-fragile cooperation. In 2022, the g7+ convened or participated in several peer exchanges on themes of peacebuilding, dialogue and reconciliation, elections, women’s empowerment and Rwanda’s peace and development trajectory.

*Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Transitions*

During UNGA 77th session, the UN Peace Building Commission (PBC) organized an Ambassadorial-level meeting on “Timor-Leste: Sharing Experiences, Good Practices and Lessons Learned in the Context of South-South and Triangular Cooperation” on 26 September.

H.E. Dr. Jose Ramos-Horta, President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, who also serves as Special Envoy of g7+, and H.E. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, the Eminent Person of g7+, shared Timor-Leste’s experience particularly on peace consolidation and transitioning from the UN Mission that was established in the early post-conflict period. Through the PBC, Timor-Leste hoped to share not only its experiences with other non-g7+ countries, but also to learn from other countries’ post-conflict trajectories, particularly in the area of inclusive economic development.

*Dialogue and Reconciliation*

The g7+ participated in a regional conference on “Conflict Reconciliation and Peacebuilding in Southeast Asia and Beyond”, co-convened by UNESCO, the Ministry of Education, Timor-Leste, and the ASEAN Secretariat, in Bali on 23-24 November. The conference promoted peer exchange among Southeast Asian countries on reconciliation and peacebuilding, good practices and lessons learned within the region and globally, and the role of education in promoting peace.
The g7+ carried out an election observation mission (EOM) in Timor-Leste first round of Presidential elections on March 19th 2022. Led by Mr. Larry Bojohn Fangawa, District Electoral Manager, National Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone, the mission was divided into three groups and observed 28 Polling Centers in 4 Municipalities (Baucau, Dili, Ermera and Bobonaro).

The g7+ found that the overall situation during the electoral process was calm and free from political violence and intimidation. The g7+ mission congratulated the Timorese people and political parties for their peaceful contribution to the democratic process. Following the elections, the mission submitted a formal report to the authorities, held a press conference, and participated in a seminar on “lessons learnt from Presidential elections in Timor-Leste”—co-organized by the g7+, National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL) and University of Peace (UNPAZ).

The seminar included representatives from government, civil society, academic, the g7+ and European Union. It identified challenges, discussed recommendations for future elections and produced a briefing report that the g7+ circulated to member countries to inform their own electoral processes.

The g7+ mission subsequently observed the second round of Presidential elections in collaboration with CPLP (Community of Portuguese Language Countries), a group of observers from Portuguese speaking countries. The g7+ observed 10 polling centers at one Municipality (Liquica) and contributed to the final report produced by CPLP. The findings were consistent with the results of first round of presidential elections. The g7+ and CPLP agreed to carry out joint
Women Forum on “Equal pay for equal work”

In collaboration with Institute of Camoes, the g7+ organized the second g7+ Women Forum on the topic of “Equal pay for equal work” on May 31st. The Forum was co-chaired by Sierra Leone and Finland, with opening remarks from the General Secretary of the g7+, Dr. Helder da Costa and H.E. MR. Manuel Salvador dos Ramos, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Communities of Sao Tome e Principe. The Forum surveyed challenges and promising reforms to address gender pay gaps, drawing from experiences in several g7+ countries, including Liberia, Togo and Sao Tome e Principe.

A third Women Forum was held on 17 November 2022 on the topic of “equality and quota systems”. Representative from g7+ member countries; Guinea, South Sudan and Guinea Bissau shared their experiences on policies, legislation and practices to increase women’s participation in their own countries.
In partnership with the Rwanda Cooperation Initiative (RCI), the g7+ carried out a peer learning mission to Kigali, Rwanda from October 12-14th. The mission consisted of officials from g7+ member countries including Sao Tome e Principe and Timor-Leste. The mission allowed g7+ member countries to exchange views and experiences with Rwandan officials on various themes, including reconciliation, access to justice, governance, and security. Following the mission, the g7+ organized a public seminar in Dili, Timor-Leste to share the outcome from the mission and Rwanda’s development trajectory.

In addition, the g7+ facilitated a study visit by the officials from the Marib Governorate of Yemen to Rwanda. This visit aimed at providing a learning and practical experience for the local authorities of the governorate to get a close look at the successful experiences in Rwanda on the ground and to benefit from them in developing plans that contribute local development, expanding the base of economic resources and improving delivery of basic services.
3. **Organizational strengthening**

In 2022, the g7+ deepened its engagements with several member countries, laid the groundwork for a g7+ Parliamentary Assembly, published a book on the organization’s history and work, and forged a range of partnerships to strengthen the group’s mandate of peer learning, cooperation, and solidarity.

**Deepened engagement with member countries**

**Timor-Leste**

At the start of the year, the g7+ welcomed the newly appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste, H.E. Adaljiza Magno, to its Headquarters. Minister Magno expressed the government’s continued support for the work of the group both in Timor-Leste and globally.

![Image showing g7+ leadership meeting](image)

G7+ leadership also met with H.E. Taur Matan Ruak, Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, H.E. Rui Gomes, Minister of Finance, H.E. Faustino da Costa, General Commandant of National Police, and H.E. Dr. Mari Alkatiri, General Secretary of the Fretilin Party. These meetings involved briefings on the g7+’s priorities and workplan and offered opportunities to receive invaluable guidance from the country’s leadership on how to advance the group’s mandate in an age of crises.
H.E. Dr. Francis Kai Kai, the Chair of g7+ and Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Sierra Leone joined the inauguration of H.E. Dr. Jose Ramos Horta as President of the Republic of Timor-Leste in May 2022. Minister Kai Kai also met the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste, H.E. Adaljiza Magno, the President of National Electoral Commission of Timor-Leste, Mr. Jose Belo in addition to meetings with the President of National Parliament of Sao Tome e Principe, H.E. Delfim Santiago das Neves and Prime Minister of Guinea Bissau, H.E. Nuno Gomes Nabiam at the g7+ office in Dili. All leaders committed to provide their good offices and support for the work of g7+ at the global level.
The g7+ Secretariate leadership visited Guinea-Bissau from July 12-16th, 2022, following a previous visit by H.E. Eng. Nuno Gomes Nabiam, Prime Minister to g7+ headquarters in Dili. During the mission, the General Secretary of g7+ had a courtesy meeting with President of the Republic, H.E. Umaro Sissoco Embaló, Prime Minister, H.E. Nuno Gomes Nabiam, President of National Assembly, Dr. Cipriano Cassama, Minister of Environment and Biodiversity, Dr. Viriato Luis Soares Cassamá, and Secretary of State at the Ministry of Economic Planning and Regional Integration, H.E. Dra. Mónica Buaró da Costa. With Prime Minister Nabiam, the Group discussed ratifying the g7+ charter, and carrying out future electoral observer missions. The mission also met with Ambassador of the African Union, H.E. Ovídio M.B. Pequeno, and Ambassador of European Union, H.E. Dra. Sonia Neto.

**Guinea Conakry**

The g7+ team visited Guinea from 19-21 July. During the mission, the team met with Minister of Foreign Affairs International Cooperation, African Integration and Guineans of the Diaspora, H.E. Mr. Morissanda Kouyaté, Minister of Finance and Planning of Guinea, H.E. Mr. Lanciné Conde, the Governor of the Bank of the Republic of Guinea, Mr. Karamo Kaba, President of National Council of Transition, H.E. Mr. Dansa Kourouma and EU Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea, Mr. Josep Coll. During these meetings, the g7+ team introduced the work of g7+ including the high-level summit during UNGA in New York and other initiative for 2023. Overall, the leaders of Guinea expressed their willingness to support the activities of g7+ and committed to ratifying the g7+ charter in due course.
On February 3rd, the Timor-Leste National Parliament approved resolution No.4/2022 for the “creation of a task force for the establishment of g7+ Parliamentary Assembly”. Approval for this task force was in recognition of the vital role that the g7+ can play in promoting open, inclusive and democratic institutions and parliamentary diplomacy across g7+ countries and globally. The task force has been mandated to work with the g7+, Inter Parliamentary Union, and g7+ member countries to prepare a plan for the establishment of a g7+ Parliamentary Assembly.

The task force consists of four members of parliament from the Commission B that are responsible for foreign affairs, defence and security. They will report to the President of the National Parliament of Timor-Leste on the progress on the task force. A virtual secretariat will be established with support from UNDP, and a physical office will be set up at the United Nation Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). Inter Parliamentary Union convenings will offer a key platform for g7+ parliamentarians and those in support of this initiative to meet and receive progress updates and respond to requests for assistance in establishing this parliamentary group.
On November 16th, the g7+ held a virtual book launch for “Fragile States in an Unequal World: The Role of the g7+ in International Diplomacy and Development Cooperation”. The author, Professor Isabel Rocha, carried out a wide range of interviews and investigations to understand the evolution of the g7+ within the global development community. The book accounts for how major powers engage in fragile and conflict affected countries and the lived experience of these engagements among officials, bureaucrats, and communities. The g7+ and Timor-Leste’s Ministry of Finance held an in person launch in Dili, Timor-Leste. The book is available through open book publishers here: [https://www.openbookpublishers.com/books/10.11647/obp.0311](https://www.openbookpublishers.com/books/10.11647/obp.0311)

**Signing MoU with the Foundation for Post Conflict Development (FPCD)**

In 2022, the g7+ signed a partnership agreement with the Foundation for Post Conflict Development (FPCD) in the presence of Prince Albert II of Monaco and the g7+ Eminent Person. The partnership between the g7+ and FPCD will provide support for peer learning and cooperation among g7+ member countries, including at various international forums such as the United Nations. Following the signing of the partnership agreement, a team from the g7+ visited Monaco to identify priorities and workplans. The use of sport for peacebuilding emerged as a special theme for early collaboration alongside the broader aims of the partnership.
On December 1st, the g7+ signed a three-year partnership agreement with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). The partnership will review progress and challenges and give rise to new approaches to peacebuilding and statebuilding, including in security and justice sectors, within the context of the g7+ mandate. The partnership will involve the creation and dissemination of research, joint convenings and increased visibility for the work of the g7+ as the only intergovernmental organization focused singularly on addressing fragility and conflict.
Peace Cup organised by the g7+ European Hub in Lisbon

The g7+ hub in Lisbon in collaboration with the Timor-Leste Embassy in Portugal organized the first ever peace cup of futsal, bringing together youth from selected g7+ member countries in Portugal. The event was officially launched by the Chair of g7+, H.E. Francis Kai Kai and Eminent Person of g7+, H.E. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão. This annual initiative aimed at promoting unity and solidarity among youth from g7+ member countries in Portugal through sport.

Parliamentary Session on Western Sahara in Berlin, Germany

The Eminent Person of g7+, H.E. Xanana Gusmão was invited by the Bundestag (German Parliament) in his capacity as the former Prime Minister of Timor-Leste to share the country experiences on peacebuilding and reconciliation. In a forum on Western Sahara, the Eminent Person also shared the successful experiences and lessons learned of Timor-Leste’s trajectory post referendum in 1999, and how Timor-Leste engaged in g7+ as the co-founder in promoting peacebuilding and statebuilding. The General Secretary of g7+, Dr. Helder da Costa accompanied the Eminent Person in this mission.
In partnership with the National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL), the g7+ organized an international conference on: “Timor-Leste: Two Decades of Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, opportunities and Challenges” in Dili, Timor-Leste on 23 May 2022. This conference commemorated 20 years of Timor-Leste’s restoration of independence and was launched by H.E Dr. Jose Ramos Horta, the President Republic of Timor-Leste. The conference had over 300 participants, including students from three universities, the diplomatic corps, civil society, and local partners of the g7+. Most speakers agreed that Timor-Leste offered an inspiring case of a peaceful, democratic transition that could be shared with other g7+ members. However, the conference also highlighted how Timor-Leste still has many challenges ahead that require more robust and resilient institutions, markets, and societal inclusion as part of its evolving transition.

The g7+ also partnered with the National Directorate for Conflict Prevention in Communities (DNPKK), under the Ministry of Interior, to promote dialogue and reconciliation to young people engaged in Martial Arts groups. The partnership involved several events in municipalities, for example Zumalai in Covalima Municipality in January and Lospalos Vila in Lautem Municipality in March. During these events, g7+ representatives shared peacebuilding experiences and lessons from other g7+ member countries that are currently experiencing conflict and from non-g7+ countries that have managed from conflict to peace and resilience.
**Challenges and Recommendations**

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<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
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<td>Geopolitical fragmentation and increasing incidents of proxy wars and instability that disproportionately affect the g7+ countries.</td>
<td>Being the only group of conflict affected countries that is founded on the vision of pursuing peace and stability, it is imperative that the g7+ step up its collective advocacy and voice the perspective of countries that are at the last miles of peace and development. Being prone to proxy wars, the g7+ countries need to promote the notion of national cohesion, unity and reconciliation to heal the societal and political wounds left behind by decades of wars and instability. As the notion of solidarity is fading in the international affairs, the g7+ is best position to promote solidarity.</td>
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<td>War on Ukraine and hence divided international attention and reduction in aid</td>
<td>Many g7+ countries have been affected by the reduction in aid resulted from the divided international attention that is mostly consumed by the war on Ukraine. The g7+ need to double its collective efforts to raise concerns on how reduction in humanitarian and development international assistance to countries already affected by decades of wars and instability are affecting the prospect of lasting peace. It should continue its engagement at the international forums such as the UN, the World Bank and the IMF with the aim to speak for conflict affected countries that are predicted to be home to majority of the poorest by 2030.</td>
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<td>Saga of ineffective aid</td>
<td>Foreign assistance has been the major sources of financial inflow in majority of the g7+ member countries. Born out of deliberation at the international aid effectiveness forum, the g7+ is expected to play a crucial role in advocating for improving effectiveness of aid. Pursuit of National ownership in managing aid should remain an important priority area for the group.</td>
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<td>Competing priorities and voices at the United Nations</td>
<td>Attaining observer status at the UN was among the major milestones for the g7+. However, the g7+ has yet to maximize the impact of observer status by ensuring the group is represented at various policy debates of the UN. The g7+ needs to be proactive and hence increase its visibility as a group at the UN through establishing an office in New York.</td>
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