



**Statement by Helder da Costa
General Secretary of the g7+ Secretariat**

**Ambassadorial-Level Meeting on Institution-Building
of the Peacebuilding Commission
“Building and Sustaining Peace through Institutions”
New York, 17 May 2021**

Your Excellency the Chairperson of Peacebuilding Commission
Your Excellencies Members of the PBC
Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like express my appreciation for inviting me, on behalf of the g7+ Secretariat, to this important meeting.

I begin by emphasizing the importance of perspectives from countries that have hosted peacekeeping, political and humanitarian missions. We hope that *the g7+* and its members become part of such consultations in the future.

Having recently attained Observer Status at the UN, the g7+ is keen to share our experiences with member countries and partners like the UN. In the near past, the g7+ secretariat in partnership with Center on International Cooperation, NYU, member countries and UNDP conducted study on *Host Country's Perspectives on Peacekeeping Operations*. We summarized the views of leaders, and people in regards to their experience in managing peacekeeping missions.

Mr Chairperson,

Like every other crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic has had grim impact on conflict affected countries. It has once again manifested that capable state institutions are indispensable for stability and sustaining peace. Our experience shows that *capable institutions is a prerequisite to sustaining peace and stability*. The role of international partners has been crucial in countries that have relatively become more stable.

Against this background, I would like to share **3 recommendations** in the interest of the themes of today's meeting:

First: However fragile state institutions in our countries are, they bear the ultimate responsibility of service delivery. Therefore, assistance to conflict affected countries should be guided with the aim of strengthening state institutions rather than assuming their role. It further requires contextualizing peacebuilding and development intervention to each country. *The peacebuilding and statebuilding goals of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States* underpin this principle.

Second: National ownership of the transition is a tested principle for effective assistance. To make this principle work, we need predictable, and flexible support at the disposal of the state institutions and their leaders and people. A framework of mutual accountability with agreed benchmarks can be used to monitor progress and ensure accountability.

And last but not least, institution building is a long process and they evolve overtime. Therefore, assistance to statebuilding and strengthening institutions should continue beyond the timeframe of peacemaking and political missions. Such assistance ensures the protection of hard-won gains made, with the help of our partners.

Mr. Chairperson,

I conclude my intervention with assurance that the g7+ stand ready to support the reform process, to make intervention contextually sensitive, and effective with the aim of building resilience and stability in conflict affected countries

I thank you for your attention.