THE COMBINED POWER OF THE g7+

BRIEFING PAPER

With a combined population of 351 million, if the g7+ was a country it would have the third largest population in the world. Backed by vast natural resources, rapid population growth and strategic membership in major diplomatic and trade alliances, the g7+ holds real geopolitical power and growing influence on the global stage; a combined power that will only grow in the coming decades.

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY

In a rapidly shifting geopolitical landscape — marked by declining trust in traditional powers, rising multipolarity, and deepening demands for equity in global governance — the g7+ is uniquely positioned to transform its perceived fragility into real influence.

As conflict-affected and transitional states, g7+ countries bring lived experience to the centre of global debates on peace, development, and climate justice.

Collectively, the members of the g7+ have a population larger than that of the United States, vast reserves of critical minerals, 11% of the world's forests, and some of the lowest emissions globally.

Individually, g7+ members already sit in powerful forums — from the UN Security Council and ECOSOC to the G77, AOSIS, and the V20 — and are increasingly active in shaping development cooperation, peacebuilding, and multilateral reform. In a world hungry for more representative leadership and practical solutions to systemic crises, the g7+ is not on the periphery — it is at the frontier.

The result is an alliance with significant material leverage, diplomatic skill and moral authority.

By building on its shared identity and aligning its diplomatic weight, the g7+ can help reshape global rules and demand a more just and inclusive international order.

The analysis and findings presented in this report were developed by The Australia Institute under commission by the g7+ Secretariat.

INTRODUCTION

Conflict-affected and vulnerable states are often viewed through a deficit lens — as lacking power, willingness, capacity, or influence. However, the g7+ collectively tells a different story. If the g7+ was a country, it would have a combined population of 351 million, more people than any country except China and India.

Through its rich natural resources, geopolitical hinge, young population, growing economies, and membership in major diplomatic and trading blocs, the g7+ holds significant geopolitical weight. However, critically, it also carries moral weight — as the voice of communities most affected by fragility, climate shocks, and systemic inequality.

The g7+ countries are united by a shared history of overcoming conflict and fragility. This foundation for collective strength provides them with both the legitimacy and the practical experience necessary to engage in peacebuilding and reconciliation on the global stage. Their collective efforts, drawn from a deep understanding of the complexities of conflict resolution, enable them to advocate for peace with unique authority. Their unity in peacebuilding, rooted in shared learning, enhances their ability to leverage their geopolitical and resource-based strength effectively in global forums.

This collective strength positions the g7+ not only to advocate for better outcomes for its member states but also to hold the Global North accountable for more equitable and inclusive international systems. By uniting in peacebuilding efforts and sharing lessons learned through peer learning and knowledge exchange, the g7+ enhances its capacity to tackle common challenges such as governance, security sector reform, and economic resilience. These interconnected networks empower them to advocate for international support that is more context-sensitive, sustainable, and aligned with the lived experiences of fragile states.

The g7+ collectively holds resources that are essential to the sustainable development of the entire world. Not only does the g7+ have significant reserves of rare minerals including gold, copper, and cobalt, but it is also home to 11% of the world's forests. Despite this wealth, the grouping contributes less than 1% to global CO2 emissions. And, because around 40% of its population is aged below 14, the g7+ has enormous potential for future growth.

However, while the g7+ holds substantial collective clout, its strength is also amplified through the individual agency of its member states. Each country's membership in key trading and diplomatic blocs — such as the African Union (AU), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), or Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) — enables them to advocate within those forums for priorities that benefit not only their own populations but also the wider g7+ community.

These platforms allow member states to negotiate trade terms, push for reform in global governance, and secure debt relief, climate financing, or development partnerships that reflect the shared challenges of conflict-affected and fragile contexts. When coordinated strategically, these individual engagements reinforce the g7+ agenda and create a multiplier effect — translating the group's collective moral, geopolitical, and resource-based weight into tangible progress for all.

It is in the world's interest to ensure that conflict-affected and vulnerable states are stable and prosperous, and in turn, their inclusion is essential for genuine global security, effective climate action, lasting peace and sustainable development. Put simply, the need to include conflict-affected states in global forums gives the g7+ leverage in a wide range of forums.

FOUNDATION FOR COLLECTIVE STRENGTH: UNITY IN PEACEBUILDING AND SHARED LEARNING

Collective pursuit of lasting peace through mediation and reconciliation

The g7+ countries are not just advocates for peace; they are living examples of its necessity and complexity. Having endured the effects of conflict, political instability, and fragile governance systems, the members of the g7+ bring a wealth of firsthand experience to the table. This shared history allows the group to approach peacebuilding from a deeply informed perspective — one grounded in the understanding of the physical, emotional, and societal tolls that conflict leaves behind. Their collective voice, shaped by these common experiences, lends them both moral legitimacy and the ability to speak with authority on issues of peace and reconciliation in ways that outside powers may struggle to do.

Through their united diplomatic efforts, the g7+ is uniquely positioned to mediate disputes, facilitate negotiations, and foster reconciliation not only within their own regions but on the global stage. These countries understand that lasting peace is not achieved simply through political agreements or ceasefires but through deeper processes of healing, trust-building, and addressing the root causes of conflict. As a group, the g7+ can act as impartial mediators, facilitating inclusive dialogue processes that give voice to marginalised communities and offer a platform for formerly warring parties to come together.

One of the g7+'s key contributions lie in supporting transitional justice frameworks, which are essential for addressing past atrocities, ensuring accountability, and fostering long-term peace. These frameworks allow societies to confront their histories while moving forward in a way that heals rather than further divides. By integrating local and cultural knowledge into these processes, the g7+ ensures that peace efforts are not just externally imposed but are tailored to the specific needs and realities of each country or conflict zone.

In this process, the g7+ also encourages international partners to prioritise locally owned peacebuilding strategies. These strategies are more likely to be sustainable, as they are rooted in the traditions, values, and aspirations of the people most affected by conflict. The g7+ can leverage its collective political influence to advocate for more inclusive, locally driven approaches in global peace and security dialogues, positioning itself as a champion for community-led reconciliation efforts. The solidarity of the g7+ countries, forged through their own peacebuilding journeys, amplifies their voice on the global stage, pushing for policies that recognise the importance of resilience, local agency, and self-determination in conflict recovery.

Ultimately, the g7+ not only contributes to building peace but also fosters stability — an essential foundation for prosperity and development. By advocating for peace processes that respect local context and are based on shared experiences, the g7+ helps to ensure that peace is not just an agreement but a lasting, transformative force within its member countries and beyond.

Harnessing the power of shared experiences and peer learning

One of the greatest strengths of the g7+ lies in its diverse yet interconnected membership. Each country within the group has navigated the difficult pathways from conflict and fragility toward peace, stability, and development. While the challenges faced by these countries are varied — ranging from post-conflict recovery to addressing systemic inequality and climate vulnerability — the shared experiences of overcoming adversity and the lessons learned from these struggles create a powerful platform for collaboration. The g7+ is not a homogenous group but one whose diversity provides an invaluable resource for shared learning and mutual growth.

By fostering structured peer learning and knowledge exchange, the g7+ creates a dynamic environment where its members can share successful practices, innovative approaches, and lessons learned from their respective journeys. This collaborative model accelerates the development of effective governance strategies, enhances security sector reform, promotes social cohesion, and strengthens economic resilience. Importantly, it allows each country to avoid repeating the mistakes of others and to adopt strategies that have been tested and refined in similar contexts. This exchange is not limited to theoretical knowledge but includes practical solutions grounded in real-world experience, which can be far more impactful in fragile environments.

Institutionalizing these peer networks ensures that the g7+ countries continue to support one another in addressing common challenges. By coordinating their efforts, they are able to advocate for international support that is more responsive to the specific needs and conditions faced by fragile states. The group's solidarity, backed by their collective experiences, also helps to strengthen their bargaining power in international negotiations, making it easier for them to secure funding, technical assistance, and policy reforms that are aligned with their developmental priorities.

This commitment to continuous learning and mutual support strengthens the resilience of individual g7+ members. As each country gains from the knowledge and expertise of others, they are better equipped to overcome obstacles and advance toward sustainable development. Through this peer-driven model, the g7+ ensures that its countries do not face their challenges in isolation but as part of a larger, supportive network. This collaboration fosters a sense of shared responsibility and collective ownership over the progress made, empowering each member to not only improve its own situation but to contribute to the stability and prosperity of the entire group.

By embracing shared learning under the flagship program of Fragile-to-Fragile cooperation, the g7+ builds a community of practice that transcends individual interests and focuses on the collective good. This community model, based on mutual respect and support, offers a sustainable path for addressing the root causes of fragility and building stronger, more resilient societies across the entire group. In doing so, the g7+ ensures that its countries are not only advancing in their own development but are also reinforcing the broader global goals of peace, justice, and sustainability.

RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC POTENTIAL

Population

In 2023, the total population of the g7+ was 351 million. If it was a single country, the g7+ would have the third largest population, behind only India and China. g7+ countries are home to more people than the US (335 million) and Indonesia (281 million).[1]

Perhaps more importantly, g7+ member states are young and will continue to experience an outsized population dividend. In 2023, the total population aged 0-14 years was around 151 million, which is approximately 43% of the population, nearly double the world average of 25%.[2] Similarly, the average age in g7+ countries is lower than the average in the developed world, and even lower than that in many developing countries.

By 2035, the combined working age population (those between 15 and 64 years of age) of g7+ will reach 273 million, about 20% more than that of the US and 30% more than that of Indonesia. This would represent 4.7% of the global working age population.[3]

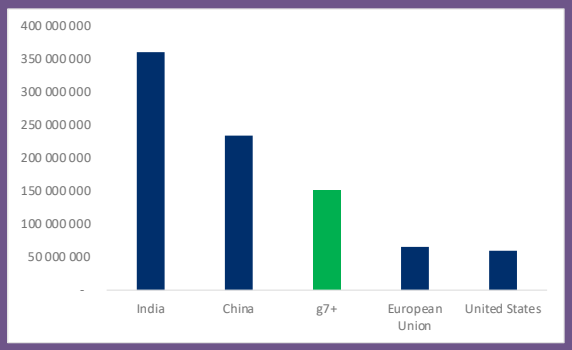
Additionally, the share of the elderly population (those aged 65 or older) is relatively small across the g7+. In all member states except Timor-Leste people aged 65+ make up no more than 5% of the population, and often no more than 3%. This is significantly lower than the world average of 10.3%, and lower than in the United States (17.4%), China (14.3%), Indonesia (7.0%), and India (6.9%). This means that, for many years to come, citizens of g7+ nations will have a much higher working age/population ratio and in turn a much lighter responsibility for elderly care than it is the case in most other parts of the world.[4]

A younger population gives the g7+ a powerful demographic advantage, in the form of a vast potential workforce and consumer base in the coming decades. By organising the right investments in education, health, infrastructure, and governance, the g7+ can turn this "youth bulge" into a demographic dividend — driving economic growth, innovation, and resilience.

In contrast, many countries in the Global North are facing aging populations, shrinking workforces, and rising dependency ratios, which place pressure on productivity and public finances. The g7+, by contrast, has the human capital to fuel global supply chains, absorb green and digital jobs, and lead climate adaptation efforts.

So, while youth may seem like a challenge in fragile contexts, it is actually a strategic asset — positioning the g7+ as essential partners in building a sustainable, secure global future.

Figure 1: Population of people aged 0-14 in the g7+ compared to selected countries



Source: World Bank (2024) Population ages 0-14, http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.0014.TO?most_recent_value_desc=false.

[1] World Bank (n.d.) Population total, https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL

[2] Children here are defined as 0-14 years old. For data, see World Bank (2024) Population ages 0-14, http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.0014.TO?most_recent_value_desc=false.

[3] World Bank (2025) Population estimates and projections, https://databank.worldbank.org/source/population-estimates-and-projections/preview/on#

[4] World Bank (2024) Population ages 65 and above, https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.65UP.TO.ZS

Beyond demographics, the youth of the g7+ represents a rising political and moral force. This generation is growing up deeply aware of global injustice, climate breakdown, and the lasting effects of colonialism, conflict, and inequality. As the majority in their societies, they are increasingly vocal in demanding a fairer future — one that includes dignity, opportunity, genuine climate action and justice for all.

Across the g7+, young people are not just future leaders — they are already mobilising as agents of accountability, challenging corruption, confronting global inaction, and demanding that the Global North lives up to its commitments on climate, debt, and equity. Their shared experience of marginalisation gives them a unique solidarity, and their mobilisation has the potential to reshape global power dynamics. If supported, the youth of the g7+ can become one of the most powerful political blocs for global justice in the 21st century.

Forums for youth representation:

- United Nations (UN) Youth Delegate Programme – This enables youth to represent their countries at the UN General Assembly and other bodies (e.g. ECOSOC, COP).
- UN Youth Forum (ECOSOC) – Annual forum where young people contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and development financing.
- UNFCCC Conferences (COP) – Youth from g7+ countries participate through YOUNGO (official youth constituency of the UN Climate Convention), pushing for climate justice and loss and damage funding.
- World Bank/IMF Civil Society Forums – These provide open spaces for youth-led groups to challenge financial institutions on debt, conditionalities, and development financing.
- Commonwealth Youth Forum (for Sierra Leone, Togo, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea) – A platform for youth in Commonwealth countries to feed into heads of government meetings.

Regional Blocs and Platforms

Youth from g7+ countries can also engage through their regional economic and diplomatic alliances:

- AU Youth Division / Pan-African Youth Union - Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, and Togo are members. The AU's youth platforms provide a key avenue for engaging AU policy on development, peace, and continental trade, including the operation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).
- ECOWAS Youth Council – Guinea-Bissau, Côte d'Ivoire, and Togo can participate in the forum and influence regional governance and integration.
- East African Youth Parliament – As members to the East African Community, Burundi, DRC, Somalia, and South Sudan can participate in this 8-member forum.
- Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Youth Engagement / Melanesian Spearhead Group Youth Groups (MSG) - Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea are members to both the PIF and the MSG, while Timor-Leste is an observer state in both. Youths can engage in discussions focused on climate, oceans, and regional solidarity.

Resources

The countries that make up the g7+ have significant reserves of some key minerals, especially those that will be crucial to the electrification and decarbonization of economies worldwide.

But the g7+ holds not only vast reserves of critical minerals but also the strategic leverage that comes with them. As demand for copper, cobalt, lithium, and gold — essential inputs for green technologies, semiconductors, and global finance — surges globally, the g7+ is uniquely positioned to shape not just trade, but the terms of global transition.

By coordinating positions and setting collective standards for extraction, value adding, and ethical sourcing, the g7+ can influence global supply chains, demand transparency from multinational corporations, and negotiate global tax agreements as well as new forms of finance for climate and development that reflect their contributions to global sustainability.

Their control over climate-critical minerals gives them leverage to demand equitable climate action, fairer trade rules, and stronger and inclusive governance in multilateral institutions. This resource base also enables g7+ countries to assert their voice in global conversations on reparations, technology transfer, and debt reform — reframing the narrative from fragility to essentiality.

The following is a list of strategic resources as well as how important the g7+ is to their supply.

Copper

With a combined reserve of over 140 million tons, the g7+ holds about 16% of current global copper reserves. This gives the g7+ the second largest reserves of copper in the world, behind only Chile (190 million tons).

The Democratic Republic of Congo — which produces 14% of the world's copper — is already the second largest producer in the world (3.3 million tons per annum), behind Chile (5.3 million tons). The estimated 60 million tons of copper held by Afghanistan adds to the reserves of this mineral held by the g7+.

Cobalt

The g7+ is already the world's largest producer of cobalt and,[5] with about 6.1 million tons, the g7+ has the world's biggest reserves of cobalt. This is three and a half times more than Australia, which holds 1.7 million tons. The Democratic Republic of the Congo alone is estimated to have 6 million tons of cobalt reserves, and Papua New Guinea has approximately 49,000 tons.

Lithium

The g7+ holds around 6 million tons of lithium reserves, accounting for 6% of known global reserves.[6] The Democratic Republic of the Congo is estimated to have 3 million tons of lithium reserves. Afghanistan likely has significant lithium reserves as well. Current total estimates stand at about 1.8 million tons, but at least half of the potential Afghan sites have not yet been surveyed, so actual reserves could be double this amount.[7]

Cocoa bean

Together, the g7+ countries account for about 20% of the world's cocoa production.[8] Côte d'Ivoire accounts for about 16% of global cocoa bean production. Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, DR Congo, Togo, and Papua New Guinea together produce another 150,000 tons, or 3% of the global total.

[5] World Population Review (2025) Cobalt Reserves by Country 2025, https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/cobalt-reserves-by-country; Government of Canada (2025) Cobalt facts, https://natural-resources.canada.ca/minerals-mining/mining-data-statistics-analysis/minerals-metals-facts/cobalt-facts

[6] World Population Review (2025) Lithium Reserves by Country 2025, https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/lithium-reserves-by-country.

[7] Arian et al. (2025) A review on Afghanistan pegmatite belt: lithium resources, challenges and prospects, Geopersa, https://geopersia.ut.ac.ir/article_98645_b38d75d682b5d8a32a81eaf8fc2d624d.pdf

[8] World Population Review (2025) Cocoa Producing Countries 2025, https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/cocoa-producing-countries.

Gold

The g7+ collectively accounts for 5-6% of the global production of gold.[9] The 203 tons of gold produced by g7+ nations in 2023 makes it the fourth largest supplier of gold in the world. This is more gold than Canada (192 tons), but less than China (378 tons), Russia (322 tons), or Australia (294 tons).

Renewable Energy

Many g7+ countries contribute only a fraction of global greenhouse gas emissions, yet they sit on some of the richest untapped renewable energy resources anywhere in the world. This combination — small carbon footprints alongside high technical potential for clean energy generation — offers more than a development opportunity. It is a strategic asset that can be turned into diplomatic weight, bargaining leverage, and long-term economic resilience.

The World Bank's Global Photovoltaic Power Potential by Country identifies around 70 nations with "excellent" solar conditions — defined as long-term daily photovoltaic output above 4.5 kWh per kWp installed.[10] Many of these are g7+ members across Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and the Pacific, including Afghanistan, Somalia, Yemen, Timor-Leste, Solomon Islands, and Papua New Guinea.

The irony is that energy poverty remains widespread. Afghanistan, Somalia, Yemen, and Solomon Islands have exceptional solar and wind resources yet face low electrification rates, fragile or non-existent grids, and heavy reliance on imported fossil fuels. This gap between potential and current reality is not simply a development problem — it is a negotiating position. In a world racing to secure low-carbon energy sources, those who control the best sites for clean generation have influence far beyond their current share of the energy market.

Opportunity: using resource leverage for broader influence

To move from resource extraction to strategic influence, individual g7+ countries can use both their critical mineral wealth and their renewable energy potential as bargaining chips in bilateral and multilateral negotiations. Together, these assets allow g7+ members to argue not from a position of fragility, but from one of indispensability — to climate action, to energy transition supply chains, and to global economic stability.

Leverage renewable potential as a strategic asset

- **Technology and investment access:** Countries with vast renewable potential and negligible emissions can make a strong case for priority access to cutting-edge technology and direct investment, arguing that every dollar deployed will deliver disproportionately high emissions reductions.
- **Energy sovereignty:** Building domestic renewables reduces dependence on expensive and volatile fossil fuel imports, insulating economies from global price shocks and freeing fiscal space for other priorities.
- **Strategic green exports:** With the right infrastructure, renewable-rich g7+ members could export surplus clean electricity, green hydrogen, or processed critical minerals, positioning themselves in future-facing trade flows.
- **Diplomatic capital:** Control over vast renewable resources — especially in solar and wind — can be a bargaining chip in climate negotiations, regional power-sharing talks, and multilateral partnerships. Hosting utility-scale renewable projects could be linked to agreements on technology transfer, training, or infrastructure development.

[9] World Gold Council (2024) Global mine production, https://www.gold.org/goldhub/data/gold-production-by-country.

[10] World Bank Group (2020) Global Photovoltaic Power Potential by Country, https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/466331592817725242/global-photovoltaic-power-potential-by-country

Leverage critical mineral supply for a just transition agreement

- **Negotiate resource-for-climate deals:** Countries with cobalt, copper, or lithium can demand investment not just in mining, but in green infrastructure, skills, and value chains (e.g. battery manufacturing, mineral refining).
- **Enforce fair standards:** Push for binding social and environmental standards in mineral extraction to prevent exploitation and ensure local benefits.

Use resource leverage to influence debt and financing terms

- **Tie access to resources to structural gains:** Link critical minerals or prime renewable energy sites to debt relief, adaptation support, or transparent, long-term development financing.
- **Rebalance negotiating power:** Countries like the DR Congo, Afghanistan, and Papua New Guinea can use extraction access as leverage to secure structural economic gains and more equitable terms.

Coordinate national positions for collective bargaining power

- **Share negotiating tools:** Exchange frameworks, market data, and legal models to ensure no member is exploited in isolation.
- **Adopt a shared sovereignty platform:** Insist on fair royalties, community rights, and in-country beneficiation for both mineral and renewable projects.
- **Provide mutual legal support:** Use the g7+ Foundation to supply members with legal and technical assistance in international arbitrations.

Assert voice in climate and trade governance

- **Shape climate and trade rules:** Advocate for critical mineral and renewable energy clauses in deals that benefit low-emitting, resource-rich countries.
- **Demand fair global terms:** Push for loss and damage funding, technology transfer, and favourable provisions in emerging green trade frameworks.

KEY TRADE BLOCS AND NEGOTIATION PLATFORMS TO ASSERT INFLUENCE

While the g7+ is not itself a trade bloc, its member countries participate in many diplomatic and trade forums where their mineral power can be used to negotiate better outcomes, including:

- AfCFTA: Members can negotiate pan-African mineral standards and collective value addition plans (e.g. battery corridors).
- AU: The g7+ countries can use AU's strategic dialogues with the EU, China, and US to demand fair resource partnerships.
- Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), East African Community (EAC), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and Southern African Development Community (SADC): Members can coordinate within subregional blocs for infrastructure finance, local refining, and trade access.
- Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC): Members include Afghanistan, Chad, Comoros, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Togo, and Yemen, while Central African Republic is an observer. The subsidiary and affiliated academic, educational, and commercial organisations or forums can be particularly useful resources for the g7+ countries.
- World Trade Organization (WTO): Use WTO platforms — including the g7+ WTO accession group — to bargain collectively for more inclusive trade policies, and to advocate for reform of rules on export restrictions, subsidies, and carbon border adjustments.
- Bilateral Resource Deals: Use mineral access as leverage for debt relief, climate finance, and technology transfer — while sharing negotiating lessons across the g7+ network.

By taking individual initiatives within shared principles, g7+ countries can turn bilateral resource deals into a coordinated power bloc — one rooted in justice, sustainability, and shared benefit.

Examples of Coordinated but Individual Actions

- DR Congo could negotiate cobalt trade with the EU, demanding investment in domestic processing and climate finance.
- Afghanistan could use lithium potential to negotiate post-conflict recovery financing and energy infrastructure support.
- Côte d'Ivoire could tie cocoa and gold supply to fair trade reforms that benefit not just itself, but also Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

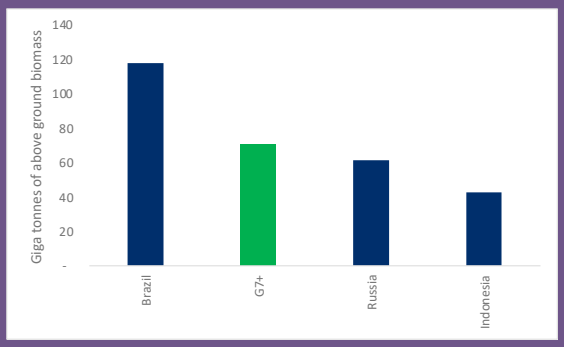
CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY

Its large, forested areas and low carbon emissions mean that the g7+ is poised to play a critical role in the world's low-carbon future.

Carbon stocks

The forests of the g7+ are a source of geopolitical strength, ecological importance, and moral authority. With 11% of the world's forests and a carbon stock of 122 gigatonnes, the g7+ collectively holds the second largest reserve of aboveground biomass after Brazil.[11] These forests are essential to global climate stability, biodiversity conservation, and ecosystem resilience. Two g7+ countries — the DR Congo and Burundi — lie within the Congo Basin, the largest and most intact tropical carbon sink on Earth.[12] Other g7+ nations, including Papua New Guinea, Guinea, and Sierra Leone, are also globally significant for their biodiversity and natural wealth. Figure 2 shows the top 10 countries by biomass alongside the g7+.

Figure 2: Largest forests by nation compared to the g7+



Source: Global Forest Watch (n.d.) Global Aboveground Live Woody Biomass, https://www.globalforestwatch.org/dashboards/global/?category=climate.

Carbon footprint

At the same time, the g7+ has one of the lowest emissions profiles in the world. Collectively, its member states contribute less than 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions.[13] Per capita emissions in the g7+ average just 1.1 tonnes — 16 times lower than the United States, and significantly lower than China, India, or the EU.[14]

Global climate negotiations

The combination of low emissions and high ecological value gives the g7+ exceptional moral and scientific standing in global climate diplomacy. It positions these countries as frontline stewards of the planet's future, despite having contributed almost nothing to the crisis they are helping to contain.

This standing can and should be leveraged — not through carbon markets or private finance mechanisms that commodify forests — but through direct political negotiation, public financing, and global accountability. The g7+ countries can use their conservation role to demand greater access to public climate finance, concessional infrastructure funding, and debt restructuring. This is not charity — it is compensation for a global public service. g7+ countries are preserving ecosystems that benefit the entire planet, and they deserve fair, predictable, and sovereign-controlled support in return.

[13] European Commission (2024) GHG emissions of all world countries, https://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/report_2024#emissions_table.

[14] Per capita emission is derived from total emission provided by European Commission data divided by populations data for 2023. See European Commission (2024) GHG emissions of all world countries, https://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/report_2024#emissions_table; Eurostat (2024), Demography of Europe –2024 edition, http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/interactive-publications/demography-2024; World Bank Group (n.d.) Population, http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL?end=2023&locations=US-CN-ID&start=2017.

In global climate forums, notably, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the g7+ can use its shared ecological profile to push for stronger commitments to loss and damage finance, biodiversity protection, and equitable adaptation resources.

The g7+ presence as a bloc of low-emitting but climate-critical states offer a unique counterweight to the high-emitting economies that so often dominate international climate negotiations. This collective influence can also be used to reshape the narrative of fragility into one of stewardship, resilience, and global interdependence.

Similarly, g7+ countries can call for international partnerships that prioritise technology transfer, ecological research, and community-led conservation programs — grounded in sovereignty and justice, not offsetting schemes or speculative finance. This is a chance for the g7+ to lead not just in forest protection, but in reimagining how climate cooperation works — rooted in solidarity, not markets.

Other intergovernmental organisations such as the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) have achieved significant outcomes in the UNFCCC ecosystem.[15] AOSIS is independent from the UN but operates within the UN ecosystem and collaborates with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) to advocate for the interests of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

[15] United Nations, Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, https://www.un.org/ohrlls/content/bureau-aosis

OCEANS

Exclusive economic zones: strategic leverage for the g7+ in ocean governance

Countries with Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) have sovereign rights — though not full sovereignty — over economic activities within 200 nautical miles of their coastlines. These rights grant coastal states the ability to explore, exploit, conserve, and manage natural resources such as fish stocks, oil and gas reserves, seabed minerals, and renewable marine energy. Within their EEZs, countries can regulate fishing, aquaculture, and offshore energy projects; license or restrict foreign vessels; and enter into trade agreements, joint development zones, and partnerships in sustainable tourism or marine biotechnology. EEZs also allow states to enact environmental protections and participate meaningfully in regional and global negotiations on ocean governance.

Several coastal and island members of the g7+ possess significant EEZs. While it is not advisable that these countries seek to exploit offshore oil, gas, or deep-sea minerals in ways that would further accelerate the global ecological crisis, the legal recognition of sovereign economic rights provides strategic leverage. It positions these countries as custodians of valuable ocean spaces — spaces that are becoming increasingly important in global climate negotiations, marine biodiversity diplomacy, and economic security. These rights offer a powerful platform for asserting climate resilience goals, advancing blue economy innovation, protecting marine ecosystems, and negotiating equitable relationships with external partners.

Although EEZs are governed at the national level, individual g7+ countries with maritime zones can act as entry points for collective influence. When countries such as Timor-Leste, Solomon Islands, or Somalia participate in international forums, they do so in their own name — but they also have an opportunity to advance the broader agenda of the g7+. These national interventions can amplify shared priorities, including calls for ocean justice, the integration of marine governance into peacebuilding frameworks, and increased access to finance and capacity support for fragile coastal states. With coordination and shared positioning, the g7+ can use these opportunities to shape international norms, secure equitable resources, and assert their relevance in a domain where power is often concentrated in wealthier, more militarised coastal states.

Looking ahead, the g7+ could play a transformative role in global ocean governance. There is a clear opportunity to advocate for a "Blue Fragility Framework" — a new approach to rebuilding marine governance in post-conflict contexts that recognises the challenges of weak enforcement, under-resourced maritime infrastructure, and external exploitation. The bloc could push for marine resource recovery funding on par with climate finance, including support for surveillance, fisheries reform, and community-based ocean stewardship. Partnerships with UN-Oceans, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and regional fisheries bodies could ensure that fragile states are not excluded from blue economy development strategies or marine science collaboration. Moreover, the g7+ can work to integrate ocean governance into broader peacebuilding and sustainable development finance, ensuring that marine rights, risks, and responsibilities are not sidelined in SDGs and climate policy spaces.

By strategically using the sovereign EEZ rights of individual members, coordinated through informal alliances and shared diplomatic messaging, the bloc can carve out a respected and distinct place in the evolving landscape of marine governance. Their role as custodians of vulnerable but vital ocean spaces is not only legitimate — it is urgently needed.

G7+ countries with EEZs

Largest EEZs

- **Papua New Guinea**
  ~2.4 million km²
  (16th largest EEZ – comparable to Norway's)
- **Solomon Islands**
  ~ 1.56 million (22nd-largest)
- **Somalia**
  ~830,000 km²
- **Yemen**
  ~ 552,669 km²

Other g7+ EEZ holders

- São Tomé and Príncipe
- Comoros
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Liberia
- Sierra Leone
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Haiti
- Timor-Leste
- Togo
- Democratic Republic of the Congo

Shared leverage themes

EEZs offer more than just resource potential—they provide a platform for strategic influence. These zones can be leveraged to negotiate resource access on more equitable terms, to demand climate-linked marine finance, and to justify targeted peacebuilding and governance investment in vulnerable coastal areas.

EEZs also enable these states to assert greater regional influence in the shaping of ocean governance frameworks and maritime security agendas. The sections below suggest some broad options for the countries with the four largest EEZs

Papua New Guinea

Strategic Value:

- One of the world's largest EEZs, rich in skipjack and yellowfin tuna, coral reefs, and deep-sea biodiversity.
- Sits at the geopolitical crossroads of the Pacific and Southeast Asia.
- Negotiation Leverage:
- Fisheries access negotiations: PNG can demand higher licensing fees and stricter sustainability terms from distant-water fishing nations (e.g. Japan, China, EU).
- Climate finance: Leverage its role as a marine carbon sink and biodiversity hotspot to access adaptation funding and blue carbon projects.
- Blue economy leadership: Use its EEZ to attract investment in marine ecotourism, aquaculture, and ocean science partnerships.
- Regional diplomacy: Position itself as a Pacific steward in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and push for equitable benefit-sharing.

Solomon Islands

Strategic Value:

- EEZ more than 50x larger than its landmass.
- Contains rich tuna stocks, coral reefs, and deep-sea mineral prospects.
- Located in a high-stakes region for geopolitical competition and climate risk.

Negotiation Leverage:

- Fisheries deals: Use tuna-rich EEZ to negotiate improved development assistance, port infrastructure, or technology transfers in exchange for access.
- Security partnerships: Leverage its EEZ for maritime surveillance cooperation (e.g. with Australia, New Zealand, Japan).
- UN Ocean diplomacy: Frame itself as a frontline state in marine biodiversity protection and a deserving recipient of loss and damage finance.
- Blue Fragility Agenda: Push at global forums for dedicated support to small island states managing vast ocean spaces with limited enforcement capacity.

Somalia

Strategic Value:

- Longest coastline on mainland Africa.
- EEZ overlaps with key migration routes for tuna and other pelagics; historically impacted by Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU)fishing and maritime crime.

Negotiation Leverage:

- Rebuilding marine sovereignty: Use EEZ as a symbol of post-conflict governance — securing support for coast guard infrastructure and legal reform.
- Combatting IUU fishing: Engage Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and FAO to fund monitoring systems, satellite surveillance, and regional enforcement training.
- Geopolitical relevance: The EEZ covers waters adjacent to one of the world's busiest shipping lanes (Gulf of Aden); it can be leveraged in negotiations on maritime security cooperation.
- Fragility-focused funding: Position Somalia as a test case for how post-conflict states can rebuild ocean governance systems with targeted development finance.

Yemen

Strategic Value:

- Controls waters along the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a maritime chokepoint connecting the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean.
- EEZ encompasses ecologically sensitive areas, critical fisheries, and coral systems.

Negotiation Leverage:

- Maritime security: Leverage EEZ location to seek support for stabilizing coastal regions, combating smuggling, and protecting shipping lanes.
- Climate and biodiversity finance: Emphasise the ecological importance of Red Sea reefs to gain adaptation funding and marine protection grants.
- Geopolitical coordination: Use its EEZ's proximity to Gulf and Horn of Africa nations to propose regional cooperation on marine protection, migration, and trade corridors.
- Post-conflict recovery: Position EEZ recovery as a component of Yemen's broader reconstruction effort—integrating marine economy development into peacebuilding plans.

STRATEGIC ENTRY POINTS IN THE UN AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ARENA

Despite being seen as fragile or conflict-affected, g7+ countries hold real power in the UN system — through numbers, moral legitimacy, and institutional positioning. Their participation across key UN blocs allows them to shape global debates on peace, climate, development, and justice. The g7+'s observer status at the UN has significantly enhanced its visibility and diplomatic leverage on the global stage. The group also played a crucial role in advancing SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), leaving a wide and positive impression on international partners and stakeholders. Through coordinated advocacy and unified representation, the g7+ continues to amplify the voices of conflict-affected countries, influencing global policy discussions and mobilising support for peacebuilding and institutional development.

The following interventions reflect ways g7+ members can and already do to assert influence, both individually and collectively.

Influencing peace and security through security council seats

With four g7+ countries (Somalia, Sierra Leone, DR Congo and Liberia) holding non-permanent seats on the UN Security Council (UNSC), g7+ members will comprise nearly one-third of the elected council in 2026. This gives them direct power to:

- Influence language in council resolutions,
- Shape peacekeeping mandates,
- Build coalitions with other Global South members,
- And spotlight neglected crises and transitions.

Their presence offers a rare chance to challenge dominant narratives around fragility and advocate for more inclusive, locally informed peace and security frameworks.

Asserting power in numbers via G77 and group of 24

All g7+ countries are part of the Group of 77 (G77) — the largest bloc at the UN. With 134 members, the G77 has the capacity to control outcomes in the General Assembly and drive UN reform negotiations. Three g7+ members (DR Congo, Haiti, and Côte d'Ivoire) also sit on the Group of 24 (G24), a critical forum for influencing IMF and World Bank policy.

By acting in coordination, g7+ countries can shape bloc-wide statements, amplify fragile-state concerns in financial architecture reform, and pressure international institutions to democratise governance and increase concessional financing.

Geostrategic Value

Afghanistan, the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Somalia, and Yemen occupy important strategic locations for land or maritime transport, affecting the trade routes of key commodities for the world's largest economies. They can leverage these positions for better outcomes in security and infrastructure deals.

Agenda-making in Regional Geopolitical Organisations

The g7+ countries can coordinate their priorities and actions across the regional organisations with geopolitical functions and in which they are represented. On the more localised issues, these organisations bring together states whose interests are more immediately engaged and who tend to share cultural and religious affinities, facilitating concerted actions in ensuring or restoring security in the region. The organisations in which the g7+ have substantive representations are

- The Arab League: Comoros, Somalia, and Yemen are part of the 22-party Arab League, while Chad is one of the seven observer states.
- The AU: Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros Islands, Côte d'Ivoire, DR Congo, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, and Togo make up 14 of the 55-member AU, Haiti is an observer.
- The Pacific Islands Forum: Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands are full members, while Timor-Leste holds observer status.

With g7+ countries taking individual initiatives within shared principles across these organisations, they can work from multiple angles to advance an international agenda which is inclusive of the interests of fragile states.

Reframe Fragility as Strategic Relevance

The g7+ bloc collectively governs vast natural resources, 11% of the world's forests, and major carbon sinks, while contributing less than 1% of global emissions. This combination gives g7+ countries moral, ecological, and economic leverage in UN spaces. By intervening together — whether through joint statements, coordinated voting, or strategic candidacies — g7+ members can reframe fragility as strategic relevance: essential to peace, climate stability, and inclusive global governance.

Drive Climate and Justice Agendas through AOSIS, V20, and Regional Groups

The g7+ members also sit within high-impact, issue-specific blocs like:

- The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) – influential in climate loss and damage negotiations.
- The Vulnerable Twenty (V20) – a powerful voice on climate finance and South–South cooperation.
- The African, Arab, and LDC Groups at the UN – key platforms in United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) voting and appointments.
- Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) - all g7+members except Afghanistan, and Yemen are members to this organisation, which promotes good governance, poverty eradication, sustainable development, and equitable economic integration.

Within these groups, g7+ members are not just participants — they are often bridge-builders between climate-vulnerable states, least developed economies, and middle-income countries. Their legitimacy as low-emitting, resource-rich nations make them uniquely powerful advocates for fairer climate and financing outcomes.

Ocean forums for participation

As ocean governance becomes increasingly central to questions of climate resilience, security, and global equity, there are multiple international and regional forums where g7+ countries can assert influence and advance their interests.

While individual states represent themselves in these forums, their participation provides critical opportunities to elevate shared priorities—such as marine sovereignty, post-conflict recovery, sustainable resource management, and fair access to ocean finance and technology.

The following mechanisms offer concrete entry points for g7+ countries to shape rules, negotiate partnerships, and advocate for a more inclusive and just marine governance system.

- UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) – Establishes legal recognition of EEZ rights, supports boundary submissions, and defines enforcement responsibilities.
- Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Treaty – A global agreement under negotiation to govern marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction; provides a platform for g7+ countries to negotiate fair benefit-sharing, capacity building, and technology transfer.
- UN Ocean Conference – A high-level global event to assess progress on SDG 14 (Life Below Water); an opportunity for g7+ countries to showcase national commitments, host side events, and advocate for fragile-state inclusion.
- RFMOs – Intergovernmental bodies that manage fish stocks across national boundaries:
    - Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) – Relevant for Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.
    - Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) – Relevant for Somalia and Comoros.
    - Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) – Relevant for West African states including Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.
- International Seabed Authority (ISA) – An UN-affiliated body that regulates mineral exploration and extraction in the deep seabed beyond national EEZs; g7+ countries can advocate for equitable access and environmental safeguards.
- UNGA, High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), UN ECOSOC, and UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) – Platforms where g7+ countries can raise marine issues linked to fragility, peacebuilding, and sustainable development.
- FAO – Committee on Fisheries (COFI) – A global technical forum that sets standards and guidelines on sustainable fisheries, IUU (Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated) fishing, and coastal livelihoods.
- AU Blue Economy Strategy and Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) – Regional platforms for g7+ African and Indian Ocean states to advance ocean diplomacy, maritime security, and sustainable blue economy initiatives.

Specific interventions to advance ocean governance as peacebuilding

- Timor-Leste, Somalia, Solomon Islands can advocate for ocean governance in UN Ocean Conference, PBC, BBNJ
- Negotiate better access and equity
- Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone can push for fairer fishing terms in RFMOs, or call out IUU fishing in UNGA
- EEZs can be used to justify access to climate adaptation, SDG 14, and loss and damage funding (via FfD, MDBs, HLPF)
- Assert leadership in global marine diplomacy: Countries with large EEZs (PNG, Solomon Islands, Yemen) can advocate in ISA, UNCLOS, and AOSIS for stronger safeguards and inclusion of fragile states

Strategic Opportunity: The "Blue Fragility Framework"

With global attention turning to the ocean as a site of climate action, economic recovery, and geopolitical competition, there is a clear gap in how fragile and conflict-affected states are included. The g7+ has an opportunity to lead a targeted proposal that addresses this gap directly.

The g7+ could propose a Blue Fragility Framework — a global initiative to rebuild marine governance in conflict-affected and post-crisis states.

This framework could include:

Dedicated funding mechanisms to support marine resource recovery, enforcement capacity, and scientific research in fragile coastal and island nations.

Partnerships with key institutions such as UN-Oceans, FAO, ISA, and RFMOs to ensure fragile states have access to technical support and a seat at the table in global marine governance.

Policy integration of EEZs into peacebuilding, climate, and development agendas—ensuring that EEZs are recognised not just as economic assets, but as critical domains for sovereignty, resilience, and sustainable development.

CONCLUSION

The g7+ does not need to wait for influence to be conferred—it already holds it. This influence stems not only from the seats its members occupy and the coalitions they shape, but from their collective commitment to peace, development, and justice. By uniting in the shared pursuit of peace and leveraging their unique experiences in conflict and fragility, the g7+ amplifies its moral and diplomatic weight on the global stage.

The strength of the g7+ is founded on its unity in peacebuilding and shared learning. Through this foundation, the group fosters not only collaborative diplomacy but also mutual support and knowledge exchange, enabling each member to address their specific challenges while contributing to a stronger collective resilience. The g7+ can harness this shared strength to further consolidate its influence across international forums, advocating for peace, sustainable development, and climate justice.

By engaging strategically in forums where its members already sit—not as passive recipients, but as informed and capable actors—the g7+ can accelerate global recognition of its legitimacy, priorities, and solutions. The next step is not to claim new power, but to consolidate and coordinate what already exists, strengthening its collective influence through both unity and experience.

This influence is not symbolic. It is grounded in real assets, shared learning, and long-term potential. The g7+ is home to the world's third-largest population, the second-largest forest system, and substantial reserves of the minerals essential for a low-carbon future. Its EEZs encompass critical fisheries, seabed resources, and climate-sensitive marine areas.

Beyond its material assets, the g7+ holds the power of unity, experience, and moral authority in peacebuilding, positioning it as a key player in shaping a more just, equitable, and sustainable global order; as global systems undergo economic, environmental, and geopolitical transformation, the relevance of the g7+ will only grow, contributing not merely to development, but to the creation of a world built on solidarity, shared learning, and collective strength.

APPENDIX

COUNTRY	POPULATION (2025 EST.)	KEY NATURAL RESOURCES	FORUMS OF INFLUENCE	HOW THE COUNTRY CAN ADVANCE THE G7+ AGENDA
Afghanistan	43.8 million	Lithium, Copper, Rare Earths	G77, OIC, V20	Use its strategic location in Central Asia to advocate for regionally-led peacebuilding and state-building models; use its mineral potential to make the case for fragility-sensitive investment models and push for equitable infrastructure partnerships that benefit other fragile states; in V20, push for flexible climate finance for countries in conflict and transition.
Burundi	14.4 million	Gold, rare earths, tantalum	AU, EAC, ECCAS, G77, OACPS	Use its minerals to make the case for fragility-sensitive investment models and push for equitable infrastructure partnerships that benefit other fragile states; use its membership within the AU to pursue equitable developmental and trade partnerships; use its membership in G77 and OACPS to push for specific global sustainable development and poverty reduction policies.
Central African Republic	5.5 million	Copper, diamonds, gold	AU, G77, OACPS	Use its minerals to make the case for fragility-sensitive investment models and push for equitable infrastructure partnerships that benefit other fragile states; use its membership within the AU to pursue equitable developmental and trade partnerships; use its membership in G77 and OACPS to push for specific global sustainable development and poverty reduction policies.
Chad	21.0 million	Oil, arable land	Arab	Use its membership within the AU to pursue equitable developmental and trade partnerships; use its membership in G77 and OACPS to push for specific global sustainable development and poverty reduction policies; in V20, push for flexible climate finance for countries in conflict and transition; help coordinate the g7+ agenda across multiple regional and developmental forums.
Comoros	32.7 million	Ylang-ylang, vanilla	League (observer), AU, G77, OACPS, OIC, V20	Through AOSIS, amplify the urgency of climate change action from the perspective of fragile states; use its membership within the AU to pursue equitable developmental and trade partnerships; use its membership in G77 to push for specific global sustainable development and poverty reduction policies; in V20, push for flexible climate finance for countries in conflict and transition; help coordinate the g7+ agenda across multiple regional and developmental forums.
C ô te d'Ivoire	31.9 million	Cocoa, diamonds, gold, hydro-carbon, timber		Use its membership within the AU to pursue equitable developmental and trade partnerships; use its mineral resources to make the case for fragility-sensitive investment models and push for equitable infrastructure partnerships that benefit other fragile states, and promote these causes on the UN Human Rights Council and UN ECOSOC; use its membership in G77 and OACPS to push for specific global sustainable development and poverty reduction policies; in V20, push for flexible climate finance for countries in conflict and transition; help coordinate the g7+ agenda across UN organs, regional, and developmental forums.

COUNTRY	POPULATION (2025 EST.)	KEY NATURAL RESOURCES	FORUMS OF INFLUENCE	HOW THE COUNTRY CAN ADVANCE THE G7+ AGENDA
DR Congo	112.8 million	Cobalt, copper, diamonds, hydro power, arable land	AU, G77, EAC, ECCAS, G24, OACPS, SADC, V20, UNSC, UN Human Rights Council	Use its biodiversity, critical minerals, and population to make the case for fragility-sensitive investment models and push for equitable infrastructure partnerships that benefit other fragile states; use itsUNSC and UN Human Rights Council seats to bring g7+ perspectives into peace and security debates, including on post-conflict transitions; use its membership in G24 and OACPS to push for specific global sustainable development and poverty reduction policies; in V20, push for flexible climate finance for countries in conflict and transition; help coordinate the g7+ agenda across UN organs, regional, and developmental forums.
Guinea	15.1 million	Bauxite, iron ore, diamond	AU, ECOWAS, G77, OACPS, OIC, V20	Champion nature-based solutions and biodiversity finance that reflect the needs of fragile ecosystems; use its mineral reserves to make the case for fragility-sensitive investment models and push for equitable infrastructure partnerships that benefit other fragile states; use its membership within the AU to pursue equitable developmental and trade partnerships; use its membership in G77 and OACPS to push for specific global sustainable development and poverty reduction policies; in V20, push for flexible climate finance for countries in conflict and transition.
Guinea-Bissau	2.2 million	Bauxite, fishery, phosphate, timber, oil	AOSIS, AU, ECOWAS, G77, OACPS, OIC	Through AOSIS, amplify the urgency of climate change action from the perspective of fragile states; use its membership within the AU to pursue equitable developmental and trade partnerships; use its membership in G77 and OACPS to push for specific global sustainable development and poverty reduction policies.
Haiti	11.9 million	Bauxite, gold, copper	AOSIS, AU (observer), G77, G24, OACPS, V20, UN ECOSOC	Through AOSIS, amplify the urgency of climate change action from the perspective of fragile states; on the UN ECOSOC, promote fragility-sensitive investment models and push for equitable infrastructure partnerships that benefit other fragile states; use its membership in G24 and OACPS to push for specific global sustainable development and poverty reduction policies; in V20, push for flexible climate finance for countries in conflict and transition; help coordinate the g7+ agenda across UN organs, regional, and developmental forums.
Liberia	5.7 million	Rubber, iron ore, gold, diamonds	AU, G77, OACPS, V20	Use its membership within the AU to pursue equitable developmental and trade partnerships; use its membership in G77 and OACPS to push for specific global sustainable development and poverty reduction policies; in V20, push for flexible climate finance for countries in conflict and transition; promote transparent natural resource management as a model for fragile states benefiting from extractive industries.
Papua New Guinea	10.7 million	Gold, copper, oil	AOSIS, G77, MSG, OACPS, PIF, V20	Through AOSIS, push for inclusive frameworks that recognise fragility alongside vulnerability; champion nature-based solutions and biodiversity finance that reflect the needs of fragile ecosystems; use PIF/MSG platforms to argue that fragile Pacific states need special consideration in regional trade and infrastructure planning; promote transparent natural resource management as a model for fragile states benefiting from extractive industries; help coordinate the g7+ agenda across regional and developmental forums.

COUNTRY	POPULATION (2025 EST.)	KEY NATURAL RESOURCES	FORUMS OF INFLUENCE	HOW THE COUNTRY CAN ADVANCE THE G7+ AGENDA
São Tomé and Príncipe	0.2 million	Cocoa, oil (potential)	AOSIS, AU, ECCAS, G77, OACPS	Use its small-island voice in AOSIS and OACPS to spotlight how fragility intersects with climate and development risks; use its membership within the AU to pursue equitable developmental and trade partnerships; use its membership in G77 to push for specific global sustainable development and poverty reduction policies.
Sierra Leone	8.8 million	Diamonds, iron ore, rutile	AU, ECOWAS, G77, OACPS, OIC, UNSC	Use UNSC seat to bring g7+ perspectives into peace and security debates, including on post-conflict transitions; promote transparent natural resource management as a model for fragile states benefiting from extractive industries; use its membership in G24 and OACPS to push for specific global sustainable development and poverty reduction policies; help coordinate the g7+ agenda across global, regional and developmental forums.
Somalia	19.7 million	Oil (potential), livestock	Arab League, AU, EAC, IGAD, OACPS, OIC,UNSC	Use its geopolitical role in the Horn of Africa to advocate for regionally-led peacebuilding and state-building models; use UNSC seat to bring g7+ perspectives into peace and security debates, including on post-conflict transitions; represent fragile Muslim-majority states in Arab League and OIC climate and development discussions; help coordinate the g7+ agenda across global, regional and developmental forums.
Solomon Islands	0.7 million	Timber, fish, gold	AOSIS, MSG, OACPS, PIF	Through AOSIS, MSG, and PIF, champion the g7+ in ocean governance negotiations and climate adaptation funding; use AOSIS to push for inclusive developmental frameworks that recognise fragility and climate vulnerability.
South Sudan	12.2 million	Oil, gold	AU, EAC, G77, V20	Use its membership within the AU to pursue equitable developmental and trade partnerships; promote the connection between poverty reduction, equitable trade, and peace- and state-building in the EAC; in V20, push for flexible climate finance for countries in conflict and transition.
Timor-Leste	1.4 million	Oil, gas	AOSIS, G77, OACPS, MSG (observer), PIF (observer), V20	Use its small-island voice in AOSIS and OACPS to spotlight how fragility intersects with climate and development risks, connecting their advocacy with that of the MSG and PIF; use its membership in G77 to push for specific global sustainable development and poverty reduction policies.
Togo	9.7 million	Phosphate, cotton	AU, ECOWAS, G77, OACPS, OIC, V20	Use its membership within the AU and ECOWAS to pursue equitable developmental and trade partnerships; represent fragile states in OIC climate and development discussions; in V20, push for flexible climate finance for countries in conflict and transition.
Yemen	41.8 million	Oil, gas	Arab League, G77, OIC, V20	Use its hydrocarbon potential and population to make the case for fragility-sensitive investment models, and push for equitable infrastructure partnerships that benefit other fragile states; advocate for the interests of fragile states in the Arab League and the OIC in climate and development discussions.

Shared Opportunities countries can pursue individually for g7+ goals:

OPPORTUNITY	EXAMPLES FROM ABOVE
Leverage global platforms	The DR Congo, Somalia and Sierra Leone can influence UNSC outcomes that include fragility-sensitive peacebuilding. Côte d'Ivoire, DR Congo, and Haiti can use their membership on UN ECOSOC or UN Human Rights Council to promote g7+ perspectives and principles.
Make fragility visible in climate diplomacy	Solomon Islands, São Tomé and Príncipe, and PNG can insert fragility into AOSIS and ocean finance agendas, while Chad, Liberia, South Sudan, Togo, and Yemen can do likewise with the V20.
Promote just transitions through resource diplomacy	Afghanistan, DR Congo, Guinea, and Sierra Leone can argue that fragile states with critical minerals must get fair trade terms and capacity support. South Sudan, Timor-Leste, and Yemen can champion fragile states' right to receive a fair share of revenue from their oil and gas exports, and their right to favourable terms in the transfer of green technologies and financing for developing alternative industries.
Regional leadership	Somalia and PNG can shape fragile-state approaches in IGAD and MSG, showing that the g7+ has regional relevance. Comoros, Somalia, and Yemen can work in the Arab League to rally support from the more developed members for g7+ agenda on security and development. Burundi, DR Congo, and Somalia each belong to multiple regional forums within Africa, making them well-placed to coordinate the priorities and actions of these forums so as to better reflect fragile states' interests in economic integration, security, and climate action and adaptation.