

Memorandum of Understanding
between
the g7+ Secretariat
and
the International Labour Organization

The g7+ Secretariat, hosted by the Ministry of Finance of the Government of Timor-Leste and the International Labour Organization, represented by the International Labour Office (hereinafter referred as ILO);

CONSIDERING that the objective of the g7+ Secretariat is to ensure the implementation of the decisions of the Ministerial Forum of the g7+ group through coordination among its member States and other stakeholders.

RECOGNIZING that the ILO contributes to the attainment of peace and social justice through the promotion of decent work, encompassing employment promotion, developing and enhancing measures of social protection, promoting social dialogue and tripartism, and respecting, promoting and realizing the fundamental principles and rights at work;

PERSUADED that fragile and conflict-affected states and contexts require an approach that is country-owned and country-led, to better suit their individual needs;

CONVINCED that the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States (see Annex 1) endorsed in Busan in December 2011 is the ideal framework to ensure that mutual cooperation will be beneficial to both the ILO and the g7+ secretariat and would enhance cooperation and peer learning and Fragile to Fragile cooperation between Member States of the ILO and the Member States of g7+;

NOW THEREFORE, the ILO and the g7+ Secretariat, being desirous of cooperating with each other within the framework of their respective mandates, regulations and rules, have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

CONSULTATION

The ILO and the g7+ Secretariat shall consult each other and cooperate on the issues concerning labour standards, social protection, social dialogue and job creation in the g7+ Member States, as set out in Annex 2:

1. The ILO supports the *New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States* (see Annex 1) with special focus on the Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals (PSGs): PSG 4 (employment and livelihoods) and PSG 5 (fair service delivery) framed within the national context of each of the g7+ Member States.
2. The ILO and the g7+ Secretariat will work together to adapt the ILO's involvement (operations, policies) in g7+ Member States to the specific context in close consultation with the government of the g7+ Member State concerned.
3. Jointly agreed work areas would include:
 - a. Research: Case studies and research on the following issues:
 - i. Job creation in States in a fragile situation;
 - ii. Skills development (based on the demands of job markets);
 - iii. Social protection and social safety nets;

- b. Facilitation of peer learning among the g7+ and between the other developing and least developed States, with a focus on Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation between the g7+ Member States as well as South-South and Triangular Cooperation;
- c. Coordination between development partners and g7+ Member States on matters of international labour migration policy, as well as the socio-economic reintegration of refugees and other citizens of fragile States, particularly within the same region and in neighbouring States;
- d. Development and/or provision of national, regional and international labour market statistics.

ARTICLE 2

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

The ILO and the g7+ Secretariat shall exchange non-confidential information and documentation on matters of common interest and keep each other updated on current and planned activities of mutual interest. The ILO and the g7+ shall communicate with each other with the purpose of identifying areas in which cooperation might be desirable.

ARTICLE 3

JOINT ACTIVITIES

The ILO and the g7+ Secretariat may, on conditions to be mutually agreed in each case and within the limits of available resources, carry out joint studies or cooperate in the implementation of joint programmes or projects relating to matters of common interest.

ARTICLE 4

ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

Either organization may, in accordance with its own institutional provisions, invite the other to meetings it has convened when matters of interest to key stakeholders are being discussed.

ARTICLE 5

PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

As a result of consultation and on conditions to be mutually agreed in each case and within the limits of available resources, technical assistance may be provided, including capacity development and advisory services through field-based missions in the relevant areas. The ILO will also support and promote Fragile-to-Fragile cooperation between the g7+ Member States and with other developing states, as well as South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

ARTICLE 6

DURATION AND TERMINATION

This Memorandum of Understanding shall remain in force indefinitely and may be terminated by mutual consent, or by one party giving the other three (3) months written notice of the intention to terminate this Memorandum of Understanding.

ARTICLE 7

AMENDMENTS

1. The Parties hereto may enter into such supplementary arrangements or agreements within the scope of this Memorandum of Understanding as may be appropriate.
2. This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended by mutual consent. Each organization shall give sympathetic consideration to any amendment proposed by the other.

ARTICLE 8

NOTICE AND ADDRESSES

Any notice required to be given or made pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding shall be in writing. Such notice should be deemed to have been duly given or made when it shall have been delivered by hand, e-mail, mail, fax or telegram to the party to which it is required to be given or made, at the address below:

For the ILO:

Guy Ryder
Director-General

For the g7+ Secretariat:

Dr Helder da Costa,
General Secretary
g7+ Secretariat
Dili, Timor-Leste.

ARTICLE 9

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

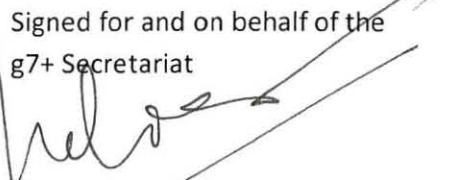
The parties should use their best efforts to settle amicably all disputes, controversies or claims arising out of or in connection with this Memorandum of Understanding or the interpretation thereof.

ARTICLE 10

ENTRY INTO FORCE

This Memorandum of Understanding, done in two (2) originals shall enter into force on the date when it has been duly signed by both of the parties.

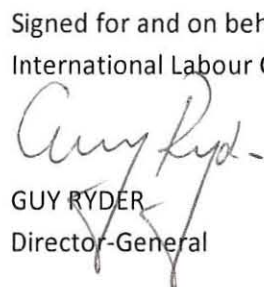
Signed for and on behalf of the
g7+ Secretariat



HELDER DA COSTA
General Secretary

Date: 20 March 2014

Signed for and on behalf of the
International Labour Office



GUY RYDER
Director-General

Date: 20 March 2014

Annex 1: New Deal



A NEW DEAL for engagement in fragile states

THE FACTS

- *1.5 billion people live in conflict-affected and fragile states.*
- *About 70% of fragile states have seen conflict since 1989.*
- *Basic governance transformations may take 20-40 years.*
- *30% of Official Development Assistance (ODA) is spent in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.*
- *These countries are furthest away from achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).*

The current ways of working in fragile states need serious improvement. Despite the significant investment and the commitments of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005) and the Accra Agenda for Action (2008), results and value for money have been modest. Transitioning out of fragility is long, political work that requires **country leadership and ownership**. Processes of political dialogue have often failed due to lack of trust, inclusiveness, and leadership. International partners can often bypass national interests and actors, providing aid in overly technocratic ways that underestimate the importance of harmonising with the national and local context, and support short-term results at the expense of medium- to long-term sustainable results brought about by building capacity and systems. A **New Deal** for engagement in fragile states is necessary.

THE VISION

We, the members of the **International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding** ("the Dialogue"), comprised of the g7+ group of 19 fragile and conflict-affected countries, development partners, and international organisations, believe that a new development architecture and new ways of working, better tailored to the situation and challenges of fragile contexts, are necessary to build peaceful states and societies.

These are presented in the **New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States** (the "**New Deal**").

The "**New Deal**", which builds on the vision and principles articulated from the Millennium Declaration to the Monrovia Roadmap, proposes key peacebuilding and statebuilding goals, focuses on new ways of engaging, and identifies commitments to build mutual trust and achieve better results in fragile states.

We recognise that the success of our combined effort depends on the leadership and commitment of the g7+ group of fragile states supported by international actors. We also recognise that constructive state-society relations, and the empowerment of women, youth and marginalised groups, as key actors for peace, are at the heart of successful peacebuilding and statebuilding. They are essential to deliver the "**New Deal**".

THE NEW DEAL

We, the members of "the Dialogue", endorse the "**New Deal**" and commit to undertake the necessary actions and reforms to implement it.

- We agree to use the **Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals (PSGs)**, as an important foundation to enable progress towards the MDGs to guide our work in fragile and conflict-affected states. By September 2012, a set of indicators for each goal will have been developed by fragile states and international partners, which will allow us to track progress at the global and the country level.
- We commit to **FOCUS** on new ways of engaging, to support inclusive **country-led and country-owned transitions out of fragility** based on a country-led fragility assessment developed by the g7+ with the support of international partners, a country-led one vision and one plan, a country compact to implement the plan, using the PSGs to monitor progress, and support inclusive and participatory political dialogue.
- We commit to build mutual **TRUST** by providing **aid and managing resources more effectively and aligning these resources for results**. We will enhance transparency, risk management to use country systems, strengthen national capacities and timeliness of aid, improving the speed and predictability of funding to achieve better results.

I. Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals - **PSGs**

We, the members of “the Dialogue”, agree to use the **Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals (PSGs)** as an important foundation to enable progress towards the MDGs and to guide our work in fragile and conflict-affected states. The five goals are:

Legitimate Politics - *Foster inclusive political settlements and conflict resolution*

Security - *Establish and strengthen people's security*

Justice - *Address injustices and increase people's access to justice*

Economic Foundations - *Generate employment and improve livelihoods*

Revenues & Services - *Manage revenue and build capacity for accountable and fair service delivery*

The PSGs will guide the identification of peacebuilding and statebuilding priorities at the country level. They will inform the national vision, plan and a country-level compact to implement the plan. They will inform global and country-level funding decisions to help ensure that all fragile countries, and their key peacebuilding and statebuilding priorities, are supported.

By September 2012, a set of indicators for each goal will have been developed by fragile states and international partners, which will allow us to track progress at the global and the country levels. These indicators will combine objective measures with measures to understand the views of people on results achieved.

We will work towards full consideration of the PSGs in the post-MDG development framework beyond 2015 and, after Busan, towards the consideration of the PSGs by the 2012 United Nations General Assembly and other fora.

II. **FOCUS** - Engagement to support country-owned and -led pathways out of fragility

As part of the “New Deal” we commit to **FOCUS** on new ways of engaging, to support inclusive **country-led and country-owned transitions out of fragility** based on a country-led fragility assessment developed by the g7+ with the support of development partners, a country-led one vision and one plan, a country compact to implement the plan, using the PSGs to monitor progress, and support inclusive and participatory political dialogue. We recognise that an engaged public and civil society, which constructively monitors decision-making, is important to ensure accountability.

F: Fragility assessment. We will conduct a periodic country-led assessment on the causes and features of fragility and sources of resilience as a basis for one vision, one plan. The assessment will include key national stakeholders and non-state actors and will build upon a harmonised methodology, including a **fragility spectrum**,ⁱ to be developed by the g7+ and supported by international partners.

O: One vision, one plan. We will develop and support one national vision and one plan to transition out of fragility. This vision and plan will be country-owned and -led, developed in consultation with civil society and based on inputs from the fragility assessment. Plans will be flexible so as to address short-, medium- and long-term peacebuilding and statebuilding priorities. The country-led plan will be the guiding framework for all country-led identification of priorities. They will be monitored, reviewed and adjusted in consultation with key stakeholders on an annual basis.

C: Compact. A compact is a key mechanism to implement one vision, one plan. A compact will be drawn upon a broad range of views from multiple stakeholders and the public, and be reviewed annually through a multi-stakeholder review. Recognising differences in fragility and national contexts, and that a compact may take different forms at different points in transition out of fragility, a compact will ensure harmonisation and donor co-ordination, reduce duplication, fragmentation and programme proliferation.ⁱⁱ A compact can guide the choice of aid modalities, and can provide a basis to determine the allocation of donor resources aligned to the country-led national priorities, in line with good aid effectiveness principles. A compact can also be used as a short-term key transitional mechanism to guide country-led priorities while establishing one vision one plan, but always country-led. After the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, Korea (29 November – 1 December 2011), the g7+ and international partners will develop an agreed definition of a ‘compact’ in fragile states for deeper understanding and socialisation, will issue policy guidance on its use, and will consider a peer review mechanism between member countries and international partners to support their implementation.

U: Use PSGs to monitor. We will use the PSGs targets and indicators to monitor country-level progress.

S: Support political dialogue and leadership. We will increase our support for credible and inclusive processes of political dialogue. We will support global, regional and national initiatives to build the capacity of government and civil society leaders and institutions to lead peacebuilding and statebuilding efforts. We will ensure that specific support is targeted to promote youth and women's participation in political dialogue and leadership initiatives.

III. **TRUST** - Commitments for results

As part of the “New Deal” we commit to build mutual **TRUST** by **providing aid and managing resources more effectively and aligning these resources for results**. Recent evidence reveals that implementation of the previous commitments has been uneven and we re-affirm the commitments made in the Paris Declaration, Accra Agenda for Action and the Fragile States Principles (2007).ⁱⁱⁱ In doing so, we will enhance transparency, risk management to use country systems, strengthen national capacities and timeliness of aid, improving the speed and predictability of funding to achieve better results.

An essential pre-condition for progress in all of the New Deal's commitments is to foster confidence between people, communities, the state and international partners. This involves delivering visible results quickly and on a continuous basis.

T: Transparency. We will ensure more transparent use of aid (ODA and non-ODA). We will monitor, through the DAC, overall resource flows to fragile states and will track international assistance against individual goals. Locally, countries with international support, will strengthen, or where necessary, support the creation and development of national reporting and planning systems (*e.g.* budgets, transparency portals, aid information management systems) and provide support to domestic oversight mechanisms including national parliaments. We will support the greater transparency of fiscal systems in a manner consistent to capacity and context, drawing from good practice from the g7+ and agreed international benchmarks on transparency of aid resources in a manner consistent with International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) compatible standards.^{iv} We will solicit citizen's views to assess the transparency of domestic resources and aid. These commitments build on the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action.^v

R: Risk-sharing. We accept the risk of engaging during transition, recognising that the risk of non-engagement in this context can outweigh most risks of engagement. We will identify context-specific, joint donor risk-mitigation strategies, which will require different approaches to risk management and capacity development. We will conduct joint assessments of the specific risks associated with working in fragile situations and will identify and use joint mechanisms to reduce and better manage risks so as to build the capacity of, and enhance the use of, country systems, step up investments for peacebuilding and statebuilding priorities, and reduce aid volatility.

U: Use and strengthen country systems. We will jointly identify oversight and accountability measures required to enhance confidence in and to enable the expanded use and strengthening of country systems.^{vi} Recipient governments, with support from international partners, will take all reasonable measures to strengthen their public financial management systems from the ground up and be transparent in this process. In doing so, we will build related fiduciary and administrative capacity within country institutions at the national and local level. International partners will increase the percentage of aid delivered through country systems^{vii} on the basis of measures and targets jointly agreed at the country level.^{viii} Recipient governments will seek to increase the proportion of public expenditure funded by domestic revenues.

S: Strengthen capacities. To ensure efficient support to build critical capacities of institutions of the state and civil society in a balanced manner, we will increase the proportion of funds for capacity development through jointly administered and funded pooled facilities.^{ix} We will substantially reduce programme implementation units per institution and will target the use of external technical assistance, ensuring they report through to the relevant national authority.^x We will work towards an understanding on remuneration codes of conduct between government and international partners for national experts. We will facilitate the exchange of South-South and fragile-fragile experiences on transitions out of fragility.

T: Timely and predictable aid. We will develop and use simplified, accountable fast-track financial management and procurement procedures to improve the speed and flexibility of aid delivery in fragile situations,^{xi} and review national legal frameworks to support our shared objectives. We commit to increase the predictability of aid, including by publishing three-to-five year indicative forward estimates (as committed in the Accra Agenda for Action), and to make more effective use of global and country level funds for peacebuilding and statebuilding.^{xii} Where national legislation may prevent this, development partners will seek to address these aid delivery challenges to allow them to better

deliver on these commitments. We will provide necessary data to the Development Assistance Committee (DAC)^{xiii} to enable regular reporting on volatility.

THE NEW DEAL: From Paris to Busan

The “**New Deal**”, presented in this document, is based on the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005), the Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations (2007), the Kinshasa Statement (2008), the Accra Agenda for Action (2008), the Dili Declaration and consecutive g7+ Statements (2010-2011), the Monrovia Roadmap (2011), and the work undertaken by “the Dialogue” working groups.^{xiv} It also acknowledges that the Principles and Good Practices of Humanitarian Donorship will be followed with respect to humanitarian action.

The Cairo Conference on Capacity Development (February 2011), the Addis Ababa Meeting on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (September 2011), and the g7+ Juba Ministerial Retreat (October 2011) have contributed to shaping and building consensus around the New Deal.

Recognising that building peaceful states requires long-term efforts and incremental approaches, we will implement the “**New Deal**” between 2012-15, as a trial period.

“THE DIALOGUE” CONTINUES

Going forward, we agree that “the Dialogue” has a vital role to play in supporting members in implementing the “**New Deal**” and in continuing to promote effective ways to support countries transitioning out of fragility and building peaceful states. The g7+ group will continue as the country-owned and country-led global mechanism to monitor, report and draw attention to the unique challenges faced by fragile states. International partners will continue to support this mechanism. “The Dialogue” will continue to provide a platform for its members and reach out to other interested partners, discuss overall progress in reforming efforts to support peacebuilding and statebuilding and agree on additional joint action that may be required. We will meet annually to do so.

We agree to work together through “the Dialogue” to implement this New Deal including *via*:

- **Piloting:** We will support the piloting of the “**New Deal**” (PSGs, FOCUS and TRUST) in self-nominating countries, including Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Timor-Leste and self-nominating donor partners in these countries. To do so, we will consider the appropriate funding sources.
- **Reporting:** We will report on the delivery of the “**New Deal**” commitments focused at the country level and at the global level. We will agree on the mechanisms to do so.

ⁱ The Fragility Spectrum is a diagnostic tool to assist fragile and conflict affected states to identify the nature of their own fragility and plan a pathway of transition towards stability and development.

ⁱⁱ See Fragile States Principle 7: “Align with local priorities in different ways in different contexts. Where governments demonstrate political will to foster development, but lack capacity, international actors should seek to align assistance behind government strategies. Where capacity is limited, the use of alternative aid instruments - such as international compacts or multi-donor trust funds - can facilitate shared priorities and responsibility for execution between national and international institutions”.

ⁱⁱⁱ See 2011 Survey on Monitoring the Paris Declaration (OECD 2011), and International Engagement in Fragile States: Can’t we do better? (OECD 2011).

^{iv} Transparency can also be pursued through other international standards.

^v See Accra Agenda for Action paragraph 24a.

^{vi} These will include contracting out fiduciary service, using independent monitoring agents, co-managing programme implementation, a donor-led review of acquisition and assistance and any other relevant policies to ensure these objectives are met.

^{vii} Building on Accra Agenda for Action paragraph 15.

^{viii} As permitted by donors’ respective applicable legal provisions.

^{ix} Consistent with donor applicable legal provisions and building on Paris Declaration target 4 that “50% of technical co-operation flows [be] implemented through co-ordinated programmes consistent with national development strategies”.

^x Building on Paris Declaration target 6 which aims to “reduce by two-thirds the stock of parallel project implementation units (PIUs)” in-country, and Fragile States Principle 2: Do no harm.

^{xi} Where possible, in accordance with national legislation.

^{xii} Where possible, in accordance with national legislation and the Accra Agenda for Action paragraph 26c.

^{xiii} The DAC is a committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The OECD also hosts the Secretariat of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding.

^{xiv} Four “Dialogue” working groups met and discussed key blockages to effective support to peacebuilding and statebuilding, and recommendations to address them in the following areas: i) political dialogue; ii) planning processes; iii) capacity development; iv) aid instruments.

Annex 2:
List of g7+ member States

Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Liberia, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Timor-Leste and Togo.