



Statement of the g7+ Heads of State

September 20, 2010

High Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly
MDG Summit, New York City

We, the g7+, assembled on September 20, 2010 at the MDG Summit of the 2010 High Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly, United Nations, New York City, to signify the collective voice of fragile and conflict-affected countries and regions.

Accounting for almost 350 million global citizens, the g7+ stands as the sole independent assembly dedicated to their plight. While our in-country challenges are unique in nature, the gaps we face internally are experiences profoundly shared by the countries and regions of the g7+.

Conflict and crises cost the global community hundreds of billions of dollars per annum in arms spending and economic loss and cost our regions an incalculable amount through human suffering, extreme poverty and the destruction of lives.

Mired by fragility, conflict and vulnerability to natural disasters, our countries and regions have the highest poverty rates averaging 54%. Compared to developing countries, we have a 50% higher prevalence of malnutrition; 20% higher child mortality rate; and 18% lower primary education completion rate. If 94% of disasters and 97% of natural disaster related deaths occur in developing nations, then fragile and post conflict countries and regions face even greater challenges in responding to emergency situations.

We are the countries and regions farthest away from meeting the MDGs and acknowledge that we will not meet the expectations of the MDGs by 2015 unless strong measures are undertaken. Urgent action is required.

All too often international engagement is slow in action and blocked by administrative and bureaucratic constraints. These hinder the effective and real time engagement required to counter uncertainty, conflict, destruction and loss of life.

We believe that aid delivery, interventions and programs instigated by international actors are often inapplicable, unsustainable and incompatible with our in-country national agendas. As a result they are often not conducive to addressing the immediate or long-term needs of our countries and regions.

The g7+ challenges the global community and international actors to reform, re-invent and commit to a new paradigm of international engagement in fragile and conflict affected countries and regions. External mandates and ideas can no longer be imposed on our countries or regions and our peoples. We believe that good international partnership begins with mutual respect.

The first step must be the global community formally accepting the g7+ forum as a contributor to, and participant in, global policy.

New approaches to aid is vital for peacebuilding and statebuilding, and should be in line with the obligations outlined in The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (March 2005), the subsequent Accra Agenda for Action (September 2008) and The Dili Declaration, which emerged from the first International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (April 2010). At the core of the Dili Declaration is the belief that true assistance should promote ownership of policies by the recipient country.

We reaffirm our commitment to pursue those goals to which the architects of the MDG aspired. Prioritization should include the principles of peacebuilding and statebuilding as mechanisms to achieve the MDGs. Without peace and in the absence of strengthened state capacity for efficient service delivery, the MDGs will remain a distant dream.

g7+ countries and regions must seek to better understand the complexities of diversity and inequality along historical, cultural, economic, social, political, religious and regional lines and communicate these to the international community.

In some regions, we are striving, in a mere two decades, to influence cultures and traditions that were norms for centuries. We must now recognize these factors are significant in the MDG matrix. We must educate diverse communities regarding universal development values and unfamiliar principles that will take time to socialize and strive to be innovative and sensitive in approach within each individual country context.

We also recognize that many of our challenges are defined by global activities that contribute to conditions of fragility and conflict. The global financial crisis drove an additional 90 million people into extreme poverty; global disasters from climate change most deeply affect our regions; and yet our participation in global policy is yet to be formally invited despite our countries and regions being most affected.

And while we take full responsibility to solve internal deterrents to reaching the MDGs, global factors are adversely impacting our ability towards achievement. Therefore, the g7+ is necessary to contribute to strategic responses. We believe that to alleviate the challenges facing our most vulnerable, the g7+ must be active participants in directly shaping international intervention and engagement.

The g7+ will bring greater understanding and insight into our collective challenges, and provide a formal mechanism for innovative resolutions in line with international best practice. Ultimately, this new paradigm will properly address the sources of fragility and conflict, hastening intervention.

The g7+ wishes to acknowledge the good will of all international actors, and notably the United Nations for supporting the g7+. We acknowledge that global partnerships are the foundations for long-lasting diplomatic concord, with both parties contributing equally to a shared vision.

The g7+ is a step towards global inclusion and extends the hand of friendship, solidarity, understanding, tolerance and dialogue in the pursuit of peace and sustainable development.

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