



## CONCEPT NOTE

### ***Development for All: Stop conflict, build states and eradicate poverty*** **International Conference on the Post-2015 Development Agenda** **Dili, Timor-Leste** **February 25-28, 2013**

#### **Introduction**

The Government of Timor-Leste is hosting an international conference on the Post-2015 Development Agenda in Dili on the 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> February 2013.

The theme is '*Development for All: Stop conflict, build states and eradicate poverty*'. The conference will be an intensive forum focussed on addressing the needs of the 1.5 billion, or almost 20 per cent of humanity, living in fragile or conflict-affected contexts.

The conference is also supported by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Australian Agency for International Development and the Pacific Institute of Public Policy.

Outcomes from this important international event will feed into the UN High Level Panel report to the Secretary General of the United Nations on the global development agenda beyond 2015 – the original target date for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The international forum will bring together leaders of government from the 18 fragile and conflict-affected states that comprise the g7+ to lead the discussion.<sup>1</sup> Participants will also include representatives from Timor-Leste's closest neighbours in Asia and the Pacific Region, including Australia and Indonesia, as well as other nations from around the region and the world. International development experts, civil society representatives and private sector representatives will also be invited to participate.

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<sup>1</sup>g7+ Member States: Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Union of the Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Haiti, Liberia, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Timor-Leste (Chair) and Togo.

Timor-Leste is proud to chair the g7+, a global forum now recognised as representing the voice of fragile and conflict-affected states internationally. The g7+ provides a country-owned and country-led platform to draw attention to the unique challenges faced by fragile and conflict-affected states.

While two of the 14 Pacific Island countries – Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands – are members of the g7+ due to their past episodes of conflict, all Pacific nations experience degrees of fragility and insecurity that are exacerbated by climate change.

This important event will be an opportunity for the voices of the 1.5 billion people in fragile and conflict-affected nations to be heard and their concerns taken seriously at the regional and global level. The conference and stakeholder consultation will assess what has prevented greater progress on the MDGs in fragile contexts, and how to frame the post-2015 development agenda to better address these challenges. Designed to move the agenda forward, the conference will focus on those areas that do not yet have broad consensus or are not being covered by other forums. The intended outcome paper will propose ways to address the unique needs and challenges of the most vulnerable in the world within a framework that is realistic, implementable and adaptable to country-specific needs.

Leading into the conference will be a Pacific Island states stakeholder consultation, also held in Dili, on 25 February 2013, which will offer a chance for Pacific representatives to share experiences of what has and has not worked under the MDGs, and put forward the Pacific's development priorities for inclusion in the post-2015 dialogue.

## **Background**

The 8 goals, 21 targets and 60 indicators of the MDGs all aim to give people the core minimum living conditions. However, all these goals require and presuppose the existence of well-functioning institutions able to deliver services to people, underpinned by a peaceful and cohesive state. In fragile and conflict-affected countries the pressures on peace and stability can undermine any efforts to achieve the MDGs. Security concerns amplify development challenges and increase vulnerability.

According to the World Bank's World Development Report 2011, 'Some 1.5 billion people live in countries affected by repeated cycles of political and criminal violence, and no low-income fragile or conflict-affected country has yet to achieve a single Millennium Development Goal.<sup>2</sup> We also know that the gap in MDG performance between fragile and conflict-affected countries and other developing countries is large and increasing. The UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda<sup>3</sup> has reported that people living in fragile and conflict-affected states account for 47 per cent of the population of developing countries

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<sup>2</sup> World Bank (2011) *The World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security and Development* - <http://www.wdronline.worldbank.org/>

<sup>3</sup> UN System task Team on the post 2015 UN Development Agenda (2012), *Think Piece Peace and Security*, PBSO.

(excluding Brazil, China and India), and for more than 60 per cent of the world's undernourished, 61 per cent of the world's impoverished, 77 per cent of children not in primary school, and 65 per cent of people without access to safe water.

This is not a small or isolated issue; conflict and instability affects the lives of 1.5 billion people globally. Nor is the issue just about a lack of aid or money. Many resource-rich countries are struggling to meet the MDGs.

In contrast, the development success stories from East Asian nations were underscored by political will, peace and stability, consolidation of the rule of law, and a national vision which united the population around a set of shared goals. None of these stories highlight aid as the main driver of state building, economic growth or poverty alleviation.

The rules surrounding international development are no longer the sole domain of the wealthy OECD nations. There are new donors and development partners, and south-south cooperation affords the opportunity to learn from shared experiences by looking at development challenges through a variety of perspectives. Under the *New Deal for Engagement for Fragile States*, the g7+, with the support of its partners, agreed the core foundations for country-owned and country-led transitions to the next stage of development – from fragility to resilience. Among others, the development priorities for fragile and conflict-affected states include political processes for peaceful resolutions to conflicts, security, justice, economic foundations and resource and revenue management. These are also the prerequisites needed to achieve the MDGs.

The countdown to deliver on the MDGs is underway in earnest and with that is an intensifying global discussion on what to do post-2015. Much attention has been directed towards the gaps in the current development framework. While the MDGs have been problematic in many ways, there is recognition that focused policy actions, sustained efforts to promote equitable development, and building an evidence base of progress over time are among the positive achievements of the MDGs.

### **Towards 2015**

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has named President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia and Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom as co-chairs of a 27-member High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (HLP). Timor-Leste's Finance Minister, Emilia Pires, is a member of the Panel. The HLP has met twice (New York and London) and plans further meetings in Monrovia (February 2013) and Indonesia (March 2013) before a final meeting in New York in May 2013 to finalise the HLP report to the Secretary-General.

The upcoming multilateral deliberations need to draw on informed and inclusive national, regional and global level consultations. A broader public understanding of development goals and targets will ensure they represent the real needs of people and better connect to the ongoing policy debate. Wide-ranging participation will also strengthen the relationship between elected representatives and their constituents around the local issues that matter for development.

Governments, multilateral agencies, NGOs and academics around the world are working to shape the new development architecture. There will be inevitable competition over what should and should not be included. This in itself signals the need for meaningful dialogue throughout the process – to identify where there is broad-based consensus (and therefore the ability to address other issues), where the key differences of opinion are at the country and regional levels and what is required to resolve such differences. The process of advancing the post-2015 development agenda will fundamentally affect the ultimate outcome of the process.

National development is a continuing process and measuring progress is complex and often controversial. Achieving consensus on the post-2015 development agenda will not be an easy task, especially since this time the development goals will need to apply universally across high-, middle- and low-income countries. At the same time, the new targets will need to be relevant to each country's phase of development and national context. Delivering a comprehensive global agenda based on a core set of priorities with differentiated responsibilities will necessitate a nationally-defined suite of indicators that feed into common goals. Governments need to own their primary roles and responsibilities while committing to the agreed goals.

Currently running in parallel to the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda is the work arising from the Rio+20 Summit, which aims to agree global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). There are strong arguments to align these processes, as the post-2015 framework will also need to embody principles of sustainable development.

The g7+ and Pacific Island states have a shared interest in focusing attention on the human security dimensions of the new development agenda. The risk of conflict and instability is highest in new and fragile states that already experience stresses around water supplies, agricultural productivity, poor education and health systems, weak employment and business opportunities and major demographic shifts. Climate change threatens to accentuate future human security issues, which will impact the global development challenges into the future. Taken in this context, the post-2015 development agenda presents an opportunity for our leaders to take a holistic approach to development, human security and climate change.

## Event Overview

**Title:** *'Development for All: Stop conflict, build states and eradicate poverty.'* An international conference on the post-2015 Development Agenda

**Hosted by:** The Government of Timor-Leste

**Date:** 26-28 February 2013

**Venue:** Dili Convention Centre, Dili, Timor-Leste

**Format:** The conference will provide a country-owned and country-led forum for representatives of the g7+ and Pacific Island countries to contribute to the international conversation about the focus of development beyond 2015. The dialogue will offer a chance to connect principal stakeholders; promote fraternity between the members of the g7+, Pacific Island countries and development partners; test ideas; and build trust, understanding and consensus for action around the areas of mutual interest for inclusion in the post-2015 development agenda.

**Title:** *Pacific Islands stakeholder consultation meeting on the post-2015 Development Agenda*

**Hosted by:** The Government of Timor-Leste

**Date:** 25 February 2013

**Venue:** Dili Convention Centre, Dili, Timor-Leste

**Format:** The Pacific islands stakeholder consultation will offer a chance for Pacific representatives to share experiences of what has and has not worked under the MDGs, and put forward the Pacific's development priorities for inclusion in the post-2015 dialogue.

The Dili International Conference is generously supported by:

