

News from the International Dialogue 3rd and 4th Quarter 2014

1. RECENT ACTIVITIES

Round table discussion between g7+ and G20 in Seoul, 18 – 20 August 2014

From 18 to 20 August 2014, members of the g7+ met with G20 representatives during a round table discussion held in Seoul, South Korea. The meeting was hosted by the Korean Development Institute's (KDI) School of Public Policy and Management, and was dedicated to identifying possible means of cooperation between the g7+ and the G20. The International Dialogue (IDPS) Secretariat participated and presented on current activities and structures around the New Deal Helpdesk. See IDPS recap [here](#).

Meetings around the UNGA in New York, 22 – 27 September 2014

g7+ High Level Side Event, 22 September

During the 69th General Assembly of the United Nations, **the g7+ organised a side event** on the inclusion of *Peace* and *Capable Institutions* as stand-alone goals with regard to the post-2015 development agenda. The event was hosted by the Government of Sierra Leone and chaired by H.E. Minister Dr Samura Kamara. H.E. Prime Minister of Timor-Leste Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, H.E. Minister Dr Kaifala Marah and H.E. Minister Pekka Haavisto held keynote speeches. An outcome document and the remarks of H.E. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão and H.E. Dr Kaifala Marah are available [here](#).

Meeting between the co-Chairs and the Executive Board of CSPPS, 22 September

Members of the CSPPS Executive Committee, H.E. Minister Marah and Special Representative from Finland, H.E. Kimmo Laukkanen, met in New York around the UNGA on 22 September 2014. They discussed how to increase the participation of Civil Society Organisations in country-level New Deal implementation, as well as the importance of state-society dialogues. Minister Marah suggested that Civil Society Organisations should be more proactive and offered his support to strengthening the role of the civil society in g7+ countries.



Co-Chair meeting of the International Dialogue, 23 September

A meeting between the two co-Chairs of the International Dialogue took place on 23 September 2014. During the meeting the co-Chairs discussed the two planned high-level missions to the Central African Republic and Guinea-Bissau, preparations for the Steering Group meeting in October 2014, the restructuring of the IDPS Secretariat and their vision for the future development of the International Dialogue. It was the last meeting of H.E. Pekka Haavisto as co-Chair of the International Dialogue before he resigned as Minister of International Development of Finland.



Events around the World Bank Annual Meeting in Washington, 10 – 13 October 2014

Meetings of the g7+ with the World Bank, the IMF and the IFC, 10 – 12 October

During the annual World Bank meetings 2014, ministers of the g7+ met with leaders from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC). **The first meeting with the IFC** on 10 October was on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) support to g7+ member countries. On 12 October, the **g7+ met with senior officials from the IMF** to discuss Domestic Revenue Mobilisation and IMF support in this area. The same day **g7+ Finance Ministers met with World Bank President Dr. Jim Yong Kim** and senior World Bank management and discussed both the Ebola crisis and a strengthening of the cooperation between the two organisations. Summaries of the meetings can be found [here](#).

International Dialogue Working Group meeting, 10 October

The Implementation Working Group of the International Dialogue met on 10 October 2014 in Washington. The discussion focused mainly on the New Deal Monitoring Report and the next round of monitoring, the Ebola outbreak in three member countries and the New Deal helpdesk. The Working Group further defined its priorities for 2014 / 2015. The summary record will be available shortly. Find the New Deal Monitoring Report online here [\[ENG\]](#) [\[FRE\]](#).

International Dialogue Steering Group meeting, 13 October

The International Dialogue Steering Group met on 13 October 2014 in Washington to discuss the main messages of the [New Deal Monitoring Report](#), set priorities for the remaining 14 months before the expiration of the New Deal mandate and the restructuring of the IDPS Secretariat.



Summary records are available here [\[ENG\]](#) [\[FRE\]](#).

Expert Conference “The New Deal and Fragile States. Challenges to Peace, Stability and Development”, Brussels, 15 – 16 October 2014

Representatives of the International Dialogue participated in the *Expert Conference on the New Deal and Fragile States*, organised by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Political Academy. A brief summary of the conference can be found [here](#).

INCAF Director Level Meeting (DLM), Paris, 3 – 4 November 2014

INCAF members met at Director Level on 3 – 4 November 2014 in Paris. They discussed, among other topics, the approaches to the Ebola crisis, how to better deliver New Deal implementation on the ground, the 2015 States of Fragility Report, their work plan as well as their political strategy. Summary records will be available shortly. On 5 November a joint INCAF Gender and Statebuilding Workshop took place. Representatives from the g7+ and CSPPS participated in the meetings.

INCAF breakfast discussion on fragility issues at OECD-DAC High Level Meeting, 16 December 2014

A breakfast discussion on fragility issues was held during the OECD-Development Assistance Committee High Level Meeting in December 2014. The DAC Chair, Erik Solheim, introduced the issues before handing the floor to the representatives of the two INCAF co-Chairs (Switzerland and UNDP). Speakers included Finland (as the outgoing co-Chair of the International Dialogue) and Sweden.

2. NEW DEAL PROGRESS – COUNTRY UPDATES

Afghanistan

Ashraf Ghani sworn in as new President of Afghanistan

After the presidential elections went into a second round on 14 June 2014 and a run-off ballot was held between former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah and Ashraf Ghani, Afghanistan has a new Government as of 21 September 2014. A power-sharing agreement has been signed between Abdullah and Ghani, which inaugurated Ghani as new President while Abdullah fills in the newly created post of Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The latter role is comparable to that of a Prime Minister, and cabinet posts will be divided equally between the President and the CEO.

New Deal Study Assessment under way

The new situation gives way for a Study Assessment for the integration of the Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals (PSGs) into the National Development Plan 2014-2019. The Study Assessment has been designed by the Afghan Ministry of Finance and UNDP in the first half of 2014 but was delayed in order to enable the new Government to take the lead. The Ministry of Finance has also indicated its interest in conducting an assessment on transitioning from aid effectiveness to development effectiveness.

Guinea-Bissau

New Government under President José Mário Vaz took up duties

After José Mário Vaz of the *Partido Africano para a Independência da Guiné e Cabo Verde* (PAIGC) won the national elections against his opponent Nuno Gomes Nabiam in May 2014, the new Government was formed at the beginning of July. Domingos Simões Pereira has been named Prime Minister on 25 June. The formation of the new Government has been an important step to enable future New Deal processes in the country. Additionally, Miguel Trovoada from São Tomé and Príncipe took over from José Ramos-Horta as new UN Special Representative to the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau in July 2014.

International Dialogue technical mission from 24 – 28 November 2014

The purpose of the technical mission was to establish preliminary contacts with the Government, the donor community, and the UN System, with a focus on **determining the scope, timing and focus of a High Level Mission in early 2015 and facilitating the implementation of the Fragility Assessment**. The mission was also charged with the task of informing the International Dialogue about preparations for the Donor Roundtables scheduled for February / March 2015 and determining whether and how the New Deal principles and the Fragility Assessment could be tailored to them.

Solomon Islands

Elections held on 19 November 2014

Solomon Islands held general elections on 19 November 2014. This was the first time the country had general elections since the end of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands, set up in 2003. The country has stabilised ever since, and the Assistance Mission ended its military operation last year. A total of 290,000 people were registered to vote in November after a new voter process was introduced in order

to ensure fair and credible elections. Independent candidates won 32 out of 50 seats, and a ruling coalition, the *Solomon Islands People's Democratic Coalition* (SIPDC), was formed. On 9 December 2014, Manasseh Sogavare was sworn in as new Prime Minister of the country.

Central African Republic

Peacekeeping mission deployed in CAR

In September 2014 the existing regional peacekeeping force has been transferred to the United Nations. Under the new mandate the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) is tasked with protecting civilians and supporting the transition process in the country. Despite attempts by the Government to reduce tensions within the population – on 10 August 2014, for example, Interim President H.E. Catherine Samba-Panza appointed H.E. Mahamat Kamoun as new Prime Minister – tensions remain and outbreaks of violence have been observed over the past months.

International Dialogue co-Chair mission planned for first quarter of 2015

An IDPS mission is planned for the first quarter of 2015, possibly after the Bangui Forum tentatively scheduled for February 2015. The mission aims to inform and sensitising government stakeholders, key international partners as well as civil society about the principles of the New Deal. A technical mission to CAR was conducted by UNDP in November 2014 and paved the way for a light-touch New Deal approach in the country, notably a 'fragility matrix' exercise to feed into the preparations of the Bangui Forum.

3. NEWS AND MEDIA

New Head of Unit, International Dialogue Secretariat

Dr Kathryn Nwajiaku joined the IDPS Secretariat as Head of Unit in October 2014. She has twenty years of experience of working in International Development in Africa, Europe and North America. As a development practitioner and advisor to governments, multilateral institutions, non-governmental organisations and the private sector, she has acquired a range of skills and expertise on conflict, peacebuilding and private sector development which she brings to the role.



H.E. Pekka Haavisto resigned as co-Chair of the International Dialogue

Following Government changes in Finland, H.E. Pekka Haavisto, the former Finnish Minister of International Development, has resigned from his post as co-Chair of the International Dialogue. INCAF is intending to nominate a new co-Chair and is considering a candidacy submitted by Sweden. Confirmation of INCAF's nomination is expected by the end of 2014.

New Job Opportunity at CSPPS Secretariat

The Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding recently advertised the position of CSPPS Policy and Communications Officer. The vacancy is open to anyone coming from or based in a member country of the g7+. Deadline for applications is Monday, 22 December 2014. The job offer is available here [\[ENG\]](#) [\[FRE\]](#).

New UNDP Quarterly Update on New Deal implementation progress

A new Quarterly Update on the progress of the New Deal implementation process has been released on the IDPS website. Please find the document [here](#). A short summary is available [here](#).

Article by H.E. Xanana Gusmão: Ebola Is Not Just West Africa's Crisis

H.E. Xanana Gusmão, Prime Minister of g7+ member country Timor-Leste, recently published an article on the Ebola crisis. He explains his view on how the crisis should be addressed and asks for more international

engagement: *“This is an emergency of enormous scale, and we all have a moral obligation to stand shoulder to shoulder to ensure its swift conclusion”*. The article is available [here](#).

Statement of solidarity from the g7+ Secretariat

The g7+ Secretariat released a statement of solidarity on the outbreak of the Ebola virus in West Africa, addressed at the countries afflicted by the crisis. Read the statement [here](#).

International Labour Organization is new member of the International Dialogue

The co-Chairs of the International Dialogue are pleased to announce that the International Labour Organization (ILO) has officially become a member. Please find a full list of the IDPS members [here](#).

4. UPCOMING EVENTS

14 January 2015: International Dialogue Business and Peace Workshop, OECD Headquarters, Paris