



OPENING STATEMENT

BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY DR. JULIUS MAADA BIO
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE
AT THE HIGH-LEVEL SUMMIT OF THE G7+**

COUNTRIES

**AT THE MARGINS OF THE 79TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY HIGH-
LEVEL WEEK**

**THEME: "PEACE IN THE WORLD AND PEACE IN THE
G7+ COUNTRIES: SHARED CHALLENGES AND
SOLUTIONS"**

September 25, 2024

CR 11, UNHQ, New York

- **Excellency and Colleague José Manuel Ramos-Horta, President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Host of the g7 Plus Secretariat,**
- **Secretary-General of the g7 Plus,**
- **Colleagues, Heads of State and Government,**
- **Honourable Ministers,**
- **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. I extend warm greetings to your Excellencies and esteemed colleagues and representatives of the g7+ countries for availing yourselves to attend this important Summit.

2. As leaders of the g7+, we are united not only by our shared aspirations for peace and development but also by the challenges we face while trying to solve them.

3. The g7+, in a short time, has made significant strides in advocating for and advancing the interests of fragile states. From the creation and endorsement of the **New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States** at the **Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, South Korea**, to delivering a statement at the UN Security Council in the open debate on '**Peacebuilding and Sustaining**

Peace: The New Agenda for Peace – Addressing global, regional and national aspects of conflict prevention’, during Sierra Leone’s August presidency of the Security Council.

4. The g7+ has been instrumental in shifting the global narrative around fragility, advocating for peacebuilding and state-building goals, and fostering a cooperative approach among fragile States to address their shared challenges.

5. The advocacy efforts have helped to ensure that international policies and aid frameworks better reflect the unique needs of fragile States.
6. I acknowledge and commend the Member States and our Secretariat for their important work and consistent achievements.
7. I also thank the host of our Secretariat, **Timor-Leste**, for their steadfast commitment to g7+.

8. Our conversation today under the theme **"Peace in the World and Peace in the g7+ Countries: Shared Challenges and Solutions"** is not only timely but essential as we collectively seek sustainable solutions to shared challenges that threaten the peace and stability of our nations.

9. The world today stands at a crossroads. Conflicts, economic disparities, and the impacts of climate change continue to destabilise vulnerable countries.

10. For the G7+, we know these realities all too well. In our nations, peace is not just an aspiration but a necessity, one that we have fought hard for and continue to strive to maintain. Yet, the barriers to lasting peace remain formidable.

11. As we reflect on the outcomes of the **UN Summit of the Future** and the adoption of the **"Pact for the Future,"** we must be mindful that the vision we seek for **"a world free from conflict and instability"** demands coordinated action.

- 12.** It requires us to address the root causes of fragility, which often stem from inequality, weak governance, and the marginalisation of vulnerable groups.
- 13.** At the same time, it calls for strengthened multilateralism, where global cooperation becomes a tool for preventing conflict rather than reacting to it.
- 14.** At the **Summit of the Future** and the adoption of the **Pact for the Future**, I delivered the **g7+ Joint Statement** highlighting the six points to situate the g7+ countries in the Pact for the Future's implementation.

15. The six key focus areas include (1) national ownership and inclusive governance; (2) promoting sustainable development in conflict-affected countries; (3) fostering international peace and security; (4) embracing science, technology, innovation, and digital cooperation; (5) youth and future generations as agents of change; and (6) transforming global governance and UN Security Council reform.

16. In my address, I maintained that the g7+ countries remain steadfast in our pursuit of peace, stability, and sustainable development.

EXCELLENCIES,

17. Today, I urge all of us to recommit to the principles of the g7+, solidarity among fragile nations, mutual learning, and cooperation in pursuit of sustainable development.

18. Let us forge new partnerships, strengthen regional and international frameworks, and innovate solutions that will enable us to overcome the shared challenges we face.

19. In this Summit, we have an opportunity to advance a common vision of peace, not only in the g7+ countries but for the entire world.

20. As we deliberate today, let us focus not just on the challenges we face but also on the opportunities for collaboration and shared solutions.

21. Let us leave here united in our resolve, inspired by the lessons of our past, and committed to building a future where peace is not just a distant dream but a lived reality for all.

22. Thank you, and I wish you all fruitful deliberations.