



## Remarks on the Occasion of the Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between The g7plus and the FPCD

Remarks by Claudia Abate

Founder and Executive Director of the FPCD

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Your Excellencies, Representatives of the g7+, Honored guests,

Thank you all for witnessing this monumental occasion.

First, I would like to express my deepest and most heartfelt gratitude to His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco, and His Excellency, Xanana Gusmao, for entrusting me, so many years ago with my vision for the Foundation for Post Conflict Development - Inspired by my United Nations career which included organizing the ceremonies of the 2002 restoration of Timor- Leste's independence. FPCD was founded in 2005 to bridge those in need, to those with capacity, with concrete projects that fulfill the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

With the Prince Rainier III maternity clinic, the first of its kind, we embarked on a true country-owned and country-led process.

As a non-profit organization, the FPCD has not reinvented the wheel - we redirected the focus.

As an intergovernmental entity, the g7+ has done the same.

Together, we provide a reimagined development trajectory full of potential.

It was a very conscious decision to sign this accord, right here in Lisbon, at the g7+ European HQ and in the sidelines of the UN Ocean Conference.

In 1979, Princess Grace of Monaco visited Timorese refugee camps here in Val Do Jamor, Portugal. Her humanitarian heart inspired a generation.

Today we stand here with that very generation.

With the same heart, His Serene Highness Prince Albert II, continues his mother's legacy. He stands alongside Xanana Gusmao, the father of the generation who built a thriving nation in Timor-Leste, and, who now leads all others like it through a forum known as the g7+.

While remaining true to our mission, today the FPCD commits to advocate through the eyes of the developing rather than through the lens of the developed and the principles which the g7+advocates. In turn, we promise to be bold and innovative in applying those principles to practice.

Although I founded the FPCD, it doesn't belong to me. It belongs to all of you. Whilst we are guided by Muriel Bubbio, President of the Monaco branch, with Mark Sandel, member of the Council of Administration, Missy Stephens from the Asia pacific, Yeni Pereira from Timor-Leste, and Jacky Deromedi, President of the International Advisory Board, and our youth leaders Anais Culotto and Berenice Bardonnnet. We cannot do it alone.



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Therefore, let today be a Call to Action, for other actors in the global community to follow our lead. I strongly believe that it is through non-traditional donors and non-traditional partnerships, that the most can be achieved for sustainable development.

Today 2 billion people live in conflict and fragility.

So let us dare to reimagine development. They are the depending on us.

I thank you very much.



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