

**Minutes of the XIV Development Partners Coordination Group Meeting
Held on 13 August, 2004
At UNDP OCHA Conference Room**

Subject	Decisions Taken	Responsible	Deadline	Observations and Follow-up
Introduction	Mr. Macharia Kamau, UNDP Resident Representative and UN Resident Coordinator, opened the meeting and, as presiding Chair, welcomed participants to UNDP to the fourteenth (XIV) DPCG Meeting. He also introduced and welcomed the Assistant Secretary General and Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa, Mr. Abdoulie JANNEH to the meeting.			
1) Review and adoption of June & July minutes	➤ June and July minutes were reviewed and adopted			
2) Mr. Abdoulie Janneh: Assistant-Secretary General & Director, UNDP RBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Janneh informed participants that he was in Rwanda to exchange views with the Government on the Africa Peer Review Process and to review Rwanda's achievements. He commended Rwanda's organization of the whole process with the clear involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the process. ➤ Mr. Janneh informed participants that the Heads of State Summit scheduled to take place this December in Kigali had been postponed to March 2005 to give Rwanda and Ghana more time to present their findings from the APRM to the other 22 countries that acceded to it. ➤ With regard to the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region on Peace, Security, Democracy and Development (ICGLR), Mr. Janneh informed participants that UNDP and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General, in Nairobi is coordinating the whole process, both financially and technically. He stressed that unless peace and stability are enhanced in the Great Lakes Region, development will not be achieved. He promised to bring the concerns raised by the National Coordinator of the process to Ambassador Fall's office and to Headquarters in New York, for discussion. 			<u>Heads of State Summit postponed to March 2005</u>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Janneh further stressed the need to upscale UNDP's support and assistance vis-à-vis the MDGs, the PRSP, and other national development strategies so as to fully meet the Country's development challenges. ➤ He commended the spirit of collaboration between donors, both bilateral and multilateral, as shown by their support for the DPCG and urged them to continue in this light. ➤ The UNDP RR discussed that the correlation between the NEPAD/APRM process and individual donor programmes was not very clear and suggested that each donor agency try to link its work with the Peer review process. ➤ With the regard to the ICGLR, The UNDP RR, informed participants that a new agenda had been prepared for all consultative meetings, in the run-up to the Heads of State Meeting in November in Dar es Salaam. <i>See attached revised timetable.</i> <p>(For more information, please contact Doris Mitti at doris.mitti@undp.org).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The UNDP RR then informed participants that according to the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Rwanda will not achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 because it lacks the resources necessary and the macro-economic constraints on the country are enormous. ➤ In the following discussion, it was noted that indeed investment is needed but the rate of returns from internal investments was very disappointing and if the trend continued like this, the MDGs would not be achieved. It was also noted that institutional handling of investments needs to change, management should be reviewed and activities need to be scaled up on. It was also noted that even though Governments were willing to provide support, the regional problems to which Rwanda is associated have caused a major hindrance in the provision of support. It was stressed that investment depends on the image of a country and the events taking place around Rwanda have had a negative impact on its image. It was agreed around the table that in order to encourage investment, there was the need to invest in 			<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Revised timetable for ICGLR attached.</u></p>
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	<p>peace and stability in the region. Initiatives such as the Great Lakes Conference and the NEPAD/APRM might help improve the image.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On the issue of targeting development aid to MDGs and its coordination, the UNDP RR informed participants that one of the initiatives that UNDP had come up with is a meeting on Pro-poor policies to help governments focus actions and activities on trade, political affairs, etc, by engaging donors and partners in issues of pro-poor programming. The meeting brought together a number of countries to discuss the way each one of them is conducting business, how effective these systems are and what was needed to coordinate support. <p>(For more information, contact Francis Gatere at francis.gatere@undp.org)</p>			
<p>3) Update on APR Process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Gatete informed that at the last meeting in Addis Ababa, it was decided that the self-assessment process would be completed by the end of September Technical review missions are expected at the end of October and the GoR has committed to hold the African Governance Forum at the end of December. ➤ Over the last few weeks, the NEPAD Committee met with the House of Parliament and discussed issues relating to the Vision 2020, the PRSP, National strategies, MDGs, NEPAD and the APR process in particular. Mr. Gatete informed participants that he was encouraged by the attendance of the National Assembly and the enthusiasm showed by the Deputies and Senators in understanding their role in the APR Process. ➤ The APR Commission also held a retreat from 24 to 26 July, which was attended by about 20 people from all Rwandan societies. The retreat was aimed at clarifying their role in moving the APR Process forward. It was realized that there was need for a different approach to achieve objectives, through consultative meetings, debates on national TV and Radio after which another retreat will be held on 28 August to review progress. ➤ Mr. Gatete reminded the participants that a trust fund had been set up at UNDP for support to the country process and requested them to provide support, both financial and technical where possible. He thanked those 			<p><u>A NEPAD Newsletter was circulated. More information can be found on the NEPAD website, www.nepadrwanda.gov.rw</u></p> <p><u>African Development Forum to be held at the end of December</u></p>

	<p>donors that have already contributed to the trust fund, as well as UNDP, the fund manager, and invited everyone to attend the Commission's meetings whenever possible.</p> <p>(For information on the Trust Fund, please contact Francis Gatara).</p>			
<p>Issues Outstanding from July minutes:</p> <p>1. a) PRSC Outcome and Update b) PRS Review update</p>	<p>1A) PRSC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Ernest Rwamucyo informed participants that during a meeting between the World Bank and the GoR, it was agreed that 12 prior actions to be achieved before the PRS Credit is disbursed. The Aide Memoire will be sent out soon. ➤ He informed that negotiations were taking place on various issues, as well as social impact assessments. <p>1B) PRS Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On the Progress Review, they have reviewed all the reports from the drafting teams and it will be finalized by August 14th. Once this is done, it will be circulated for feedback and stakeholders will be asked to give feedback on specific areas of interest. While they are a bit behind schedule, the high quality and comprehensive scope of the report justifies the lag. A validation workshop will be scheduled as soon as comments are received. ➤ Jo Bourne said that stakeholders will need 2 weeks to comment. In addition to “technical comments” on the report, stakeholders may also consider issuing a “Joint Comment” to look at whether the report is meeting the various agency reporting needs. ➤ Ernest Rwamucyo agreed and added that the validation workshop will need to look at how we can build on the process. As we move towards the next PRSP, we will need to carefully look at issues of reporting. ➤ Tom Leeming (EC) said that stakeholders did a Joint Commenting Process last year that worked well. Need to ask how this would fit with the World 			<p><u>PRSC Aide Memoire to be circulated.</u></p> <p><u>MinEcoFin to circulate draft to stakeholders for comments.</u></p> <p><u>Validation workshop to be held.</u></p> <p><u>Development Partners to follow up on the mechanics of the Joint Comment on the PRS Review.</u></p>

	<p>Bank and IMF Joint Staff Assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Macharia Kamau enthusiastically supported the process and asked others to provide support in order to produce a high quality Joint Statement. 			
<p>2. Update from Co-ordination Unit A) Status of HARPP B) Status of Project for the Support to Aid Coordination</p>	<p>A) <i>HARPP</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lisa Smirl briefed donors on the ongoing activities in the Harmonization and Alignment in Rwanda for Projects and Programmes. ➤ A Harmonization Framework has been drafted and is being circulated for comments. It will be presented at the September HARPP and includes a set of indicators and action plan for upcoming activities. There is interest in carrying out a survey based on the OECD/DAC survey as well as a case study of harmonization and alignment activities in Rwanda, however funding is needed to carry out these activities. These would then be used to feed into the Second High Level Forum on Harmonization and Alignment which is being held in Paris in February. <p style="text-align: center;">(For more information on the HARPP please contact Lisa Smirl lisa.smirl@undp.org)</p> <p>B) <i>Project development</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The project is currently being finalized 			<p><u>Follow up by DPCG Secretariat on how to ensure optimal participation of Rwanda in the High Level Forum on Harmonization and Alignment for Aid Effectiveness in Paris, February 2005</u></p>
<p>4. Update on Joint Review of MinEcoFin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ SG Gatete gave a brief expose of the planned DFID/UNDP Joint Review of MinEcoFin scheduled for August 30th – September 17th. He stressed the importance of the review in ensuring that donors align their support. It is particularly important at this juncture given the changes in CEPEX, the ongoing civil service reform, the organic budget law, the ongoing work with the IMF, and the upcoming reforms of the NTB and auditors office. These planned changes must be appropriately supported and donors must ensure that their support is harmonized and consistent. He thanked DFID for their support and urged others to look at ways that they could become involved. ➤ Francis Gatere said that UNDP is also sponsoring one consultant to look specifically at harmonization and alignment issues and that this review should be seen as a pilot for joint project support. Every effort should also 			

	<p>be taken to ensure that this review is sufficient for the participating agencies respective reporting requirements.</p> <p>➤ Cormac Quinn said that this review will be used for the DFID review and that a key part of the review is to take into account all the info that already exists (i.e. previous reports, studies, etc..). A comprehensive info pack is being put together and donors are urged to contribute documentation that they might feel to be useful.</p> <p>(For more information please contact Lambert Ngamige Lambert.Ngamige@minecofin.gov.rw)</p>			
5) Development Partners Meeting	<p>➤ SG Gatete informed the development partners that, after consultations, the DPM will be moved to November to ensure consistency with previous meetings. Invitations will be made available in 10 days.</p>			<u>Invitations to be circulated in 10 days.</u>
6) AOB	<p><i>Status of Cabinet Paper on Clusters</i></p> <p>➤ In response to the question by Dirk Brems (Cooperation Belges), on the status of the cabinet paper on clusters, SG Gatete said that next week they will be receiving feedback from the SGs, allowing the draft of the cabinet paper to be finalized. It will then be circulated to donors for feedback. This paper should also provide guidance following on from the DPM.</p>			

The meeting was called to a close at 11:55

ATTENDANCE LIST

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