



Development Partners Coordination Group

XXXX DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS COORDINATION GROUP MEETING
held on Thursday, 14 February 2008, at 10h00
at the Ex-MINIPLAN Conference Room
in Kigali, Rwanda

MEETING MINUTES

ANNEX I: FOLLOW-UP MATRIX

ANNEX II: LIST OF ATTENDEES

ANNEX III: PRESENTATION BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF EFU (MINECOFIN)

ANNEX IV: PRESENTATION BY THE DIRECTOR OF MACROECONOMIC POLICY
(MINECOFIN)

1. Review and Adoption of the November 2007 DPCG Minutes and the February 2008 DPCG Agenda.

- 1.1. **The Chair, Secretary General and Secretary to the Treasury, MINECOFIN**, called the meeting to order and welcomed back members from their holiday breaks being that this was the first DPCG of 2008. He also thanked the members for a successful 2007 but noted that 2008 will be a challenging year now that the EDPRS has been finalised, and called upon them to work in partnership to implement it.
- 1.2. **The Chair** reviewed the agenda which was adopted following the addition of two new items to be discussed in the AOB period.
- 1.3. **The Chair** reviewed the November DPCG Meeting minutes which were adopted with the following changes on page 3 paragraph 2.7. The WB provided clarification on their comments stating that they should have read as follows:

"The World Bank indicated that it had done a quick review of the existing Imihigo contracts and found that there was no direct link between the crops targeted in the IDP and the agricultural objectives that district mayors had committed to in their Imihigos. Therefore the risk that the Imihigos would compel the mayors to implement the IDP in a non-voluntary manner was not great.

The World Bank indicated that in the Agriculture Cluster meeting donors were broadly supportive of the increased attention government is giving to agriculture including through the IDP given the importance of agriculture for pro-poor growth. It is important that outstanding issues about design and implementation of the IDP be addressed in order for it to have the desired effect on poverty. Some of the aspects of the program that need better and clearer definition include issues around the marketing of produce--especially if production expands significantly-- and

mitigating risks to farmers in the event of a poor harvest--specifically in the event of a poor harvest, would farmers still be expected to repay for seeds and fertilizers provided to them by government?"

- 1.4. **The World Bank** requested that those concerned with the Action Points indicated on page 10 provide the members present with feedback from those activities.
- 1.5. **The SG MINECOFIN** informed members present that the first action point, the convening of a meeting between ministries involved with the Integrated Development Programme and Development Partners by end of 2007, did take place but has not yet seen any report that came out of that meeting. On action point number 2, the SG stated that no official information had been provided to his office regarding the proposed meeting between MINEDUC and Development Partners to discuss ways to align direct support to post-secondary students along the Government's cost-sharing in education policy. As far he knew, this was yet to happen. On action point number 3, the SG informed the forum that the work of the Aid Architecture Technical Working Group as outlined in action point number 3 is still on going. He welcomed members of that group to give the forum a more detailed report on progress, later in the AOB part of the meeting.

2. Feedback from 2007 DPM and how to improve for 2008.

- 2.1. **The Director of EFU a.i.** thanked those who had provided their feedback on this issue. He stated that as the EDPRS and MDG reports had now been launched, the DPCG now has the opportunity to redefine the focus of future DPMs, in order to have much more coherent agendas that reflect on key issues. He informed the forum that the Netherlands had been nominated as this year's Co-Chair of the DPM.

2.2. Discussions:

- 2.2.1. **The European Commission:** There was still a feeling that the question "What is it that we want out of the DPM?" has yet to be answered. There is also still a need to review the timing aspect of the DPM in order to ensure that all parties get the best out of the usually fruitful deliberations. Now that most DPs have already made their commitments for the next years, then what is it that the next DPM should achieve?
- 2.2.2. **DfID:** Drawing on the lessons learnt from the 2007 DPM, it was reiterated that there was a need to provide Development Partners with all the relevant background documents (well in advance of the conference) in order for them to prepare to respond or make a position on the different issues to be discussed.
- 2.2.3. **Germany:** The timing is not a problem as different DPs have different fiscal year cycles and most importantly, the fact that by the time of the DPM the GoR budget will have been approved. In terms of the agenda, Germany was satisfied. However, it was announced that some participants from the last DPM would like to see discussion on whether the DPM should be held annually or every 2 years.
- 2.2.4. **IMF:** The DPM has two main objectives; (i) strategic discussions (hence this can happen any time); (ii) DPs get an opportunity to comment on major issues that the GoR has at the time of meeting.
- 2.2.5. In an effort to answer to the queries mentioned in this session, the **SG MINECOFIN** assured DPs that in the future, background documents will be distributed beforehand for DPs to consult prior to the conference. On the issue of timing, the SG informed that once Rwanda moves to use the EAC calendar, it will be productive for the GoR to maintain the November timing for the DPM,

since this will also feed into the new budgeting period cycle. He also reminded the forum that the issue of timing for the DPM was touched on in 2005 but that no concrete decision had yet been taken. He invited participants to perhaps revisit this discussion during the DP Retreat.

3. Paris Survey roll-out: feedback from regional workshop and launch in Rwanda

3.1. **The Head of Aid Coordination Unit**, informed the forum that between 22nd and 25th January, Kigali hosted a workshop to launch the **2008 Paris Declaration Survey**. This workshop provided a forum for National Coordinators and some donor focal points from 20 countries across Africa and the Arab States to discuss on issues and share experiences that relate to the challenges faced during the implementation of the survey. It was a peer-learning experience with a South-South cooperation focus. It was also aimed at feeding into Accra High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. Some participants noted there was not enough information on the preparations for the Accra HLF. Generally speaking, he informed that the workshop was a success as many of the participants expressed this to the organizing committee. He also informed the forum that running parallel to this PD Survey rollout session, an Aid Information Management Systems (or AIMS) Clinic took place under the leadership of **Dereck Rusagara (ICT Specialist, EFU)** to discuss and share experiences on pertinent issues relating to ICT systems deployed to manage/track aid flows in countries. This session too received positive reviews as participants came out of it with a richer understanding of the underlying complexities of implementing such systems, and how to better tackle problems that emanate from deploying these systems.

3.2. Presentation on 2008 PD Survey by Christian Shingiro (Director of EFU a.i.).

3.2.1. **The Director a.i.** presented to the forum the objectives of this year's survey and informed members present of their different roles in this exercise. These are the key objectives of the survey highlighted in the presentation:

- A clear commitment in the Paris Declaration to monitor progress in the implementation of commitments;
- To have in place a reliable and operational monitoring mechanism for 2008/2010;
- To identify and iron out the potential gaps/problems in aligning to Aid Policy;
- To help in Improving dialogue and mutual understanding between DPs and the GoR; and the next steps in implementing Paris and Aid Policy.
- To provide country-level evidence for discussion at the Accra HLF, to feed into the Accra Action Agenda.

3.2.2. The forum was informed that this year's survey is an improvement from the previous one in 2006 in terms of structure and content. Structurally, there is a better support mechanism in place for survey participants to refer to in times of uncertainty and difficulties. A Help Desk set up by OECD, UNDP, and the World Bank is available to assist any country undergoing difficulties in implementing the survey. On the national level, Mr. Robin Ogilvy (ACU, UNDP) has been appointment to be the Focal Point for the Donors, while Mr. Christian Shingiro (EFU, MINECOFIN) will be the Focal Point for the National Coordinators. Key dates for consideration were as follows:

- A meeting to brief DPs on the procedures involved will be scheduled for 20th February 2008.
- DPs to return filled questionnaire by March 10th 2008.
- EFU presents Draft results at next DP Retreat.

3.2.3. Discussions:

- 3.2.3.1. **The SG MINECOFIN** reiterated on the importance of clearly outlining all the steps involved for the DPs and GoR, in order to allow them to plan for the exercise.
- 3.2.3.2. **DfID** wanted to know what considerations have been put in place for donors who do not work in US Dollar currency. Will there be provisions for exchange rates to use during the exercise? **DfID** also wanted to know if the dates for the DP Retreat had been set and if so, when?
- 3.2.3.3. **The AfDB** also informed the forum that a preparatory for the Accra HLF will be convened here in Kigali at a date yet to be confirmed. The meeting will be sponsored/facilitated by the AfDB, Government of Ghana, UNDP and the World Bank.
- 3.2.3.4. **The Head of the Aid Coordination Unit** assured the DPs that they will be provided with a table of exchange rates to use for the exercise.
- 3.2.3.5. **The European Commission** aired their concerns on the ambiguities in the definitions that were used in the previous (2006) PD Survey and hoped that that the 2008 PD Survey will have clearer definitions. Reference was made to the *Aid on Budget Study* that showed the discrepancies that exist between the definition between “projects on budget” and “project execution”.
- 3.2.3.6. **Belgium** proposed to hold a meeting that will facilitate the exercise for DPs and National Coordinators.
- 3.2.3.7. **The SG MINECOFIN** requested that the DPCG Secretariat convene a meeting as soon as the beginning of next week (18-22 February) in order to give DPs sufficient time to prepare answers to the questionnaire. He requested that a communication by e-mail be sent out immediately after the DPCG to inform DPs of this planned meeting.

4. Macroeconomic highlight on the impact of the Kenyan crisis on Rwanda.

4.1. Presentation on Short-term effects of the Kenyan Crisis by Kampeta Sayinzoga (Director of Macroeconomic Policy, MINECOFIN)

- 4.1.1. **The Director** presented to the forum an overview of the impact that the political crisis in Kenya has had on the Rwandan economy. Since the outcome of the controversial December 27th 2007 presidential elections, the political impasse in Kenya has had negative impacts on countries in this region – Rwanda included. This is due to the fact that Kenya’s Mombasa port is the main entry and exit point for Rwanda’s imports and exports. The major anticipated disruption was in the petroleum industry. GoR acted quickly to secure alternative route for fuel. Indeed, before the crisis, Rwanda’s fuel imports transited mainly through Kenya; GoR therefore negotiated with the Government of Tanzania to import fuel via the central Corridor and avoid shortages. This was highly successful as Rwanda did not experience shortages or long queues as in neighboring countries. This however had an impact of the pump price of fuel. Indeed, importing from Tanzania is much more expensive than Kenya due to higher transport costs, lower port efficiency and other factors.

The Director went on to inform the forum that despite the unavailability of comprehensive data to quantify the actual impact that this crisis has had on the Rwandan economy, there were visible negative effects on the ground, which include the rise of fuel prices, delays in arrival of imports of selected raw materials and delays in exports. In general, the GoR has been quick to contain the negative effects to the economy with some success. As the GoR prepares for the forthcoming **IMF Mission**, figures indicating the impact on the economy will be made available soon (March).

4.2. Discussions:

- 4.2.1. **The World Bank** thanked the Director's presentation and commended the GoR for its quick action in an effort to deal with the Kenyan crisis' impact on the Rwandan economy. She requested clarification on the type of subsidies GoR provides to the petroleum industry (is it in the form of foregone tax revenue or direct transfers to private oil importers).
- 4.2.2. **Germany** thanked the Director's presentation as it clearly shed some light on the fear that this Kenyan crisis has had serious negative effects to the Rwandan economy. There was still some fear though, on the potential impact of the crisis on inflation and called upon the GoR to continue being vigilant on the impact of the Kenyan Crisis on the purchasing power of Rwandans. Germany also expressed concerns of the fact that this crisis could hamper the GoR's efforts to fight poverty, as the most affected by inflation are the poorest citizens.
- 4.2.3. **The IMF** also commended the GoR for its proactive response to the crisis. Confirmation was also given to the IMF Mission to take place in March 5-18th, 2008. There were also concerns raised by the recent earthquakes that hit Rwanda and DRC, stating that these will be taken into consideration as additional in addition to the impact of the Kenyan Crisis during the next IMF Mission. IMF indicated that unfortunately a large share of inflation in Rwanda is due to exogenous shocks which are beyond GoR's control but that the PRGF program caters for close monitoring of inflation as recommended by Germany.
- 4.2.4. **The SG and the Director** reiterated the assurance to the forum that the GoR will have serious discussions with regards to the Kenyan crisis, when it talks with the IMF during the March mission. They also confirmed that the subsidy to the oil industry is in the form of foregone excise tax revenue. GoR provides no direct transfer to oil importers.

5. Briefing on the 3rd Ministerial Conference on Financing for Development.

- 5.1. **SG MINECOFIN** informed the forum that Kigali will soon host the 3rd Ministerial Conference on Financing for Development. He said that Ministers of Finance have been meeting to discuss pertinent issues relating to the development of their countries. The previous two meetings were held in Abuja (Nigeria) and Accra (Ghana) where issues such as financing energy were the main topics of discussion. This time around, the Kigali meeting will be based around issues relating to Climate Change. Preparations are well under way with the AfDB and Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) serving as the Secretariat of the forum. These preparations will be conducted in collaboration with other DPs (as was the case in the preceding two meetings). Working documents are currently being drafted by the GoR, AfDB and ECA and will be shared with DPs as soon as they are available. A technical meeting will be convened in March in order to iron out roles and responsibilities in the run-up to the conference.

5.2. Discussions:

- 5.2.1. **The AfDB** also confirmed that the conference will take place in Kigali and that other DPs are actively involved in the preparations.
- 5.2.2. **DfID** expressed its support to the conference and welcomed the initiative. However, it also reiterated the importance of timing and asked whether the TICAD meeting could be held before the March Technical Meeting?
- 5.2.3. **The World Bank** inquired on whether outcomes of the previous two meetings in Abuja and Accra, respectively, will feed into the discussions in the Kigali conference. It was also expressed that a review of what has happened on the ground since those previous meetings would be important to have before the Kigali conference.
- 5.2.4. **SG MINECOFIN** took note and appreciated the comments provided by the participants and assured them that he would follow up on them.

6. Presentation of concept note on Development Partners Retreat (DPR) by Christian Shingiro (Director of EFU a.i.).

6.1. **The Director a.i.** informed the forum that the proposed dates for the 2008 Development Partners Retreat (DPR) are 27-28 March. The DPR jointly reviews the activities of aid management and coordination issues. He informed the forum that a draft **Concept Note** will be distributed soon for comments.

6.2. Discussions:

- 6.2.1. **Germany** informed the forum that towards the end of March a draft report of the Joint Governance Assessment exercise might be available, and it would give the DPR an opportune moment to discuss on the findings and recommendations therein.
- 6.2.2. **The EC** wanted to know whether there could be discussion on donor division of labour and comparative advantage as it was one of the items mentioned at the DPM.

7. AOB

7.1. Presentation on the Update on the Common Performance Assessment Framework (CPAF) process by Prosper Musafiri (Director General for Economic Planning, MINECOFIN).

7.1.1. **The DG** began by informing the forum that the draft EDPRS Results and Policy Matrix was sent the previous night. There is a Quality Assurance Team that has been set up to review the matrix. The DG also informed the forum that the Honourable Minister for Finance and Economic Planning will be meeting the Secretaries General from the ministries to discuss on the draft. DPs were requested to read through the documents sent to them and provide feedback by next Tuesday (19th February) so that the draft can be finalised by Wednesday 20th. On Friday the 22nd the Minister will organise a meeting with the DPs to validate the EDPRS Results and Policy Matrix. The DG kindly requested DPs to do their best and adhere to the tight schedule of deadlines in order to ensure that the document is finalised in good time.

7.1.2. Discussions:

- 7.1.2.1. **SG MINECOFIN** thanked the DG for his presentation and reiterated the commitment on the part of the GoR to quickly finalise CPAF, and appreciates the contribution that DPs continue to provide in this exercise.
- 7.1.2.2. **The European Commission** wanted to know whether there is a DP's matrix being prepared as well.
- 7.1.2.3. **DfID** also thanked the DG for his presentation, however expressed reservations about the tight schedule given to DPs to provide feedback and asked whether MINECOFIN can exercise some flexibility in this regard.
- 7.1.2.4. **Director of EFU a.i.** also added that MINECOFIN would like to finalise EDPRS results and policy matrix to be used to elaborate the CPAF. He informed the group that the donor's matrix was under preparation and that a draft would be shared with donors soon.
- 7.1.2.5. **SG MINECOFIN** responded to the request from EC and assured the forum that the DPs matrix will also be included and that MINECOFIN will be flexible with the timing of the schedule of events.

7.2. Feedback from the Aid Architecture Technical Working Group on the review of the management of DPCGs provided by Christian Shingiro (Director of EFU a.i.)

- 7.2.1. Members of the TWG (EFU, ACU, EC) confirmed that the group had met in the fourth quarter of 2007 to discuss and refine a proposal to look in particular at the Mutual Accountability Framework. The meeting agreed that this should now be developed in a manner that ensures that the existing CPAF will be built upon. Participants agreed that the DPR would offer an opportunity to discuss and approve Terms of References for the independent review component.

7.2.2. Discussions:

- 7.2.2.1. **Head of ACU** stated that the DPR could provide an opportunity to discuss the improvement of the workings of the DPCG. He went on to inform the forum that the Aid Architecture Working Group met during the last quarter but had yet to meet again since then.
- 7.2.2.2. **SG** reminded the Working Group that it was supposed to have met and finalised the Terms of Reference to be discussed. He requested that a draft proposal be prepared and presented at this year's DPR for discussion.
- 7.2.2.3. **DfID** concurred with the SG on having a draft proposal to be discussed at the DPR, but also added that an update on the proposed work on the Mutual Accountability that had been planned for 2007.
- 7.2.2.4. **EC** informed the forum that the Working Group agreed that the CPAF be taken into consideration as they work to produce the draft proposal.

8. Update on upcoming events to consider in the Harmonization Calendar

- 8.1. **Germany** wanted confirmation on the dates for the UN Steering Committee meeting.
- 8.2. **The WFP (Co-Chair of DPCG in the absence of the UN Resident Coordinator, a.i.)** said that a date cannot be confirmed before the arrival of the new Resident Coordinator. The dates will be communicated as soon as they become available.
- 8.3. **The IMF** also wanted to remind the forum, as mentioned earlier, that the IMF Mission will take place between 9th and 19th March. The IMF also wanted to know when the Budget Support Review meeting was being scheduled.

- 8.4. **DfID** informed the forum that its new Country Assessment Program will be completed by end of May, and that it plans to hold the annual partnerships meeting on 13th March.
- 8.5. **Belgium** informed the forum that the annual Steering Committee meeting will take place 20-24 May. They also informed the forum that the Ministry of Justice requested them to finance an international conference on justice in Rwanda (follow up of 2003 conference recommendations), tentatively scheduled for beginning of May.

9. Announcements.

- 9.1. **Special announcement by outgoing Interim Director of USAID Rwanda.** Mr. George Lewis, who has been the Interim Mission Director of USAID office in Kigali, announced to the forum that his term was coming to an end and that Friday the 22nd of February would be his last day in office. His replacement, Mr. Denis Weller is scheduled to arrive on 9th March. Mr. Lewis thanked the GoR and DPs for the cooperation extended to him during his short stay in Rwanda and he wished all present continued success in their work here in Rwanda.
- 9.2. **SG MINECOFIN** thanked Mr. Lewis and reciprocated the gratitude on behalf of the GoR, for the services rendered by him in his capacity as Interim Mission Director of USAID in Rwanda. He wished him well in his new posting.
- 9.3. **SG MINECOFIN** also announced to the forum that that Annual GoR Retreat at the Akagera Lodge will take place between 25th and 29th February.

**Secretary General
Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
Government of the Republic of Rwanda
Co-Chair of the Development Partners Coordination Group**

**UN Resident Coordinator, a.i. / Country Representative
United Nations Children's Fund
Kigali, Rwanda
Acting Co-Chair of the Development Partners Coordination Group**



Development Partners Coordination Group

ANNEX I: FOLLOW-UP MATRIX

Follow-Up Action(s)	Responsibility	Required Coordination	Action to be complete by:
Organise meeting to brief Development Partners and National Coordinators on the OECD-DAC survey questionnaire filling procedures.	EFU	MINECOFIN	20th February
Development Partners to return filled questionnaire to EFU	DPs	MINECOFIN	10th March
Present draft OECD-DAC Survey results	EFU	MINECOFIN	2008 DPR (27-28 March)
Avail figures to the DPCG indicating the impact of the Kenyan crisis on the Rwandan economy	Macroeconomic Policy	MINECOFIN	March
Organise Technical meeting for the preparation of the 3 rd Ministerial Conference on Financing for Development	MINECOFIN	AfDB, UNECA	March
Finalise and disseminate Draft Concept Note for the 2008 DPR	EFU	MINECOFIN	End February
Honourable Minister of Finance and Economic Planning to meet SGs to discuss on the CPAF	EFU	MINECOFIN	Late February
DPs to provide feedback on Draft EDPRS Results and Policy Matrix	DPs	DPU, EFU	19th February
Finalise Draft EDPRS Results and Policy Matrix	DPU	MINECOFIN	20th February
Honourable Minister of Finance and Economic Planning to meet DPs to validate the EDPRS Results and Policy Matrix	DPU	MINECOFIN	22nd February



**Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator**



Development Partners Coordination Group

ANNEX II – LIST OF ATTENDEES

(by organization)

Full Name	Job Title	Organization
Mr. Diko Jacob Mukete	Resident Representative	African Development Bank
Mr. Dirk Brems	First Secretary Development Cooperation	Belgium Embassy
Ms. Sandra Pepera	Head of Office DFID Rwa/Bu	DFID – UK Department for International Development
Mr. Vincent De Boer	Economist	EC – European Commission Delegation
Ms. Elisabeth Balepa	Representative	FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization
Mr. Hans Von Schroeder	Deputy Chief of Mission	German Embassy
Mr. Eric Rwabidadi	Country Liaison Officer	IFAD - International Fund for Agricultural Development
Mr. Lars Engstrom	IMF Resident Representative	IMF – International Monetary Fund
Mr. Kazumi Shimaoka	Rural Development Advisor	JICA – Japan International Cooperation Agency
Mr. Emmanuel Nsanzumuganwa	Secretary General	MINITERE-Ministry of Lands Natural Resources and Minerals
Mr. John Rwangombwa	Secretary General/Secretary to the Treasury	MINECOFIN – Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
Mr. Christian Shingiro	Director EFU-a.i	MINECOFIN – Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
Mr. Dereck Rusagara	ICT Specialist	MINECOFIN – Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
Ms. Marie-Louise Mukashema	Administration Assistant	MINECOFIN – Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
Mr. Jean Damascène Habimana	Secretary General	Parquet Générale de la République
Ms. Antonia Ngabala	One UN Gender Focal Point	UNIFEM – United Nations Fund for Women
Mr. Robin Ogilvy	Head of ACU	UNCRO
Mr. George Lewis	Head of Office	USAID – United States Agency for International Development



**Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
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Development Partners Coordination Group

Full Name	Job Title	Organization
Ms. Victoria Kwakwa	Country Manager	WB – World Bank
Ms. Maarit Hirvonen	Representative	WFP – World Food Programme
Ms. Diane Muhongerwa	NPO/HEC	WHO-World Health Organisation

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