



SIXTH ANNUAL GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS MEETING (DPM)

CONCEPT NOTE

WHERE

Kigali, Rwanda – InterContinental Hotel

WHEN

22 and 23 November 2006

WHO

The DPM will be attended by approximately 300 senior level delegates, including:

- ✓ High Level Representatives of the Government of Rwanda from the Presidency, the Primature, Ministries, Local Governments, Parliament, the Supreme Court, and Parastatal Organizations;
- ✓ In- and out-of-country Senior Representatives from Multi-Lateral and Bi-Lateral Donor Agencies;
- ✓ Representatives from the Rwanda Private Sector, International and National NGOs, and Faith-Based Organizations.

WHAT

The DPM is a high-level strategic forum for dialogue between the Government of Rwanda and its Development Partners. The main objectives of the DPM are to provide a forum for:

- ✓ Policy dialogue between the GoR and its Development Partners. The Government openly engages in dialogue with donors on major policy issues and the strategic orientation of their partnerships.
- ✓ Government to showcase its major achievements and constraints in implementing its development programmes.
- ✓ Government to present its policies and strategic priorities for national development.
- ✓ Open discussion with regard to the management of external aid.

This year, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning is introducing the idea of focusing the DPM on a theme, hence, aiming for specific outputs based on that theme. The theme for the 2006 DPM is: "Long-Term Investments for Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction". The purpose of the theme is to put forward discussions centered on a framework which provides for the long-term investments needed to successfully implement the EDPRS, itself to be finalized by mid-2007. Correspondingly, Rwanda's Aid Policy, adopted by Cabinet in July 2006, provides the guidance and procedures needed towards achieving an environment conducive to ensuring all investments are aligned with national priorities, such as the EDPRS, and delivered in accordance with Government preferences. Therefore, the overall objective is to develop the framework necessary to promote long-term investments supported and guided by Rwanda's national policies and priorities. These ideas are ultimately geared at ensuring economic development and poverty reduction for all Rwandans.

Accordingly, following a 2006 performance overview, the areas of focus for the 2006 DPM are the following:

- ✓ Planning for Economic Development and Poverty Reduction: long-term investment framework, progress in EDPRS, medium-term plans for energy and growth
- ✓ Private Sector Development: long-term plans for the private sector in the context of the LTIF, financial sector development
- ✓ Agriculture and Economic Growth: long-term plans for the agriculture sector and economic growth

- ✓ Delivering on Decentralization: decentralization reforms, performance monitoring (citizen report cards and performance contracts)
- ✓ Governance, Rule of Law and Reconciliation: results of APRM; legal sector and human rights, progress in *gacaca*, national unity and reconciliation
- ✓ Implementing Rwanda's Aid Policy: GoR Aid Policy implementation plan, use of country systems, financing modalities and approaches, joint development partners statement of intent to the Aid Policy

As a result of recommendations from last year's DPM, sector-specific presentations and discussions will not be included in the DPM. In order to provide sectors with an opportunity to discuss their issues, an optional session, following the DPM, will be devoted to senior-level group discussions. Five EDPRS sectors will simultaneously meet in separate rooms to build consensus on EDPRS sector-specific priorities, followed by another five sectors. As this exercise is optional for all participants, and is not part of the DPM, only interested participants will attend. This exercise will take place the day after the closing of the DPM, on Friday, 24 November 2006.

WHY

Since January 1995, Rwanda has organized several conferences grouping its Development Partners (Multilateral and Bilateral Donors, International and National NGO's, members of the diplomatic community, etc). These conferences have provided all parties with an excellent opportunity for productive discussions on issues of development in Rwanda.

The conferences have been held within and outside of the country and covered two distinct periods. The first of these was the Emergency Period (1995-1999), where the main concern was the mobilization of financial resources for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the country after the war and genocide of 1994. Since 2000, Rwanda's development programme has been based on sustainable development; and, the annual meetings have subsequently been focused on dialogue between the Government and its Development Partners on policies, strategies, and development programmes for which necessary funds could be mobilized.

The 5th Annual DPM was held in Kigali on 1 and 2 December 2005. The proceedings were opened by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Rwanda. Discussions centred on the following:

- ✓ PRS I achievements: review of and issues for consideration in the preparation of PRS II
- ✓ Post-HIPC Financing: options and way forward
- ✓ Aid Policy Management: progress in 2005 on donor harmonization, alignment and coordination, progress in drafting the Government of Rwanda Aid Policy
- ✓ Progress in Regional Stability and National Reconciliation
- ✓ Sector Strategies: progress on the elaboration and implementation of sector strategies and the identification of key strategic issues in the sectors, notably advancements in the health and education sectors
- ✓ NEPAD: Peer Review Report for Rwanda.

The majority of invited participants from Rwanda and abroad were able to attend. All agreed that discussions were fruitful and provided an excellent opportunity to review Rwanda's development. Throughout 2006, the Government and its Development Partners have been focusing on the elaboration of the EDPRS; since the 2005 DPM, the following steps have been taken:

- ✓ Structures for a participatory approach have been established and both a national steering committee and technical steering committee have met regularly to lead the process;
- ✓ A Joint Evaluation of the PRSP 1 was conducted and will be an important input to the joint elaboration of chapters of the EDPRS;
- ✓ The Household Living Conditions Survey is currently underway and preliminary statistical results needed for the EDPRS are soon to be published.

At the 2005 DPM, the Government of Rwanda presented the progress made in drafting an Aid Policy for Rwanda. Regular consultations with Development Partners and concerned Government institutions have culminated in a final draft of the Aid Policy, adopted by the Cabinet in July 2006. The Government of Rwanda is preparing an implementation plan for the Aid Policy and Development

Partners have undergone self-assessments in conjunction with a Development Assistance Committee (DAC) baseline survey. As a concrete example of improvements in harmonization and alignment, the Government of Rwanda has succeeded in signing a joint Memorandum of Understanding with most partners in the education sector for the establishment of Rwanda's first sector-wide approach (SWAp).

Public Sector Reform is in its final stages of implementation; and, much has been accomplished since the last DPM. Decentralization reforms have led to a restructuring of territories and administrations for better service-delivery; notably, performance contracts were signed between all district mayors and H.E. the President of the Republic. Moreover, the adoption of the Organic Budget Law by Parliament and implementation of procurement reforms has further improved Public Financial Management in Rwanda.

As the African Peer Review Mechanism is fully underway, Rwanda has succeeded in undergoing one of the first peer reviews. A programme of action has been drafted and is currently under implementation. The Africa Governance Forum highlighted Rwanda's achievements in this field as international best practice.

HOW

The DPM will feature plenary sessions based on the main objectives of the theme of the Meeting. Background documentation will be provided to all participants. The Meeting will include simultaneous interpretation in English and French. Selected documents will be translated ahead of time.

Participants will have at their disposal a Conference Room for the plenary sessions and a Participant's Lounge for bilateral meetings. Access to PCs, internet, copying, and printing will be available in a separate Delegation Area. A Conference Secretariat will provide assistance for speakers and participants. Technical equipment for presentations is provided. Written statements to be presented at the DPM, or other materials, may be submitted in advance for circulation.