

Session 2 – Working Group 1
Next steps in the development of a national framework for the monitoring of governance issues

Co-Facilitator: Mr. Ernest Rwamucyo – DG, Economic Planning
Co-Facilitator: Mr. Arne Strom – Head of Cooperation, SIDA
Rapporteur: Mr. Dereck Rusagara – EFU

BACKGROUND

The government of Rwanda in its Vision 2020 is committed to the building of an efficient and capable state characterized by transparency and accountability, rule of law and civic rights. Citizen empowerment, participation in decision making, responsive to citizen's needs and promotion of national unity and reconciliation are at the core of government's governance strategy.

In 2002, the GoR adopted the National Strategy for strengthening good governance for poverty reduction. The strategy has been implemented within the framework of the first generation PRSP. It is important that as we prepare the EDPRS (Rwanda's second generation PRSP) we rethink our governance strategy in light of emerging priorities and the need to further strengthen governance sector dialogue in the context of the EDPRS.

This issues paper sets out some of issues for discussion during the development partners retreat in order to shape the ideas around ongoing work on the governance logframes for EDPRS and also on the proposal to establish a Joint Governance Framework. The discussions will also be the basis for strengthening the Governance Sector Wide Approach.

PROPOSED ISSUES

Joint Governance Framework: The Joint Governance Framework is aimed at ensuring harmonization and alignment of Government of Rwanda and development partners' initiatives on governance. It is a framework for constructive policy dialogue and agreeing on joint governance benchmarks and indicators that can be implemented and jointly monitored. The major objective is to avoid fragmented and uncoordinated initiatives in the sector and also to better structure policy dialogue in the sector. The key issue is: How do we ensure harmonization and alignment of development partners and government initiatives on governance? How do we ensure better coordination of interventions in governance?

1. **Benchmarking governance:** One of the key challenges has been to develop a framework for benchmarking governance and establishing an objective framework for assessing performance in governance. It is important that we develop a framework with clear governance benchmarks and indicators. How do we achieve this? What analytical work is required for the development of objectively verifiable benchmarks and indicators?
2. **Governance SWAp:** For the preparation of the EDPRS, the former cluster on governance was split into 3 sector working groups to ensure better coordination and focus. The sector working groups are:
 - Decentralization, citizen participation, empowerment, voice and accountability
 - Justice, law and order
 - Security sector

All these sector working groups are interlinked and working in very close collaboration. The key issue for discussion is whether we need to build on the momentum of the EDPRS to develop governance SWAp? How do we strengthen policy dialogue on governance around a Sector Wide Approach? What support does government need in order to effectively establish and manage governance SWAp? How can donors harmonize and align support to this initiative?

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

The expected outcomes from this session include:

- ✓ A common understanding and consensus on how to develop the Joint Governance Framework.
- ✓ Agreeing on the framework for deriving governance benchmarks and indicators that will be a basis for a joint governance performance assessment framework to be integrated in the EDPRS.
- ✓ Clarity on the framework for strengthening the governance SWAp.