



Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning

Budget Support Harmonization Group



## X. Joint Budget Support Review

### **Joint Press Release of MINECOFIN and the Development Partners providing Budget Support**

**Kigali, Rwanda, 12 November 2009.** A joint review meeting of the Government of Rwanda with budget-support development partners that examined Rwanda's progress in implementing its national development strategy during the Mini-Budget (Jan-June 2009) was successfully concluded today at the Ministry of Finance after three days of intensive consultations.

Participants of the joint review included the Honourable Minister of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN), James Musoni, the Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury in MINECOFIN, John Rwangombwa who is the chair of the Budget Support Harmonization Group (BSHG) which had organized the meeting, other government representatives from all ministries as well as representatives of the seven development partners that provide general and sector budget support to Rwanda: the African Development Bank, Belgium, European Commission, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the World Bank.

All participants welcomed Rwanda's good progress in implementing the national development strategy, the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS), in times of a difficult global climate marked by the financial crisis.

Some of the main conclusions from the joint review were the strong performance of the economic cluster where especially the Private Sector Development profited from comprehensive government activities and the strong performance in agriculture led to relatively high growth figures.

One of the key issues debated during the joint review was the extent to which Rwanda's economic and social policies in the first half of 2009 had contributed to achieving the EDPRS objectives. Many important reforms and policy actions have been implemented like fast-tracking 9 year basic education.

The Government of Rwanda and Budget Support development Partners discussed furthermore the impact of the global financial crisis and the EAC integration on Rwanda's development.

The Joint Budget Support Review (JBSR) takes place twice a year following an extensive review process at the level of the sector working groups. It is the main forum for budget support development partners and a favourable assessment of the Government progress is one of the basic requirements for a continuous provision of budgetary support to the country. In the spirit of mutual accountability, the forum also provides the Government with an opportunity to assess performance of development partners providing budget support on the basis of the 'Development Partners Assessment Framework (DPAF)."

On behalf of the Government of Rwanda, Finance Minister James Musoni said:

"It has been a culture to have an open discussion with our Development Partners (DPs). This spirit should continue because we have reaped much from it. In a special way, we appreciate DPs support to the National Budget; this has helped the government to implement its medium term economic development strategy (EDPRS)."

On behalf of the budget support development partners, German Ambassador Elmar Timpe commented on the progress made so far:

“Reducing the incidence of poverty is the overarching objective behind the provision of budget support. The positive outcome of our joint assessment during this X. Joint Budget Support Review reconfirmed our commitment for development in Rwanda. “

Following the conclusion of the review and a favourable assessment, the budget support development partners will make their final budget support commitments for the next fiscal year (2010/11) in mid-December. In order to enhance the predictability of aid flows, they will also indicate the amounts they are willing to contribute over the next three-year period in mid-December.

In the current fiscal year 2009/10, the share of the budget that was provided by development partners in the form of general and sector budget support is about 22 % (RwF 184 Billion) of the total budget of the Government of Rwanda.

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