



Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning

Budget Support Harmonization Group



## XI. Joint Budget Support Review

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

**Kigali, Rwanda, 7 May 2010.** The Government of Rwanda and its budget-support development partners successfully concluded a three day Joint Budget Support Review (JBSR) meeting to discuss the strategic priorities and budget allocations for the fiscal year 2010/11.

Participants of the joint review included the Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury in MINECOFIN, Ms Kampeta Sayinzoga, who is the chair of the Budget Support Harmonization Group (BSHG) which had organized the meeting; the Head of DFID Rwanda, Ms Elizabeth Carriere, as Co-chair of the BSHG; representatives from all ministries, 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) as well as representatives of the USAID and International Monetary Fund.

Participants welcomed the progress made in the preparation of this Joint Review cycle, especially at sector level, where there were encouraging improvements in the quality of the policy dialogue and budget discussions. Good progress has been made as well in mainstreaming cross cutting issues, especially gender, climate change and HIV-AIDS and all agreed it is important to continue to build on this progress during future reviews.

The participants appreciated the quality of the discussions during the cluster sessions, which offered an opportunity to better understand the linkages between the strategic priorities identified during the Leadership Retreat and sectoral action plans and budgets, as well as the inter-ministerial coordination. The 2010/11 budget allocations and the mid-term-economic framework are in line with the EDPRS targets though challenges remain regarding the resources for productive capacities and human development. The budget presented will allow the Rwandan Government to reach further progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

The ultimate rationale of budget support is a contribution to the reduction of poverty and creation of welfare in Rwanda. Budget support development partners are expected to contribute Rwf 185.1 billion in 2010/11, Rwf 287.2 billion in 2011/12 and Rwf 307.5 billion in 2012/13 in form of budget support.

Government and Development Partners discussed the strategic priorities and fiscal framework for the medium term. One of the key issues debated was the Strategic Investment Plan and its implications for the continued stability of the fiscal framework. Development Partners welcomed the opportunity to undertake further analysis and discussion of the Strategy.

Government and development partners also discussed the key challenges and improvements to the implementation of the Fiscal Decentralisation and in particular the need for strengthening the linkages between local and central government, for improving capacity and public financial management at the decentralised level and for increasing public awareness around districts' budget processes.

On behalf of the Government of Rwanda, Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury, Ms. Kampeta Sayinzoga said:

"Rwanda's performance in terms of improving service delivery to the citizens and sustaining growth is a strong basis for a frank and open dialogue with development partners. Their increasing trust in Government is illustrated by the growing share of aid going through our Treasury. Whilst they avail additional financial support we guarantee them high value for money by improving the lives of Rwandans."

On behalf of the budget support development partners, the Head of DFID Rwanda, Elizabeth Carriere commented on the progress made so far:

"As we are half-way through the EDPRS implementation period, it is worth reminding ourselves of the importance of these reviews for both government and development partners. The structured dialogue, both within sectors and overall allows development partners to support Rwanda's development through the provision of budget support."

***Note to Editor:***

- **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 discussion between the Government of Rwanda and its budget support Development Partners. A good forward looking review is key for the provision of budget support.
- **Budget Support Harmonization Group (BSHG)** is the official forum for policy and performance dialogue between the Government of Rwanda and its Development Partners providing budget support.

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