

**Project Approval Committee (PAC) Meeting  
Security Sector Reform and Support to Transitional Justice Projects  
May 11, 2017**

**Office of the President – Banjul  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room**

**Minutes**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Organization</b>
1.	Ade Lekoetje	RR/RC	UN/UNDP
2.	Maj Gen Ya Drammeh	DCDS	Gambia Armed Forces
3.	CP Kalilu Jatta	Comm Admin	Gambia Prisons
4.	Ansumana Manneh	AG, Director General	Gambia prisons
5.	Muhammadou Lamin Jaiteh	PS (1)	Office of the President
6.	Ousman Jallow	Dir Political	S.I.S
7.	Alhagi Bah	PAS	MOD
8.	Landing .M.Sanneh	Judicial Secretary	Judiciary
9.	Cherno Marenah	SG	MOJ
10.	Nessie Gould	DRR	UNDP
11.	Anna Jones	National Network Coordinator	WANEP –The Gambia
12.	Momodou Sanneh	Deputy Speaker	National Assembly
13.	Yankuba J.N Sonko	Inspectoe General of Police	Gambia Police Force
14.	Bulli Dibba	P.S	Ministry of Interior
15.	Ousman Yarbo	Director	TANGO
16.	Bakary Krubally	AG Director	MOFEA
17.	Salifu Gaye	Deputy Director	Office of the President
18.	Pa B Mboob	D G Immigration	Immigration MOI
19.	Marabi .S. Hydara	National Assembly Clerk	National Assembly

### **I. Opening**

Meeting was chaired by The Permanent Secretary Office of the President, Mr. Muhammadou Lamin Jaiteh and co-chaired by the UNDP Resident Representative Ade Lekoetje. The PS opened the meeting by welcoming all participants to the high-level meeting. UNDP provided a background to the process, which led to the articulation of the projects and the commitment of Peace Building Fund Resources. It was highlighted that the USD 3 million committed to three projects represented an initial support package which could open up for further funding in the future.

## II. Project Overview

---

(Presented by Nessie Golakai-Gould; Deputy Resident Representative UNDP)

The presentation highlighted the following:

### Security Sector Reform

#### **Project Description:**

- Based on the request of the Government of The Gambia, this project aims to provide strategic advice and support to the designing and launching of the national security sector reform process. Through the deployment of a team led by a Senior SSR Advisor, the project will
  - a) Provide the Gambian authorities with strategic and technical support to conduct an assessment of the security sector, design and start implementation of a nationally-led inclusive and participatory SSR process;
  - b) Coordinate the support of the international community to the reform process of the security sector
- Project Budget
  - c) Total of 1.4 M USD in two tranches
  - d) 1<sup>st</sup> tranche 70% or 980K
  - e) 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche 30% or 420K
  - f) Project timeframe – 18 months

#### **Phase 1:**

- (i) Deployment of a Senior Security Sector Reform Advisor to support the Gambian authorities. Co-located at Ministry of Interior, Office of Chief of Defense Staff and Office of National Security Advisor.
- (ii) Support the Government to conduct a detailed review/assessment of defense and security institutions (military, police, intelligence, immigration, customs, etc.) to determine composition, capacities, gaps cost, fragility and trends etc.
- (iii) Support establishment, including operationalization and capacity building of the Office of National Security (ONS)

- (iv) Provide strategic advice to Government and ONS on formulation of a national security sector reform strategy
- (v) Support mechanisms for broad and inclusive participation of all stakeholders in the design of a national security sector reform strategy and the creation of a framework for a dialogue platform for all stakeholders involved in security sector governance (CSOs, Ombudsman, etc.)
- (vi) Support the Government in effective coordination of support to security sector reform by international partners

**Phase 2:**

- (i) Support the census of security forces – including awareness raising of security forces on importance of census for reform and role of army in a democratic context. - key step for design of the security sector reform strategy and preparation of right-sizing and establishment of an effective human resource management system of the armed forces of The Gambia and planning of possible integration of military officers in other units of the security sector.
- (ii) Provide continued support for broad and inclusive participation of all stakeholders in the articulation of a national security sector reform strategy and support in facilitation dialogue platform for all stakeholders involved in security sector governance (CSOs, Ombudsman, etc.)
- (iii) Support the design of a resource mobilization strategy for the security sector.
- (iv) Support the implementation of a resource mobilization strategy for the security sector

**Transitional Justice**

**Project Description:**

This project supports the Government to articulate a comprehensive strategy to guide the process of truth seeking, accountability for past human rights violations and promoting reconciliation in The Gambia, and thereafter help create the core foundations for institutions, guarantees and safeguards to defend the rights of its people in the future. Implementation of the project will be done on a phased approach:

In the Phase 1, the project will provide:

- 1) High-level technical support and advice to Government on transitional justice (TJ) approaches and mechanisms for The Gambia that adhere to international standards and principles (e.g. inclusive, victim centric, based on equal rights, promote national healing, etc.);
- 2) Support to Government and other national stakeholders to elaborate a comprehensive National Strategy on TJ based on broad national consultations, investigations, truth establishment and assessment of needs;
- 3) Support capacity building of important institutions and actors that will lead the implementation of national TJ strategy;
- 4) Support public awareness raising, outreach and communication efforts on TJ issues/processes;

The Phase 2 will provide support to:

Review and/or support the development of important legislation, rules and procedures, and institutional (including a national human rights commission) that are essential for the effective TJ implementation;

Project Budget: 1.4M (1.2M from PBF and 200K from UNDP) in two tranches

Phase 1: 840K

Phase 2: 560K

Project Duration: 13 months

In the Phase 1, the project will provide the following support:

- High-level technical support and advice to Government on transitional justice (TJ) approaches and mechanisms.);
  - Deployment of Senior Advisor on Transitional Justice
  - Fielding of an advisory mission by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence to The Gambia for high-level government engagements on TJ approaches and mechanisms;
  - Support to convene an inclusive National Conference on TJ processes and approaches
  - Undertake comprehensive needs assessment to identify key areas, which will be the focus of a national transitional justice strategy and its implementation.
- Convening of a National Stakeholders' Conference on justice and human rights to provide a forum for inclusive dialogue and primary consultations prior to the formulation of a transitional justice strategy. The conference will identify key challenges, needs, gaps and priorities, taking into account the historical, political, social and cultural context and discuss the merit of the main pillars or axis that would form the Gambian TJ strategy. The conference will also agree on a roadmap or action plan. Beyond the TJ problematic, the conference will explore key areas such as: i) Building/strengthening the human rights architecture /institutions; ii) Constitutional review and legal reform

(including media law review); iii) Justice and penitentiary sector reform; and iv) Civil Society and Media Engagement (including engagement of youth and women's empowerment). The conference will examine how all these areas are inter-related and will adopt recommendations that would serve in the formulation of the TJ strategy.

- With complementary funding (from UNDP), organization of a study tour to South Africa and Sierra Leone for government officials to learn from the lessons and experiences of these countries on policy, strategy and implementation of transitional justice mechanisms;
- Through the project, help to kick-start essential support efforts to strengthen the foundation and knowledge base of key actor and participation for the proposed TJ strategy and mechanisms for broader stakeholder participation with regard to accountability for past abuses through:
  - Targeted institution and capacity building activities for stakeholders to support strategy development efforts;
  - Support the strengthening of the justice system to ensure justice for disadvantaged groups, especially women and children. With regard to children, to provide restorative and child friendly services to children victims of human rights violation and support the rehabilitation of the most vulnerable children, especially girls, exposed to human rights violations during the Jammeh's regime;
- Support to Government and other national stakeholders to elaborate a comprehensive National Strategy on TJ based on broad national consultations, and assessment of needs;
- Support outreach and communication of information and knowledge on TJ and TRC processes - the design of appropriate public awareness raising, outreach and communication efforts on TJ and TRC issues/processes in order to encourage the importance of broad public participation;

The Phase 2 will provide support to:

- Review and/or support the development of important legislation, rules and procedures, and institutions (including a framework for a National Human Rights Commission) that are essential for the effective TJ implementation;
- Strengthen capacities of important institutions and actors that will lead the implementation of national TJ strategy, and strengthening the capacity of Government and State institutions responsible for implementing accountability, justice, human rights and reconciliation to include:
  - technical and logistical support for substantive activities like (gathering of evidence and testimonies, investigation, hearings, victims and witness protection, etc.);
  - provide technical expertise such as forensic experts, senior investigators or pathologists to enable the High courts to conduct proper investigations into high profile cases during the TJ process;

- Support capacity building for law enforcement officers on investigation of international crimes, including dealing with mass graves, training and experience sharing on victim and witness protection;
- Capacity building for judges and prosecutors to process international crimes;
- Capacity building for lawyers on cases of international crimes, support legal aid service provision for victims and defendants of international crimes;
- Support to enable the Government of the Gambia to strengthen justice for disadvantaged group, including children system that will provide child friendly services to children victims of human right violation in view of rehabilitating them and repairing the damage caused to them by the violation.
- Mobilise resource for TJ follow-up activities to include – efforts to identify, outsource and mobilize expertise and resources, in a coordinated manner from the international community on TJ.

## **II. Quality Assurance**

---

A presentation of the quality assurance of the SCORE project was made by Nessie Golakai-Gould across the 7 parameters. Overall the SSR and Transitional Justice projects were found to provide clear reference and evidence across all parameters.

## **III. Observations and Discussions by the PAC members**

---

It was noted that the National Security Advisor was yet to be appointed. Many of the SSR project activities assume the appointment of this Officer to enable centralized coordination and support to the overall SSR process. Ongoing advocacy efforts thru UNOWAS to continue to lobby for expedited action on this.

Ministry of Justice expressed concern about lack of support to the actual operationalization and conduct of a TRC within the scope of the project. It was clarified that this project represents an initial package support strategy formulation and, to set and capacitation of structure and system. The actualization of the TRC mechanism and its operation would be supported through follow-up projects. Ministry was also concerned about national ownership and the role of Advisors viz viz Ministry staff in articulating strategy document.

TANGO noted that project timeframe may be insufficient to roll out project, especially given UNDP's recruitment process. Assurances were provided that fast track procedures would be applied to ensure swift action.

The National Assembly highlighted that the document did not clearly articulate a role for the National Assembly. UNDP clarified that the project does assume a role for the legislature especially as it relates to legislation but agreed on the need for more explicit clarification thereof.

WANEP stressed the need to ensure adequate training for CSOs and the Media to enable them to effectively carry out their role in the process.

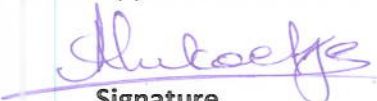
The Chief of Defense Staff emphasized the need to ensure that strategies designed are reliable and sustainable.

#### IV. Conclusion

---

Given the overview and clarifications, all partners expressed enthusiasm for the projects and looked forward to project implementation. It was agreed that project would proceed as planned with due note on the need for more explicit mention of the role of the National Assembly.

The project documents were approved and circulated for signature.

On behalf of United Nations	 Signature	Date	Name /Title Ade Mamonyane Lekoetje UN Resident Coordinator
--------------------------------	--	------	--

On behalf of Office of the President PS1	Signature	Date	Name/Title Muhammadou Lamin Jaiteh
--	-----------	------	---------------------------------------