

DAG QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

July - December 2019



Ethiopia's Home-Grown Economic Reform Dialogue

The Ethiopian Government under the leadership of H.E. Prime Minister Dr Abiy Ahmed unveiled the details and priority areas of the Home- Grown Economic Reforms (HGER) to the international community in early September 2019. Speaking to Ethiopia's Diplomatic community and development partners, the Prime Minister called on development partners to coordinate and strengthen support to the Governments reforms, in order to propel and transform Ethiopia to become the African icon of prosperity by 2030.

The Government appealed for 9 billion USD to implement the reforms and develop institutions and capacity over the next three years.

The reforms are envisaged to be implemented between 2019-2021 across three pillars, macroeconomic, structural and sectoral.

Development partners thanked Government for its effort to articulate the Home-grown economic reform blueprint.

Noting that this blue print will also serve as a framework for institutional and governance arrangements supporting implementation of the reforms.



High Level Forum (HLF) between Government of Ethiopia and DAG Highlight

The GoE-DAG High Level Forum (HLF) chaired by H.E Minister Ahmed Shide and DAG Co-Chair Ms. Annika Jayawardena was held on Friday, 13 December 2019 at the Ministry of Finance.

The DAG through the Co-Chair presented indicative and tentative financial plans and support to Ethiopia's reforms. The need to utilize existing dialogue and the aid coordination architecture e.g. SWGs to support design of the

reforms, implementation and monitoring were highlighted. Development partners committed to align programming with GoE's systematic reform approach focusing on maximizing finance for development, competitiveness and investment climate for Private Sector Development, transparency and accountability—all central to GoE's announced macroeconomic, structural and sectoral reforms and providing a foundation to develop and buttress development partners support to reforms. New and additional support, including the mode of financing was elaborated on by DAG members during a tour de table.

Also present at the HLF was H.E the State Minister Admasu Nebebe (External Economic Cooperation), H.E the State Minister Eyob Tekalign (Treasury & Finance) and H.E the State Minister Ibrahim Usman among the senior Government officials. Development partners were represented by Heads of Cooperation, including Ambassadors.



Building Resilience in the Ethiopian Lowlands

DFID Head of Mission Dr Christian Rogg presented the findings of the Lowland Resilience Building report on behalf of DFID and the World Bank who co-authored the report. The report identified three pillars with key recommendations. i.e. Investing in human capital development, through improved delivery of human development services; Developing a safety net system that can deal with short-term crises and longer-term developmental needs; and Improving the efficiency of the livestock economy while encouraging economic diversification and improving infrastructure and connectivity.

These pillars will form the basis of policy-oriented discussions in early 2020 in order for stakeholders to agree on how to engage and move forward with some of the findings of the report. A half day workshop is scheduled for early 2020 between the DAG and senior regional government officials and critical line ministries.

GoE-DAG Sector Working Groups (SWGs) Dialogue



GoE -DAG Sector working groups dialogue session was held on 9th December 2019 at Radisson Blu Hotel.

H.E Ato Admasu Nebebe State Minister, Ministry of Finance opened the dialogue session by indicating government perspectives and the vision of GOE-DAG Dialogue Architecture. The DAG Co-Chair Ms. Annika Jayawardena outlined the importance of SWGs aligning their functions with Government priorities.

The dialogue session was called to identify how the DAG and GoE can enhance the impact of engagement and policy dialogue through SWGs in a way that is consistent with Government priorities and to ensure alignment and informed policy dialogue. Currently the existing gap between formulation, vision, intentions and the capacity to implement the reforms is recognized.

Eleven active sector working groups and six donor technical working groups presented sector specific achievements, results and challenges.

The dialogue session concluded with agreement to assess the mandate, re-evaluate the structure and realignment of some the SWGs. Another meeting is planned in early 2020 to chart the way forward.



Introducing new Heads of Agency



Per Mogstad (Mr.)
Counsellor-Head of Development (Director)

Mr. Per Mogstad before assuming Head of cooperation post for Norwegian Embassy in Addis Ababa he worked with Various posts including senior Advisor ,section for UN Policy, MFA ; Deputy Head of mission and Head of cooperation for Norwegian Embassy in Accra ;Senior Advisor ,section for for UN Policy and Gender Equality, MFA; Senior Adviser, section for the Environment and sustainable Development ,MFA; Counsellor, Norwegian Embassy in Maputo .

Mr. Mogstad has also worked for on the post of Adviser in Asia-division, Regional Department, MFA; Asia-division, Regional Department, Regional Department for Southern Africa, Norad; Technical Department Norad and UN-division he worked for the post of First Secretary Norwegian Embassy, Lilongwe and Second Secretary, Norwegian Embassy in Kampala.

Prior to his tenure at Un Division at MFA, Mr Mogstad held various positions such as , senior Executive Officer UN Division, Teacher in agriculture, vinterlandbruksskolen oslo , Associate Expert, International Labour Organisation (ILO), Geneva and Environmental Department, County of Sogn og Fjordane .



Rajani Alexander (Ms.)
Minister-Counsellor and Senior Director-Development of Canada in Addis Ababa

Ms. Rajani Alexander has served with Global Affairs Canada for 25 years starting at CIDA, the Development Agency. Addis Ababa is her 6th posting, having worked in South and Central America and Asia prior her last position was at head quarter as Senior Director for the Pan African-Regional Development Program.



Sean Jones (Mr.)
USAID- Ethiopia Mission Director

Mr. Sean Jones is a member of the Senior Foreign Service. Most recently, he served as the Interim Coordinator for the U.S. Government's new Prosper Africa Initiative, a whole-of-government Presidential Initiative focused on substantially boosting trade and investment between the U.S. and Africa. He also served as the USAID's Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Resilience and Food Security and the Acting Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for Africa. He led an interagency team as the Co-Lead of the Joint State-USAID Redesign of U.S. Government Foreign Assistance. And, he also served as the and the Deputy Coordinator of Power Africa, a Presidential Initiative and whole-of-government public private partnership that aims to bring electricity access to Sub-Saharan Africa.

Prior to his tenure at USAID headquarters, Sean held various leadership positions overseas with USAID in Mexico, Colombia, Iraq, and Jordan.

Before joining USAID, Sean was a strategy consultant for the Owens Corning Corporation in Shanghai, China; a business operations specialist for Northrop Grumman, General Dynamics, and Lockheed Martin; and an international trade analyst at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and for the State of New Jersey.



Catherine Sozi (Dr.)
UN Resident Coordinator

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed Catherine Sozi of Uganda as the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Ethiopia. Dr. Sozi will also serve as United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator.

Dr. Sozi has devoted more than 30 years to public service. She previously served as the Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa at the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), working for 18 years as the UNAIDS Country Director for Republics of Zambia and South Africa and the People's Republic of China.

Prior to joining the UN System in 2000, she worked with governments, the private sector and non-government organizations in the United Kingdom, Uganda and South Africa focusing on planning and delivering services to people.

A medical doctor, she has Membership of the Royal College of General Practitioners in the United Kingdom and holds a post-graduate Diploma of the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. She obtained her Bachelor of Medicine degree (MBBS) from Saint Mary's Hospital Medical School, University of London.



Laura Schmidt (Ms.)
Head of Cooperation at the German Embassy

Ms. Laura Schmidt is the new Head of Cooperation at the German Embassy.

Before assuming her post as Head of cooperation at the German Embassy she had work experience on the African continent that took her to Mozambique, equally as Head of Cooperation, and to Malawi, as project officer in a GIZ governance programme.

Ms. Schmidt joined the civil service in 2006 and, at Headquarters, has worked most extensively on issues around climate change and development. Originally from Nuremberg, Laura went to study and work in London, Rome and Brussels, and is a true believer in the European Union.

Ms. Schmidt came to Ethiopia with her partner and two daughters. She is keen to meet all DAG members and government partners, ideally over Ethiopian coffee. She can be reached with her email address; wz-1@addi.diplo.de!



Ms Olivia Owen (Ms.)
Deputy Head of Mission New Zealand Embassy

Ms. Olivia Owen will take up the role of Deputy Head of Mission in January 2020 at the New Zealand Embassy in Addis Ababa. The Embassy is responsible for New Zealand Government's engagement with, and is accredited to, the African Union, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Djibouti, Seychelles, Ghana, and Nigeria.

Olivia previously worked in the Africa team at the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Wellington, with policy responsibilities for New Zealand's relationships with a range of North African states and managed the Africa Development Programme. Prior to working on Africa, Olivia supported the delivery of the New Zealand Scholarship Programme and managed aid programmes across Indonesia and Myanmar.

Previous to her roles at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Olivia worked for UN Women based in Fiji, as well as a for range of local and central government agencies. Olivia spent time in Tanzania as a volunteer for New Zealand's Volunteer Service Abroad.

Upcoming Events

DAG Co-Chairs membership and Election

JUNE

The next DAG multilateral and Bilateral Co-Chairs transition is in June 2020, together with bilateral member transition in the DAG Ex-com.

JANUARY

The Incoming UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Ms Catherine Sozi, will assume her post on 7th January 2020.

DAG GOE-SWGs Meeting

FEBRUARY

GoE-DAG Sector Working Groups Dialogue session is proposed to have a half day meeting in February 2020.

Institutional Development workshop

FEBRUARY

Institutional Development Workshop has been planned on February 2020 in Bishoftu.

Next High-Level Forum

JANUARY

The next High-level forum to discuss on the way forward with lowland resilience has been planned for January 2020.

This e-newsletter is published by the DAG Secretariat. To contribute articles or information on relevant upcoming events please contact dagcommunications@undp.org

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