

# FIFTH STAKE IN THE NATION FORUM

**SNF5 Keynote Address:**

**His Excellency President Adama Barrow**

***‘Consolidating and Accelerating National Development’***

**Venue: Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara Conference Centre, Bijilo**

**Saturday, 8 January 2022: TIME: 8.30 AM to 6.30 PM**

**HYBRID IN-PERSON & ONLINE EVENT:**

***Featuring the YEP ‘Hidden Gambia’ Exhibition  
& the GLEPA ‘Export Advancement Programme’***

**Livestreaming: <https://m.facebook.com/MSDGProject/>**

**<https://www.facebook.com/eyeafricatv/>**

**FOR COVID 19 PROTOCOLS, ALWAYS WEAR FACE MASKS AND USE THE HAND SANITISERS**

***Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF) is mandated as an  
annual consultative event in the Gambian Diaspora Strategy and  
The Gambia National Development Plan (page 117, NDP 2018-21):***

***“SNF will [bring] diaspora groups together to engage with government Ministries, Departments and  
Agencies, as well as NGOs and CSOs, on a wide range of developmental matters.....  
to contribute to formal policy, as well as strategic, thematic and sectoral consultations  
initiated by different government and quasi-government institutions”***

Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF) is part of a MSDG Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), co-financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and GK Partners (GKP); implemented in partnership with the Government of The Gambia

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### **Plenary Session of the First Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF1), on Saturday, 13 January 2018**

*From L to R: Hon. Ousainu A.N.M. Darboe, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Hon. Mariam Jack Denton, Speaker of the National Assembly; H.E. Dr. Marion Weichelt Krupski, Swiss Ambassador to The Gambia; H.E. Fatoumata Jallow Tambajang, Vice President; H.E. President Adama Barrow; Prof. Gibril Faal, Director, GK Partners & MSDG Project; Hon. Dr Isatou Touray, Minister of Trade, Industry & Employment; Ms. Fumiko Nagano, IOM Chief of Mission; Hon. Henry Gomez, Minister of Youth & Sports*



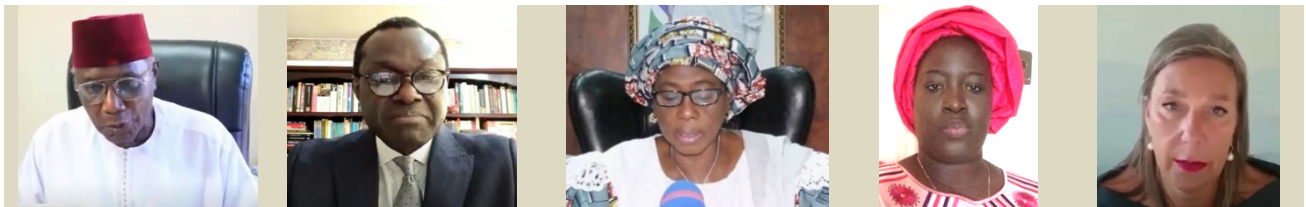
### **Plenary Session of the Second Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF2), on Saturday, 12 January 2019**

*From L to R: Dr. Ruby E.M. Randall, IMF Country Representative; Hon. Hadrammeh Sidibeh, Minister of Youths and Sports; Prof. Gibril Faal, Director of GK Partners & MSDG Project Director; H.E. Vice President Ousainu A.N.M. Darboe; Hon. Dr. Mamadou Tangara, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Hon. Mariama Jack Denton, Speaker of the National Assembly; H.E. Dr. Marion Weichelt Krupski, Swiss Ambassador to The Gambia; Ms. Oumie Andrews, Vice President, Gambian Diaspora Healthcare Initiative*



### **Plenary Session of the Third Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF3), on Saturday, 18 January 2020**

*From L to R: Alh. Aliou Momarr Njie, Chairman, Independent Electoral Commission; Prof. Gibril Faal, Director, GK Partners & MSDG Project; H.E. Vice President Dr. Isatou Touray; Ms. Fatou Jagne Senghore, Regional Director, ARTICLE 19 West Africa; H.E. Dr Marion Weichelt Krupski; Swiss Ambassador to The Gambia*



### **Plenary Session of the Online Fourth Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF4), on Saturday, 9 January 2021**

*From L to R: Alh. Aliou Momarr Njie, Chairman, Independent Electoral Commission; Prof. Gibril Faal, Director, GK Partners & MSDG Project; H.E. Vice President Dr. Isatou Touray; Ms. Elizabeth Sosseh Sisay-Banya, Accountant and Company Director; H.E. Dr Marion Weichelt Krupski; Swiss Ambassador to The Gambia*

#### **The main aims of SNF5 are:**

- Present update on National Development Plan (NDP) implementation, review and update
- Present update on Gambian Diaspora Strategy (GDS) implementation, review and update
- Facilitate thematic discussions on improvements in national development policy and practice
- Dialogue between diaspora-development practitioners, government and Non-State Actors
- Official launch of relevant development policies, programmes or initiatives

#### **Delegates to the SNF5 include:**

- Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Directors, Heads of Agencies, Governors
- Gambian Diaspora Experts and Development Practitioners
- Parliamentarians, Municipal Leaders, Senior Academics and Media Practitioners
- Ambassadors and Representatives of International Organisations and Agencies
- CEOs and Directors of Business and Civil Society Organisations
- Representatives of Youth and Women Organisations
- Representatives of Professional and Labour Organisations

## SNF5 Programme – Saturday, 8 January 2022

<b>Saturday, 8 January 2022 (8AM to 6PM GMT)</b>	
<b>08.00 – 09.30:</b>	<b>Registration, Networking and Video Presentations</b>
<b>09.30 – 11.30:</b>	<p><b>SNF5 Theme: ‘Consolidating and Accelerating National Development’</b></p> <p><b>Forum Moderators:</b>            Ms. Fatou Muloshi – Presenter, Gambia Radio and Television Services (GRTS)            Mr. Musa Camara – Director, Gambia Diaspora and Migration Directorate (GDMD)            Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p> <p><b>National Anthem and Opening Prayers:</b>            Imam Alhaji Basiru Drammeh and the Most Revd. Bishop Hannah Faal-Heim</p> <p><b>Short Project Videos:</b>            Introduction to the ‘Gambia Diaspora and Migration Directorate’            Launch of the ‘Gambian Lullabies Workbook’</p> <p><b>Announcement of 2021 Remittance Figures:</b>            Mr. Buah Saïdy, Governor of the Central Bank of The Gambia (CBG)</p> <p><b>SNF5 Programme Statements:</b>            Prof. Gibril Faal – Director of GK Partners &amp; MSDG Project            Hon. Mambury Njie – Minister of Finance and Economic Planning            Hon. Dawda A. Jallow – Attorney General and Minister of Justice</p> <p><b>Short Project Videos:</b>            ‘Sample on Modernising the Traditional Gambian Musical Canon’</p> <p><b>SNF5 Diaspora Keynote Speaker:</b>            Prof. Amina Sillah, Towson University, USA</p> <p><b>Project Announcements:</b>            Gambian Diaspora Technical Support: Call for Proposals            New Institutional Cooperation with Ministries, Departments and Agencies</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SNF5 Presidential Address by H.E. President Adama Barrow</b>  <i>Delivered by Honourable Badara Joof</i>  <b>Minister of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology</b></p>
<b>11.30 – 12.00:</b>	<b>MORNING COFFEE BREAK &amp; MUSICAL INTERLUDE</b>
<b>12.00 – 13.30:</b>	<p><b>‘Gambian Diaspora Strategy: Review, Consolidation and Update’</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b>            Ms. Ndumbèh Saho, Coordination Director, DSPD, Office of the President</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b>            Mr. Abdoul Salaam Secka, Former Technical Director, MSDG Project            Mr. Musa Camara, Director, Gambian Diaspora and Migration Directorate, MOFA            Ms. Jainaba B. Ceesay, EBROSSO Consulting &amp; Bowie State University            Ms. Haddy Lowe, Member, Diaspora Club            Mr. Mathias Domenig, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Switzerland to The Gambia            Ms. Nana Chinbuah, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP (TBC)            Mr. Hassan M. Jallow, Permanent Secretary, Minister of Agriculture</p>
<b>13.30 – 14.30:</b>	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>

## SNF5 Programme – Saturday, 8 January 2022

<p><b>14.30 – 16.00:</b></p> <p><b>Interactive Thematic Workshop</b></p>	<p><b>‘Demand-Led Matching and Deployment of Diaspora Professionals’</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Fatou Jagne Senghore, Outgoing Regional Director, Article 19 West Africa</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b> Mr. Lamin Saidy, Director, Human Resources Development, Personnel Management Office Dr. Veronica Njie-Carr, Co-Founder, Gambian Diaspora Experts Initiative (GDEI) Ms. Fatou Njie-Jallow, President-Elect, Gambian Diaspora Experts Initiative Ms. Frehiwot Tefera, Programme Support Officer, International Organization for Migration Hon. Ndey Yassin Secka, Nominated National Assembly Member</p> <p><b>Rapporteurs:</b> UTG Students</p>
<p><b>16.00 – 16.30:</b></p>	<p><b>AFTERNOON COFFEE BREAK &amp; MUSICAL INTERLUDE</b></p>
<p><b>16.30 – 18.00:</b></p> <p><b>Interactive Thematic Workshop &amp; Artistic Presentations</b></p>	<p><b>‘Culture, Identity, Development and Diaspora Engagement’</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Fatou Muloshi – Presenter, Gambia Radio and Television Services (GRTS)</p> <p><b>Guest Speaker:</b> Mrs. Janet Badjan-Young Founder and Chairperson, Eburnjan Theatre and Performing Arts Association</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b> Mr. Hassoum Ceesay – Director General, National Centre for Arts and Culture Mr. Njok Malik Jeng – Music Promoter and Director of Yaram Arts Mr. Kalilu Banja – Arts Administrator and Presenter Hon. Abdoulie Ceesay, National Assembly Member</p> <p><b>Presentations:</b> Mr. Cornelius Gomez – Storyteller, Writer and Linguist Ms. Lala Touray – Poet and Activist Mr. Omar Cham – Poet and Activist</p>
<p><b>18.00 – 18.30:</b></p>	<p><b>CONCLUDING REMARKS &amp; CLOSING SONG</b></p> <p>Mr Pa Musa Sidibeh – Senior Capacity Manager, MSDG Project Prof. Amina Sillah – Diaspora Keynote Speaker</p>

### Student Rapporteurs (From University of The Gambia)

<b>Opening Session:</b>	Ms. Binta B. Bojang and Mr. Momodou Jallow
<b>Workshop 1:</b>	Ms. Fatoumatta Nyang and Mr. Baboucarr Mbowe
<b>Workshop 2:</b>	Ms. Mariama Jammeh and Mr. Saikou Konateh
<b>Workshop 3:</b>	Ms. Kaddy K. Ceesay and Mr. Alhassan Drammeh
<b>Media Platforms:</b>	Ms. Nyimasatou Y. Touray Mr. Siman Lowe Ms. Olajumoke Akinyemi Mr. Modou Lamin Jammeh

## General Guidance for SNF4 Workshops

- **Interactive Dialogue:** The workshop sessions are **designed specifically for interactive dialogue and exchange, not long presentations and speeches**. In addition to their opening statements, keynote speakers and discussants will have the chance to **respond to questions and comments from workshop participants** during the session. This format is chosen to optimise the input of the diverse experts, practitioners and professional stakeholders who will be participating.
- **Panellists:** The **speakers/panellist will have 7 minutes to set the scene** of workshop topic, and **another 3 minutes at the end** to give concluding observations. **(No powerpoint presentations)**. The speakers will address one or more of the guiding questions and issues within the 7 minute limit. They are encouraged where appropriate, to introduce: verifiable facts and figures; informed and analytical observations; suggested solutions and recommendations; and new ideas and ways of thinking. We invite the speakers to **inform and inspire participants towards positive, productive and progressive engagement and action**.
- **Participants:** Workshop **participants will have 2 minutes at a time** to ask questions, make comments or observations, and **will have the chance to make multiple interventions during the workshop**. Those joining the live-stream can **write their questions and comments in the chat box, these will be monitored and read out by the workshop rapporteurs**.
- **Moderator:** The main role of the moderator is to **introduce the topic and speakers, manage the time allocations, and facilitate smooth and interactive dialogue**. The moderators may ask questions to the panellist, or clarify and highlight relevant facts or issues. They **should not seek to summarise/repeat statements made** or hold the floor for too long.
- **Courtesies and Protocol:** It is respectfully assumed that all courtesies and protocols are observed. **There is no need for elaborate salutations, expressions of thanks, acknowledgements or other courtesies**. We would like to devote the time available for the workshops to substantive interactive discussions. The moderator will introduce the panellists by reading out a brief 2-3 line profile. Participants called to speak by the moderator are requested to mention their names, organisations and occupation, before making comments. **Rapporteurs will take notes and a proceedings summary report will be produced**.
- **Focus on Practical Solutions:** We invite panellist and all participants to focus on **positive, productive and progressive engagement and action**. For Gambia, many of its problems and challenges are self-evident. As such we kindly request that participants focus on sharing their thoughts on solutions, and what the Gambian diaspora, government and other stakeholders can and should do for progression and national development.



## **SNF5 Workshop 1: 'Gambian Diaspora Strategy: Review, Consolidation and Update'**

The Gambian Diaspora Strategy (GDS) was developed and drafted by the Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia project (MSDG) in 2017, and was launched by the President of the Republic of The Gambia, H.E. Adama Barrow at the First Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF1) on 13 January 2018. It is fully incorporated in the Gambia National Development Plan (NDP 2018-2021). The introduction to the GDS gives information about the evolution and the methodology, research, reviews, case studies, interviews, focus groups, webinars, consultations and analysis that informed the formulation process (please download the document from the website).

<http://gambiandiaspora.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Gambian-Diaspora-Strategy-Jan-2018v2-1.pdf>

Four years after its launch, and at the expiration of the National Development Plan (NDP 2018-2021), it is important to review and update the Gambian Diaspora Strategy (GDS). The MSDG Project undertook an initial review and assessment of the Gambian Diaspora Strategy; the key observations include:

- High levels of awareness about the diaspora as the Eighth Region of The Gambia; low awareness of GDS
- Some success in diaspora policy engagement, but failure in diaspora voting in Presidential elections
- Recognition of the significance of remittances, and existence of technical framework for Diaspora Bonds
- GDS Commitments reflected in the provisions of the Dec 2018 UN Global Compact for Migration (GCM)
- Limited or no action on some of the GDS Commitments, e.g. circular migration and municipal engagement
- Productive actions undertaken by various actors, but limited national approach to GDS implementation.

At this workshop, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) launches the process and roadmap for the **'review, update, improvement and consolidation of the Gambian Diaspora Strategy'**. The GDS review will be led by MOFA's Gambia Diaspora and Migration Directorate (GDMD), with technical support from the MSDG Project, International Organization for Migration (IOM) and other partners.

### **Amongst other things, the review of the Gambian Diaspora Strategy will include:**

- Assessment of facts and figures regarding implementation of the 14 commitments of the GDS
- Assessment of the level of diaspora and stakeholder GDS awareness and engagement
- Assessment of opportunities and challenges relating to awareness and implementation
- Assessment of published and private reports, reviews and evaluations relevant to GDS
- New surveys, focus groups and consultations with diaspora individuals and organisations
- Consultations and engagement with Gambian embassies and missions, and government entities
- Consultations on new opportunities for partnership and collaboration with development institutions

### **The updated Gambian Diaspora Strategy will include:**

- Recommendations to improve and consolidate the GDS, building on successes and lessons learnt
- Emphasis on priorities, including diaspora finance, investment, enfranchisement and coordination
- Framework for implementation, monitoring and improvement on Key Performance Indicators
- Production of an updated five-year Gambian Diaspora Strategy (2022-2027)
- GDS information dissemination, communication and ongoing diaspora and stakeholder engagement.



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## SNF5 Workshop 2: 'Demand-Led Matching and Deployment of Diaspora Professionals'

The Gambian Diaspora Strategy (GDS), launched at the First Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF1) on 13 January 2018, and incorporated in the National Development Plan (NDP 2018-21) has a commitment on 'Access to Diaspora Expertise', stating as follows:

***".....In The Gambia, there are skill shortages in many specialist professional and vocational areas. Gap analysis exercise will be undertaken, to be followed up with skills-matching, recruitment and deployment of highly skilled Gambian diaspora professionals on short term and circular assignments in The Gambia. The expertise of these highly skilled professionals can also be accessed for specific assignments in their countries of residence or within the diaspora. Where needed, they can join and strengthen official Gambian delegations for technical meetings and negotiations."***

(You can download the GDS document from the MSDG website)

<http://gambiandiaspora.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Gambian-Diaspora-Strategy-Jan-2018v2-1.pdf>

In 2018, the Gambia Government commissioned a Capacity Needs Assessment (CNA), which stated that:

***".....Many well qualified professionals emigrated during the draconian regime of the past government. The Gambian skilled workers scheme (GSWS) is being proposed to register all professional workers living outside the country such as doctors, engineers, nurses, accountants, teachers, agricultural experts etc. The Personnel Management Office can host such intervention with the aim of attracting them to come back to work with Government or provide technical support. The intervention can be packaged as a project in the PMO....A good starting point has been provided by the Migration and Sustainable Development Project of The Gambia (MSDG) managed by GK Partners. The scope of this project can be expanded to address this issue."***

(You can download the CNA report from the MSDG website)

<http://gambiandiaspora.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Gambia-CNA-Report-2018.pdf>

In some sectors such as health and education, the skills and capacity needs are self-evident. This has led to a range of discrete and *ad hoc* diaspora skills matching and deployment activities, coordinated by private individuals, diaspora organisations and Non Governmental Organisations.

In 2020/2021, both the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia (MSDG) initiated structured programmes on demand-led diaspora skills matching. In March 2020, IOM and Africa Centre Ireland supported 29 diaspora mentors. In October 2021, IOM deployed 5 diaspora experts to MDAs. From June 2020 to May 2021, MSDG supported 10 diaspora Fellows through the Gambian Diaspora Technical Support Scheme (GDTS).

In March 2021, a group of Gambian professionals incorporated the Gambia Diaspora Experts Initiative (GDEI) as a non-profit organization, *'established to leverage the collective interests and expertise of Gambians in the diaspora, with the goal of contributing to the national development...by strategically coordinating and organizing efforts'*. GDEI can play a major role in providing a structured, methodical and comprehensive service, matching skilled Gambians in the diaspora with institutions and organisations in need of specific competencies and capabilities.

**The SNF5 workshop will amongst other things, seek to:**

- Identify the specific priority skills and expertise needed by different sectors in The Gambia
- Understand the specific opportunities, options, challenges and obstacles to diaspora volunteering
- Highlight how to overcome the constraints, and capitalise on the motivations of diaspora experts
- Highlight the lessons learnt from the skills matching initiatives ran by MSDG and IOM
- Explore options for GDEI to launch a diaspora skills matching programme and other related activities

### **Themes and Topics of Previous Editions of Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF)**

#### **SNF4 (Online): 8 & 9 January 2021: 'Looking Back, Moving Forward'**

- Workshop 1: Appreciating and Advancing Gambian Culture in a Changing World
- Workshop 2: Development Review: Lessons, Actions and Diaspora Input
- Workshop 3: Gambian Diaspora Voting and Representation: Actions and Logistics

#### **SNF3: 18 January 2020: 'Development Practice and Institution Building'**

- Workshop 1: Practicalities of Supporting Health and Medical Services
- Workshop 2: Practicalities of Supporting Education and Skills Development
- Workshop 3: Practicalities of Diaspora Business and Investment
- Workshop 4: Diaspora in the Draft Constitution and in Policy Development

#### **SNF2: 12 January 2019: 'Improving Implementation, Delivery and Impact'**

- Workshop 1: Constitutional Review Consultations
- Workshop 2: Health and Medical Services
- Workshop 3: Integrated Rural Development
- Workshop 4: Sustainable Careers for Young People

#### **SNF1: 13 January 2018: 'Attaining Progress in the New Gambia'**

- Workshop 1: Human Rights and Access to Justice for All
- Workshop 2: Information and Communication Technology
- Workshop 3: Agriculture and Agribusiness
- Workshop 4: Education and Employment
- Workshop 5: Health and Medical Services
- Workshop 6: Infrastructure and Industrial Development





## **SNF5 Workshop 3: 'Culture, Identity, Development and Diaspora Engagement'**

The Gambian Diaspora Strategy (GDS), launched at the First Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF1) on 13 January 2018, and incorporated in the National Development Plan (NDP 2018-21) acknowledges the importance of the emotional connections of the multigenerational diaspora in stimulating development interest in the country. Its states:

***".....Diasporas are by definition multi-generational in composition, comprising migrants, children and descendants of migrants. As with other countries, the affinity of the Gambian diaspora to the nation state of The Gambia is based on nationality, nationhood or both.....Many of the second, third and multigenerational descendants of Gambians may not hold Gambian citizenship, but they have emotional and nationhood connections with their country of heritage..... Given that individual migrants, their children and descendants cannot and should not be coerced into making development contributions to The Gambia, diaspora-development is to a great extent about stimulating, facilitating and nurturing productive engagement and action."***

Perhaps the most effective way of creating affinity to a group of people, community or country is through cultural inculcation. The multigenerational diaspora in particular, need to be introduced and oriented towards Gambian culture, to help them appreciate their heritage and sense of identity. A stronger sense of belonging to The Gambian is likely to increase the chances of actual contribution to national development.

Diaspora's as 'displaced or scattered' people may also be exposed to discrimination and other forms of injustice caused by racial and cultural prejudice. This undermines confidence and may even create a sense of 'self-hate' and other forms of psycho-sociological dysfunction. Strong and enlightened cultural grounding may offer diaspora children the social framework to build confidence and self-esteem. These characteristics may in turn improve the people's personal and professional development, and consequently their ability to make substantive and substantial contributions to development.

### **The SNF5 workshop will explore amongst other things:**

- How to modernise and promote Gambian culture within the diaspora and at home
- Use arts and culture to build bridges between the diaspora and home communities
- Promote collaboration between Gambian artists resident across the world
- Leverage diaspora resources to support the cultural and creative sector and industries
- Create positive sense of Gambian 'nationhood' in a modern globalised world

***The MSDG Project expresses thanks and gratitude to all the speakers, moderators, rapporteurs, and partners, and to the media houses and online platforms.***