

SIXTH STAKE IN THE NATION FORUM

SNF6 Keynote Address:

His Excellency President Adama Barrow

‘Supporting Private Action for Public Benefit’

Venue: Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara Conference Centre, Bijilo

Saturday, 14 January 2023: TIME: 8.00 AM to 6.30 PM

IN-PERSON WITH LIVE-STREAMING

***Featuring the ‘MSDG Fellows’ Exhibition &
the ‘Made in The Gambia’ Marketplace***

SNF6 Livestream: <https://www.facebook.com/eyeafricatv/>

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

***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

MSDG PROJECT
MIGRATION AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN THE GAMBIA



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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

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Opening 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



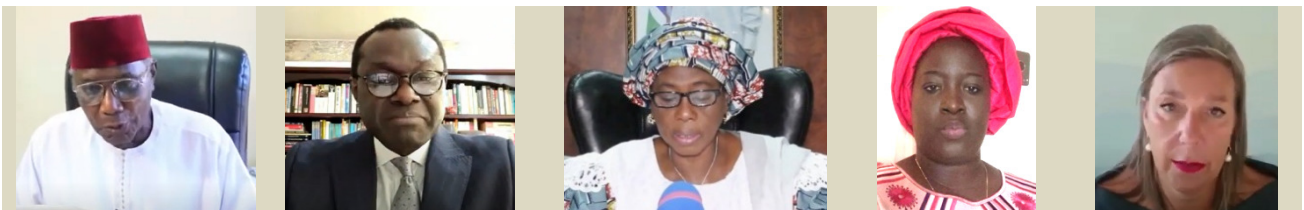
Opening Session of the Second Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF2), on Saturday, 12 January 2019

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



Opening 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



Opening 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



Opening Session of the Fifth Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF5), on Saturday, 8 January 2022

From L to R: Hon. Mambury Njie, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs; Prof. Gibril Faal, Director, GK Partners & MSDG Project; Hon. Badara Joof, Minister of Higher Edu., Research, Science and Tech; Prof. Amina Sillah, Assistant Professor, Towson University; Hon. Dawda Jallow, Attorney General and Minister of Justice

The main aims of the Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF) are:

- Present updates on Gambian Diaspora Strategy (GDS) and National Development Plan (NDP)
- Facilitate thematic discussions on how to improve development policy and practice
- Facilitate dialogue and networking between diaspora, government and Non-State Actors
- Launch of relevant development policies, programmes, projects and initiatives
- Exploration of new approaches, concepts and frameworks for national development

SNF6 Programme – Saturday, 14 January 2023

Saturday, 14 January 2023 (8AM to 6.30PM GMT)	
08.00 – 09.30:	Registration, Networking and Video Presentations
09.30 – 11.30:	<p>SNF6 Theme: ‘Supporting Private Action for Public Benefit’</p> <p>Forum Moderators: Ms. Ndumbeh Saho – Technical Director, GK Partners & MSDG Project Mr. Musa Camara – Director, Gambia Diaspora and Migration Directorate (GDMD) Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p> <p>National Anthem and Opening Prayers: Imam Alhaji Basiru Drammeh and the Revd. Lucy Sarfo</p> <p>Announcement of 2022 Remittance Figures: Mr. Buah Saidy, Governor of the Central Bank of The Gambia (CBG)</p> <p>SNF6 Programme Statements: Prof. Gibril Faal – Director of GK Partners & MSDG Project Hon. Claudiana Cole – Minister of Basic and Secondary Education Hon. Seedy Keita – Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs H.E. Andrea Semadeni, Ambassador of Switzerland to The Gambia Dr. Veronica P.S. Njie-Carr, Associate Professor of Nursing, University of Maryland, Baltimore <i>Diaspora Keynote Speaker; Co-Founder of the Gambia Diaspora Experts Initiative (GDEI)</i></p> <p>Roll Call of the 2022/23 MSDG Diaspora Fellows: ‘Celebrating Private Diaspora Action for National Benefit’</p> <p>SNF6 Presidential Address: H.E. President Adama Barrow</p>
11.30 – 12.00:	MORNING COFFEE BREAK, NETWORKING & MUSICAL INTERLUDE
12.00 – 13.30:	<p>‘Diaspora Development Fund (DDF): Enhancing Development Actions’</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Gibairu Janneh, Director of Communications, ICT & Press, National Assembly</p> <p>Keynote Speaker: Hon. Sheriff Abba Sanyang – Minister of Lands and Regional Government (tbc)</p> <p>Panellists: Ms. Mam Yassin Sarr, Founder & CEO, Starfish Intl. and MSDG Diaspora Fellow Ms. Ajie Fatou Jallow, General Manager, Gigora Trading and MSDG Diaspora Fellow Imam Bakalilu Jaiteh, Founder, Imam Jaiteh Charitable Foundation Ms. Fatou Gibba, Director, Department of Community Development Hon. Sidia Jatta, Veteran Politician & Former National Assembly Member <i>Other speakers may join the panel</i></p>
13.30 – 14.30:	LUNCH BREAK

SNF6 Programme – Saturday, 14 January 2023

<p>14.30 – 16.00:</p> <p>Interactive Thematic Workshop</p>	<p>‘Diaspora Investment and Innovation: Supporting the Entrepreneurs’</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Haddy Lamin-Njie – Development Programme and Finance Specialist</p> <p>Keynote Speaker: Hon. Baboucarr O. Joof – Minister of Trade, Industry and Employment (tbc)</p> <p>Panellists: Mr. Ousainou Senghore, CEO, Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency Ms. Jankeh Njie, Co-Founder & CEO, Jarga Designs and MSDG Diaspora Fellow Mr. Omar Demba, Co-Founder & CEO, King Bakers Mr. David Jeng, Board Member, Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry <i>Other speakers may join the panel</i></p>
<p>16.00 – 16.30:</p>	<p>AFTERNOON COFFEE BREAK, NETWORKING & MUSICAL INTERLUDE</p>
<p>16.30 – 18.00:</p> <p>Interactive Thematic Workshop</p>	<p>‘Diaspora and Governance: Unfinished Business’</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Fatou Jagne Senghore, Human Rights Lawyer and Development Practitioner</p> <p>Keynote Speaker: Hon. Dawda Jallow – Attorney General and Minister of Justice</p> <p>Panellists: Mr. Samboujang Njie, Chief Electoral Officer, Independent Electoral Commission Prof. Gibril Faal, Programme Director, MSDG Project & GK Partners Hon. Billay G. Tunkara, National Assembly Member <i>Chair, Foreign Affairs Standing Committee & Majority Leader</i> Hon. Madi M.K. Ceesay, National Assembly Member <i>Chair, Human Rights and Constitutional Affairs Committee & Deputy Minority Leader</i> Ms. Elizabeth Sosseh Sisay-Banya, Accountant and Company Director</p>
<p>18.00 – 18.30:</p>	<p>CONCLUDING REMARKS & VOTE OF THANKS</p> <p>Dr. Veronica P.S. Njie-Carr, Diaspora Keynote Speaker Mr. Omar Cham – Poet and MSDG Artist-in-Residence Ms. Ndumbah Saho – Technical Director, GK Partners & MSDG Project</p>



SNF6 Workshop Outline: 14 January 2023; From 12 NOON to 1.30 PM

'Diaspora Development Fund: Enhancing Development Actions'

Moderator: Mr. Gibairu Janneh, Director of Communications, ICT & Press, National Assembly

Keynote Speaker: Hon. Sheriff Abba Sanyang – Minister of Lands and Regional Government (tbc)

Panellists: Ms. Mam Yassin Sarr, Founder & CEO, Starfish Intl. & MSDG Diaspora Fellow
Ms. Ajie Fatou Jallow, General Manager, Gigora Trading & MSDG Diaspora Fellow
Imam Bakalilu Jaiteh, Founder, Imam Jaiteh Charitable Foundation
Ms. Fatou Gibba, Director, Department of Community Development
Other speakers may join the panel

The Gambian Diaspora Strategy (GDS) as incorporated in the National Development Plan (NDP 2018-21) states that: *“For Gambian diaspora organisations involved in community, civil society, social enterprise and cooperative activities in different parts of country, the Diaspora Development Fund (DDF) will provide project co-financing. This facility will expand and enhance the collective remittances sent for community projects. Hometown, district, alumni and sectoral non-for-profit diaspora groups will apply to the fund to leverage and supplement the resources they raise by themselves”.*

One of the GDS commitments validated in January 2018 was for Gambia to **“co-finance 100 civil society and social impact projects from the Diaspora Development Fund (DDF)”**. At the onset of the COVID19 pandemic in 2020, through the MSDG Project, GK Partners (GKP) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) created a Diaspora Development Fund in line with Objective 19 of the United Nations Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). The DDF awardees were designated as MSDG Diaspora Fellows.

During the DDF pilot phase in 2020/21, total project grants of €74,890 (Euros) were provided to 10 MSDG Diaspora Fellows, who successfully generated a further €710,280 (Euros) through cash donations, technical expertise, and in-kind materials, supplies and resources. **For every 1 Euro MSDG provided, the diaspora generated a further 9.4 Euros.** This demonstrates the effectiveness, resourcefulness and productivity of the diaspora as development actors. Consequently, the **DDF pilot phase generated socioeconomic investment of €785,170 (Euros), being equivalent to about D50 million (Gambian Dalasis).**

For the current 2022/23 period, the DDF grants were open to Independent Individual Professionals, Affiliates of Diaspora Organisations, and Impact Entrepreneurs and Investors, who work with partners in The Gambia. As at 31 December 2022, the MSDG Project had made **50 new DDF awards to individuals, and 5 awards to institutions.** The **total funds awarded were D20 million Gambian Dalasis, being about €330,000 (Euros).** So far the amount of **co-finance leveraged through the Diaspora Fellows and institutional partners is D136 million Gambian Dalasis, being about €2.25 million (Euros).**

Amongst other things, the workshop will discuss:

- Lessons learnt by MSDG Diaspora Fellows and other project implementers, and ideas on how to improve development impact and sustainability.
- New project ideas and how diaspora practitioners can improve partnership with local and national institutions and organisations.
- Priority areas and new opportunities for expanded diaspora involvement, especially in the rural areas.



SNF6 Workshop Outline: 14 January 2023; From 2.30 PM to 4 PM

'Diaspora Investment and Innovation: Supporting the Entrepreneurs'

Moderator: Ms. Haddy Lamin-Njie – Development Programme and Finance Specialist

Keynote Speaker: Hon. Baboucarr Joof – Minister of Trade, Industry and Employment (tbc)

Panellists: Mr. Ousainou Senghore, CEO, Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency
Ms. Jankeh Njie, Co-Founder & CEO, Jarga Designs & MSDG Diaspora Fellow
Mr. Omar Demba, Co-Founder & CEO, King Bakers
Mr. David Jeng, Board Member, Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Other speakers may join the panel

The Gambian Diaspora Strategy (GDS) as incorporated in the National Development Plan (NDP 2018-21) stated that: *"Beyond recurrent consumptive expenditure, there is untapped opportunity to attract remittances towards durable investments and economically productive activities in the Gambian economy. This will be done through a wide range of schemes, including consolidating and updating current FDI and diaspora-related tax breaks and incentives, and structuring them to meet the specific and specialised needs of Direct Diaspora Investment (DDI)"*.

The Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (GIEPA) is a national agency created by an Act of Parliament in 2010, with the mission to: *"promote a conducive environment, attract investments, develop exports and support businesses with the overriding objective of contributing towards employment creation and wealth generation"*. GIEPA, working in partnership with the MSDG Project is pleased to launch a dedicated **Diaspora Advice Desk, as a first point of contact and a One Stop Shop** to support Gambian diaspora investors and entrepreneurs.

The **specific services of the Diaspora Advice Desk will include:** One-to-many and one-to-one support for diaspora entrepreneurs and investors; Business guidance, advice, coaching, mentoring, brokerage and facilitation; Support in designing and writing investment-ready business and operational plans; Promote investments in Diaspora Bonds and other structured financial products; Guidance on Special Investment Certificates and Domestic Investment Certificates; Guidance and facilitation of access to custom-waivers and investment incentives.

In line with the One Stop Shop approach, and to expand and optimise diaspora access to national incentive schemes, the MSDG Project proposes that an **'Integrated Diaspora Incentives Framework (IDIF)'** be adopted and implemented. The IDIF brings together in a single place, all the existing incentive schemes, custom-waivers, tax reliefs and other benefits and options; setting out qualification criteria, application processes, investor obligations and other requirements. To increase transparency, simplicity, efficiency and cost effectiveness, the **application and decision-making processes should be digitalised and available online**. IDIF can also explore and **develop new incentive packages** to address the specific needs of the diaspora, and to expand diaspora investment and innovation.

Amongst other things, the workshop will discuss:

- How the GIEPA Diaspora Advice Desk will assist and support diaspora investors and entrepreneurs
- How the diaspora is better integrated in national innovation and economic development processes
- Lessons learnt by diaspora entrepreneurs on how to identify and capitalise on business opportunities, and overcome challenges as returnees or non-resident entrepreneurs.



SNF6 Workshop Outline: 14 January 2023; From 4.30 PM to 6PM

'Diaspora and Governance: Unfinished Business'

- Moderator:** Ms. Fatou Jagne Senghore, Human Rights Lawyer and Development Practitioner
- Keynote Speaker:** Hon. Dawda Jallow – Attorney General and Minister of Justice
- Panellists:** Mr. Samboujang Njie, Chief Electoral Officer, Independent Electoral Commission
Prof. Gibril Faal, Programme Director, MSDG Project & GK Partners
Hon. Billay G. Tunkara, National Assembly Member
Chair, Foreign Affairs Standing Committee & Majority Leader
Hon. Madi M.K. Ceesay, National Assembly Member
Chair, Human Rights and Constitutional Affairs Committee & Deputy Minority Leader
Ms. Elizabeth Sosseh Sisay-Banya, Accountant and Company Director

The right of the Gambian diaspora to vote and be voted for is a basic and fundamental constitutional right, enshrined in clauses 26, 33 and entrenched clause 39(1) of the 1997 Constitution of The Gambia. Despite this fact, the diaspora were denied the vote during the years of dictatorship. At the First Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF1) on 13 January 2018, the Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) first made a public declaration that the diaspora will vote in the 2021 presidential elections. The IEC repeated this commitment many times after that occasion. Between 2018 and 2021, the IEC took follow-up actions by cooperating with the MSDG Project on research, analyses and operational planning for diaspora voting. In July 2020, the IEC published an Electoral Calendar, scheduling diaspora voter registration for 1-31 July 2021, and restated the commitment publicly on 1 May 2021. However on 28 May 2021, the IEC declared that it will not be feasible for the diaspora to be registered to vote in the Presidential elections of 4 December 2021.

*“.....the diaspora contributed time, resources and ideas to the work and campaigns of the different political parties and groupings in the presidential elections. However, the fact remains that we were not all able to vote, and be more engaged in the festival of democracy we witnessed as a nation. We acknowledge the technical collaboration between the MSDG Project and the Independent Electoral Commission, and the contribution of other stakeholders on the issue of diaspora voting. **With humility and purposefulness, I urge all institutions of government and state, and all stakeholders and development partners to redouble efforts to make diaspora voting a reality.**”*

[SNF5 Statement of H.E. President Adama Barrow (Delivered by Hon. Badara Joof) – 8 January 2022]

*“.....in the run up to the elections, the IEC issued guidelines for diaspora voting, released a roadmap for the operationalisation of voting.....it was concluded that [diaspora voting] **will require a constitutional amendment and amendment of the Elections Act**, which was not feasible.....given the mandatory timeline for passing of new legislation.....I am willing and ready to convene stakeholder consultation meetings....**to look into some of these hurdles referred to above with the view to finding immediate solutions**”*

[SNF5 Statement of Minister of Justice, Hon. Dawda Jallow – 8 January 2022]

Urgency of Action: Six years after the end of dictatorship, the continued disenfranchisement of about 150,000 eligible Gambian voters based in the diaspora is stain on Gambia's governance and democracy. The urgency of diaspora voter registration and electoral representation cannot be overemphasised. The urgent and obvious remedial actions must not be delayed any further or linked to other factors such as efforts to get a new constitution.

End of Elections Cycle: The presidential elections were held on 4 December 2021, followed by the parliamentary elections on 9 April 2022. The elections for Ward Councillors will be held on 15 April 2023, and elections for Mayors and Chairpersons will be held on 20 May 2023. With the conclusion of the 18-month election cycle in sight, **finalisation of diaspora constituency demarcation and diaspora voter registration can begin in January 2023**, starting with this scoping workshop at SNF6.

Main Actions Needed: The main legal and constitutional actions needed to ensure that diaspora voting and representation is reality are as follows:

- **Convening of a Stakeholder Forum** on diaspora constituency demarcation and diaspora voter registration by Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) in partnership with Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), MSDG Project and other partners including: Inter-Party Committee (IPC), National Assembly, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International IDEA, International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and others.
- **Demarcation of Diaspora Constituencies** by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC).
- Tabling and passing of the '**Constitution Amendment (Diaspora Representation) Bill**', led by Ministry of Justice and/or the Foreign Affairs Select Committee of the National Assembly.
- Passing of the original '**Elections Bill 2020**' which already incorporates relevant provisions for diaspora voting and representation.
- Update of the **relevant MSDG Briefing and Technical Papers** including: 'Context for Gambian Diaspora Voting (Jun 2019)'; 'Practicalities of Diaspora Voting (Jan 2020)'; 'Diaspora Voting Logistics (Apr 2021)'; and 'Gambian Diaspora Constituencies (May 2021)'. <https://gambiandiaspora.net/resources-publications/>
- **Issuance of Guidance** (Rules and Regulations) on Diaspora Voting and Representation by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC).
- Creation of a **Diaspora Voter 'Pre-Registration' Online Portal**, by MSDG Project in partnership with other stakeholders.

Constitution Amendment (Diaspora Representation) Bill

- Section 71:** Delete wording that states that: 'A person shall not be qualified to be appointed, or hold the office of a Minister'.....***"if he or she holds the citizenship or nationality of any country other than The Gambia."***
- Section 88:** Add wording stating that: '*The National Assembly shall comprise'.....fifty-three members elected from in-country constituencies and five members elected from out-of-country diaspora constituencies demarcated by the Boundaries Commission;*'
- Section 90:** Delete wording that states that: '*No person shall be qualified for election as a member of The National Assembly if he or she'"****holds the citizenship or nationality of a country other than The Gambia;***'