



MSDG PROJECT
MIGRATION AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN THE GAMBIA



*GK Partners and the Office of the President
express thanks and gratitude to all its partners
and the participants who attended the
Seventh Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF7)
Featuring a Parallel Conference on Higher Education*

SNF7 Keynote Address:

**His Excellency President Adama Barrow
Delivered By Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Dr. Mamadou Tangara**

‘Innovation and Impact for Inclusive Development’

**Date: Saturday, 13 January 2024 TIME: 8.00 AM to 6.30 PM
Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara Conference Centre, Kerr Serign, The Gambia**

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www.gambiandiaspora.net



Mr. Ebrima Sawaneh; Vice President Finance, African Finance Corporation; Mr. Raphaël Brigandi, EU Deputy Ambassador; H.E. Ms. Sharon L. Cromer, Ambassador of the United States of America; Hon. Dr. Mamadou Tangara, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Prof. Gibril Faal, Director of GK Partners & MSDG Project; Hon. Prof. Pierre Gomez, Minister of Higher Education; Ms. Mandisa Mashologu, UNDP Resident Representative



Download SNF7 Photos: <https://gambiandiaspora.net/photo-galleries/nggallery/snf7>

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 by GKP in partnership with the Government of The Gambia



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and Cooperation SDC



SNF7 was delivered in partnership with MOHERST, GIEPA, NHRC, Yaram Arts & EyeAfrica TV



Seventh Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF7) Summary Report

SNF7 featured: Parallel Conference on Higher Education; MSDG Fellows Exhibition; GIEPA 'Made in The Gambia' Marketplace; Presentation of United Nations (IFAD) Remittances Award to the Governor of the Central Bank of The Gambia

- **705 people attended SNF7 comprising: 345 women (49%); 360 men (51%); 120 diaspora (17%); 420 aged under 35 years (60%); 285 (40%) aged over 35.** The number of SNF attendees increased by 28% from 550 in 2023 to 705 in 2024. With SNF7 featuring a parallel conference on higher education and the hosting of a panel on skills and jobs, the percentage of attendees under the age of 35 increased from 32% at SNF6 in 2023, to 60% at SNF7 in 2024
- **The SNF7 participants were diverse**, including: ministers, parliamentarians, municipal leaders, diplomats, senior civil servants, diaspora development practitioners, civil society and business professionals, senior academics, university students, media practitioners, and 'Made in The Gambia' producers and traders.
- **SNF attendance by Gambians in the diaspora increased from 15% in 2023 to 17% in 2024.** The diaspora participants are **based in 15 countries**, namely: Finland, Germany, Ivory Coast, Kuwait, Nigeria, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States of America.
- **Over 5,000 people watched the SNF7 live-stream**, mainly on the facebook and youtube channels of EyeAfrica TV, Kerr Fatou, and Gambia Talent TV. **Over 15** national and diaspora media platforms and newspapers were present at SNF7.
- **SNF7 had 50 speakers, presenters, moderators and rapporteurs (17 women [34%], 33 men [66%], 16 diaspora/returnees [32%]).** The diaspora speakers are/were based in Ivory Coast, Norway, Senegal, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America and Zimbabwe.
- As and SNF tradition, the Governor of the Central Bank of The Gambia (CBG) announced the **annual Gambia diaspora remittance figures, and the remittance inflow for 2023 was US\$737.12 million, being equivalent to 32.11% of national GDP**; the Governor also announced that CBG and GKP will jointly publish the inaugural edition of '**The Gambia Remittance and Diaspora Finance Factbook**' in March 2024.
- **The Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs launched the 'Implementation Phase of the Diaspora-Targeted Bonds (DTB)'** and the countdown to DTB issuance; the Minister also announced the start of discussions with GK Partners (GKP), for the **Government of The Gambia to make financial contributions to the existing Diaspora Development Fund (DDF).**
- **The Minister of Higher Education announced the approval of four Cabinet Papers** to reform and strengthen the higher education sector, namely: Transformation of the Management Development Institute into a **Civil Service University**; National **Research Policy**; National Research and **Innovation Fund Bill**; and Tertiary and Higher Education **Trust Fund Bill**.
- **The Minister of Trade announced actual and planned labour migration and investment promotion agreements** with Saudi Arabia, and Agreement, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Spain; the Minister also announced the completion of a '**Made in The Gambia**' Strategy and an '**Employment Forum**' for 2024.

[Links to SNF7 Proceedings Videos and Media Coverage](#)

The SNF7 proceedings can be watched online on different platforms, including the links provided below.

- **SNF7 Opening Ceremony Part 1 (EyeAfrica):**
https://m.facebook.com/eyeafricatv/videos/888513589648362?_rdr
- **SNF7 Opening Ceremony Part 2 (EyeAfrica):**
https://m.facebook.com/eyeafricatv/videos/1088049262327900?_rdr
- **SNF7 Opening Ceremony Part 1 & 2 (Gambia Talent TV):**
[Bing Videos \(Part 1\)](#); [Bing Videos \(Part 2\)](#)
- **Workshop 1: Diversifying Diaspora Investments and Issuing Diaspora-Targeted Bonds:**
EyeAfrica TV: [\(20+\) Facebook](#)
- **Workshop 2: Improving The Development Impact Of Tertiary and Higher Education:**
EyeAfrica TV: [\(20+\) Facebook \(Part 1\)](#); [\(20+\) Facebook \(Part 2\)](#)
- **Workshop 3: Diaspora , Human Rights and the Implementation of the TRRC Recommendations:**
EyeAfrica TV: [\(20+\) Facebook](#)
- **Workshop 4: Options and Frameworks for Innovation, Research and Partnership:**
EyeAfrica TV: [\(20+\) Facebook \(Part 1\)](#); [\(20+\) Facebook \(Part 2\)](#)
- **Concluding Workshop: Action Points On The Nexus of Skills, Jobs, Migration and Development:**
EyeAfrica TV: [\(20+\) Facebook](#)

[Links to Selected SNF7 News Reports and Articles:](#)

- **QTV News Report** (from 6:01 minutes to 10:35 minutes): [\(20+\) Facebook](#)
- **Paradise TV News Report** (from 1:02 minutes to 8:40 minutes): [\(20+\) Facebook](#)
- **Star TV Story:** [Gambia's Remittances Soar to Over \\$700 Million in 2023 – Star.GM](#)
- **Kerr Fatou Online Media:** [\(20+\) Facebook](#)
- **Kerr Fatou News Article:**
[Central Bank Governor Reveals 2023 Remittance Inflows Reach USD 737.12 Million – Kerr Fatou Online Media House](#)
- **Foroyaa Newspaper Article:**
[Central Bank to Launch Remittances, Diaspora Finance Database - Governor Saidu – Foroyaa Newspaper](#)
- **Foroyaa Newspaper Article:** [Diaspora Remittance Stands at D45 Billion – Foroyaa Newspaper1](#)
- **Voice Out Digital (VOD) News Article:** [Gambian Diaspora Sends \\$737 Million Back Home in 2023 | Voice Out Digital](#)
- **Voice Newspaper Article:**
[CBG Governor Says Total Remittance Inflows in 2023 Stands at \\$737.12M - \(voicegambia.com\)](#)
- **Standard Newspaper Article:** [CBG Governor Reports Surged Remittances In 2023 – The Standard Newspaper | Gambia](#)
- **Standard Newspaper Article:** [NHRC To Focus On Fighting Corruption In 2024 – The Standard Newspaper | Gambia](#)

SNF7 PROGRAMME

Opening Plenary Session: SNF7 Theme: 'Innovation and Impact for Inclusive Development'

Forum Moderators: Ms. Ndumbah Saho – Director, Gambia Diaspora and Migration Directorate (GDMD)
Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Ousman Touray – Programme Associate, GK Partners & MSDG Project

Opening Prayers: Imam Alhaji Basiru Drammeh and the Reverend Lucy Sarfo

Announcement of the 2023 Remittance Figures:

Mr. Buah Saidy, Governor, Central Bank of The Gambia (CBG)

Presentation of United Nations (IFAD) Award on Remittances to the CBG Governor

SNF7 Programme Statements:

Hon. Prof. Pierre Gomez, Minister of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology

H.E. Ms. Sharon L. Cromer, Ambassador of the United States of America to The Gambia

Ms. Mandisa Mashologu, UNDP Resident Representative in The Gambia

Mr. Raphaël Brigandi, Deputy Ambassador of the European Union to The Gambia

Ebrima Sawaneh, Vice President Finance of African Finance Corporation (AFC)

COO and CFO, Arise Ports and Logistics; SNF7 Diaspora Keynote Speaker

Prof. Gibril Faal, Director of GK Partners & MSDG Project

SNF7 Presidential Address by H.E. President Adama Barrow

Delivered by Honourable Dr. Mamadou Tangara

Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad

Parallel Workshop 1: Improving the Development Impact of Tertiary and Higher Education

Moderator: Ms. Fatou Gibba, Director, Department of Community Development
Ministry of Lands, Regional Government and Religious Affairs

Opening Remarks: Hon. Seedy Keita – Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs

Panel Discussants:

Mr. Omar Gaye, Director General, Gambian Agency for the Management of Public Works (GAMWORKS)

Mr. Alagie Sanyang, Founder & CEO, Cornerstone Construction

Rapporteur: Ms. Jankeh Njie, MSDG Fellow & CEO, Jarga Design

Parallel Workshop 2: Improving the Development Impact of Tertiary and Higher Education

Moderator: Dr. Ebrima Sall, Executive Director, TrustAfrica & Chair of the Conference on Higher Education

Panel Discussants:

Prof. Herbert Robinson, Vice Chancellor, University of The Gambia

Prof. Cajethan Nwosu, Acting Director, Institute of Innovation and Entrepreneurship

University of Applied Science, Engineering and Technology (USET)

Ms. Jean Able-Thomas, MSDG Fellow & Founder, Fajara Skills Development Centre

Dr. Katim Seringe Touray, Independent International Development Consultant

Dr. Jorjoh Ndure-Tambadou, CEO, InSIST Global Gambia Limited

Mr. Lamin Manneh, Acting CEO, National Accreditation and Quality Assurance Agency

Dr. Yusupha Touray, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education (MOHERST)

Rapporteur: Ms. Fatou Janneh, Principal Officer, Tertiary and Higher Education, MOHERST

Parallel Workshop 3: Diaspora, Human Rights and the Implementation of the TRRC Recommendations

Moderator: Mr. Salieu Taal, Barrister-at-Law & Former President, Gambia Bar Association

Opening Remarks: Mr. Emmanuel Joof, Commission Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

Panel Discussants:

Ms. Ida Persson, Special Adviser on Transitional Justice, AG's Chambers and Ministry of Justice

Ms. Yadicon Njie Eribo, Chair, The Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (TANGO)

Ms. Priscilla Yagu Ciesay, Co-Founder & Special Technical Adviser

Women's Association for Victim's Empowerment (WAVE-Gambia)

Mr. Pa Samba Jow, Human Rights Activist & Co-Host 'For the People, By the People' Show

Rapporteur: Mr. Omar Cham, Speaker, National Youth Parliament & Spoken Word Artist

Parallel Workshop 4: Options and Frameworks for Innovation, Research and Partnership

Moderator: Prof. Abdoulaye Saine, Executive Director, Nyang Sanneh Institute

Opening Remarks: Hon. Prof. Pierre Gomez, Minister of Higher Education, MOHERST

Panel Discussants:

Prof. Assan Jaye, MRC Gambia and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Prof. Assan Sarr, Associate Professor, Ohio University

Ms. Kodou Jeng Gaye, Founder & President, Women in STEM (*WiSTEM*)

Mr. Kawsu Jabbi, Founder, Kids in Tech and Protechnology Gambia

Ms. Emily Joof, Education Specialist, World Bank

Hon. Alagie Mbow, Chair, National Assembly Select Committee on Education, Training and ICT

Rapporteur: Mr. Edward A. Mendy, Principal Officer, Science, Technology & Innovation, MOHERST

Concluding Plenary Workshop: Action Points on the Nexus of Skills, Jobs, Migration and Development

Moderator: Ms. Mariam Khan Senghore, Independent Consultant

Opening Remarks: Hon. Baboucarr Ousmaila Joof, Minister of Trade, Industry and Employment

Panel Discussants:

Mr. Emmanuel Witmos Murwisi, Chief of Mission, International Organization for Migration

Dr. Ebrima Sall, Executive Director, TrustAfrica & Chair of the Conference on Higher Education

Ms. Ida Jatta, Chairperson, National Youth Council

Mr. Mbakeh Camara, UTG Head of University Relations and Innovation & MSDG Fellow

Mr. Musa Drammeh, Director of Operations, Cruise Ship Crew Gambia (CSG)

Dr. Baboucarr S. Sarr, Development Consultant and Former International Civil Servant

Rapporteur: Ms. Kumba Jammeh, Principal Research Officer, MOHERST

Closing Plenary Session: Concluding Remarks and Vote of Thanks

Mr. Ebrima Sawaneh, Vice President Finance of African Finance Corporation (AFC) & Diaspora Keynote Speaker

Mr. Alagie Singhateh – MSDG Fellow, Musician and Producer

Mr. Omar Cham – Spoken Word Artist and Former MSDG Artist-in-Residence