



Integration of Gambia Local Authorities in the European Cooperation Programming Process 2021-2027

COMPENDIUM Of Key Reference Documents



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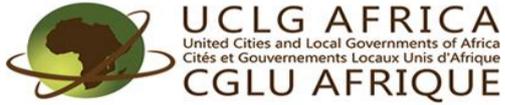
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INTEGRATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN THE EUROPEAN COOPERATION PROGRAMMING PROCESS

2021-2027

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FORWARD

The Gambia Association of Local Government Authorities (GALGA) is indebted to the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCGLA) for supporting us provide a Consultant to prepare this document to guide us in our preparedness in the Programming process of the EU cooperation for the 2021-2027 period.

We wish to express our appreciation to the Secretary General UCGLA, Mr. Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi for his stewardship at the UCLGA Secretariat, and the Regional Director, UCLG-West Africa Regional Office, Mrs Juliet Mekone Sale for the coordination, support and exceptional interest shown in the finalisation of this document.

We highly appreciate the effort that has been put into this document by the National Consultant H.E. Dr. Samba Faal, who is part of the Local Government fraternity and we thank him for meeting our expectations.

As we march forward in the implementation of the decentralization programme in the Gambia which has been stalled as highlighted in the document, we hope that our new role as State Actors in the Programming process of the EU cooperation for the 2021-2027 period, as enshrined in the Cotonou Agreement which the Gambia is a signatory, will be a fulcrum for local governance and local economic development for Local Authorities and their communities.

We resolve to execute our advocacy mandate on behalf of local Authorities in the Gambia and remain resolute in our partnership with UCLGA.

Compendium

1.1 Context

In October 1996, The Government of the Gambia approved a strategy and a plan of action for reform of the local government system following a process of broad base consultations which involved the central and local government institutions, grassroots organizations and donor partners. That policy paper recognizes that the effective participation of the people in the process of decision making is the key to sustainable development and democratic governance.

These were further concretized in the 1997 Constitution of the Gambia which prescribes in section 193 that “local government administration in the Gambia shall be based on a system of democratically elected councils with a high degree of local autonomy”, and further complemented as one of the political objectives of the of the government as in section 214 of the constitution which states “the state shall be guided by the principles of decentralization and devolution of governmental functions and powers to the people at appropriate levels of control to facilitate democratic governance.”

Noting that the decentralization process would remain vulnerable unless a strong local government emerges, the local government authorities in the Gambia resolved to form an Association called **The Gambia Association of Local Government Authorities (GALGA)**, which was established in September 2002 with the goal “To ensure an enhance good governance, accountability and transparency in local administration in the Gambia”.

The proposed action seeks to consolidate the role of this Association in delivery of good quality services to the communities, in an accountable and transparent manner. GALGA is the mouthpiece of LAs in the Gambia and works with the national government and stakeholders to make sure that the interest of LAs is taken on board the national development agenda. One important document in this discourse is the National Development Plan which forms the basis for future EU-Gambia cooperation.

The government’s goal is “to deliver good governance and accountability, social cohesion, and national reconciliation and a revitalized and transformed economy for the wellbeing of all Gambians”.

The vision and goal of the National Development Plan will be realised through eight strategic priorities, among which “Restoring good governance, respect for human rights, rule of law, and empowering citizens through decentralization and local governance”, stands out as top priority (no.1).

Decentralization is key to strengthening local governance and ensuring accountability, as well as the effective delivery of services to citizens. Under the plan, government will review and update the decentralization and Local Government Act, in order to strengthen its implementation; other policies and regulatory frameworks will be harmonized for enhanced coordination of the decentralization programme.

Government will enhance the revenue base of councils and standardized financial management and accounting systems will be put in place to support the decentralization process.

The National Development Plan both domesticates and serves as an instrument for realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the First Ten year Implementation Plan of the African Agenda 2063. The National Development Plan in short aims at:

- Institutionalizing decentralization and participatory government's structure processes and systems at local community level in adherence to EC 2013 Communication "the quality of local governance is primarily linked to the political willingness of Central governments to create a conducive environment at local level, through legal and regulatory instruments, allowing local authorities to benefit from sufficient level of autonomy in exercising power and acquire specific capabilities".
- Promoting growth, job creation and reduction of inequalities
- Localizing the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 (SDGs)
- Accelerating private sector development
- Restructuring economic management
- Development of human capital base

The short and medium term consequences of the Covid-19 on LAs have not been integrated for obvious reasons but it is a priority area which will be included in the consultancy.

2 INTRODUCTION

“EU should support the efforts of governments to create a conducive environment, so that local Authorities can be empowered in the definition and implementation of local policies and plans and fully participate in the sustainable development”.

The quotation above is from the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, The European Economic and Social Committee and the committee of the Regions entitled “Empowering Local Authorities in Partner Countries for enhanced governance and more effective development outcomes”.

This has since become known as COM (2013). The document forms the basis of EU partnership with local Authorities and encourages decentralization, good local governance and participatory democracy. It defines Local Authorities as Public institutions with legal personality, component of the State structure below the level of central government and accountable to citizens.

It went further to note that Local Authorities are usually composed of a deliberative or policy-making body (Council or Assembly) and an executive body (Mayor or other Executive officer), directly or indirectly elected or selected at local level. The term encompasses different tiers of government, e.g villages, municipalities, districts, counties, provinces, regions, etc.

It notes however “Within this wide context, the focus of this Communication is however put on the municipal level, which is generally the lowest government tier of the public institutional system and the closest to citizens”.

The communication emphasised the importance of good governance at the local level as a necessary ingredient to achieve sustainable development and equitable outcomes.

Good governance it notes, creates the conditions for inclusive, responsive and effective development processes. It defines governance as “related to rules, processes, and behaviours by which interests are articulated, resources are managed, power is exercised in society by the institutions in charge of public affairs and participation of all relevant actors.”

Giving credence to the relevance of good governance it notes that the quality of local governance hinges on the political willingness of central governments creating conducive environment at local level, through legal and regulatory instruments, allowing Local Authorities to benefit from a sufficient level of autonomy in exercising power and acquire specific capabilities.

Local Authorities also have an impact on the quality of local governance as it relates to the way they implement public policies and services on the basis of local policy-making processes and interacting with public institutions, citizens and private sector through the allocation of available resources. It is in this framework that a territorial approach to development should be promoted.

It is further noted from Com.2013 that “from an operational point of view, the new EU approach would promote enhanced political, administrative and fiscal autonomy of

local Authorities through decentralization reforms, capacity and institutional development and the creation of an enabling environment for private activities.

2.1 Methodology

The methodology that will be used is based on available literature documenting Government of the Gambia policies, EU policies and other policy documents that are relevant to the execution of the assignment.

It entails consideration of LAs' relation to central government under the Cotonou Agreement, and related EU support mechanisms for LAs. It will also look at the effectiveness of institutional and financial support by government to LAs in line with existing policies. Relevant policy documents will be looked at and streamlined.

2.2 List of Acronyms and Abbreviation

AAAA	Addis Ababa Action Agenda
CC	Climate Change
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSP	Country Strategy Paper
CEDAW Women	Convention on the Elimination of All forms of discrimination Against Women
EDF	European Development Fund
EPA	European Partnership Agreement
EU	European Union
GALGA	Gambia Association of Local Government Authorities
GBOS	Gambia Bureau of Statistics
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFD	Gambia Federation of the Disabled
GLFS	Gambia Labour Force Survey
GMD	Gambian Dalasi
GSM	Global System for Mobile Communication
GT Board	Gambia Tourism Board
ICT	Information Communication Technology
HIS	Integrated Household Survey
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LGA	Local Government Area
LGA	Local Government Authority
LNOB	Leaving No one Behind
MDFT	Multi-Disciplinary Facilitation Team
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MICS	Multi Indicator Cluster Survey
MoBSE	Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education
MoFEA	Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
MoICI	Ministry of Information and Communication Infrastructure
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action (on Climate Change)
NIP	National Indicative Programme
NCCP	National Climate Change Policy
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan
NOD	Non-Communicable Diseases
NDC	National Determined Contribution
NDMA	National Disaster Management Agency
NDP	National Development Plan
NEA	National Environment Agency
NEAP	National Employment Policy and Action Plan
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NSDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
NSSP	National Social Protection Strategy
NYC	National Youth Council
PACD	Programme for Accelerated Community Development
PHC	Primary Health Care
PLHIV	Persons Living with HIV/AIDS

PPP	Public Private Partnership
RIP	Regional Indicative Programme
RTAC	Regional Technical Advisory Committees
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SOEs	State Owned Enterprises
SP	Social Protection
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TALD	Territorial Approach to Local Development
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UHC	Universal Health Care
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VLR	Voluntary National Review
WB	World Bank

2.3 The National Development Plan (NDP) 2018-2021

The National Development Plan was formulated in the aftermath of the December 2016 Presidential elections. With a new democratic dispensation the government decided to come up with a development paradigm to address the expectations of the citizenry and address the societal disparities that existed. The President of the Republic of the Gambia, Mr. Adama Barrow in the preamble to the NDP document notes: “This historic decision that ushered in the “new Gambia” has created a seismic shift in our country’s trajectory since gaining Independence in 1965. It heralds a new chapter in our history and offers a renewed opportunity to build a modern accountable state based on the foundations of democracy, good governance and, respect for human rights and security for all”.

The overarching goal of the NDP is “to deliver good governance and accountability, social cohesion, and national reconciliation and a revitalised and transformed economy for the well-being of all Gambians”.

The NDP both domesticates and serves as an instrument for realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the First Ten year Implementation of Plan of the Africa Agenda 2063. The National Development Plan mainstreams the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs into its eight strategic priorities and seven critical enablers as well as other global and regional agendas such as Africa Agenda 2063 and the Istanbul Plan of Action.

The vision and goal of the NDP will be realized through eight strategic priorities:

1. Restoring good governance, respect for human rights, the rule of law, and empowering citizens through decentralization.
2. Stabilizing the economy, stimulating growth, and transforming the economy
3. Modernizing agriculture and fisheries for sustained economic growth, food and nutritional security and poverty reduction.
4. Investing in people through improved education and health services, and building a caring society.
5. Building infrastructure and restoring energy services to power the economy (Energy, Transport and Public Works).
6. Promoting an inclusive and culture-centered tourism for sustainable growth
7. Reaping the demographic dividend through an empowered youth
8. Making the private sector the engine of growth, transformation, and job creation

The NDP also has seven Critical Enablers to complement the strategic priorities:

1. A public sector that is efficient and responsive to the citizenry
2. Empowering the Gambian women to realise her full potential
3. Enhancing the role of the Gambian diaspora in national development
4. Promoting environmental sustainability, climate resilient communities and appropriate land use
5. Making the Gambia a Digital Nation and creating a modern information society
6. A civil society that is engaged and is a valued partner in national development
7. Strengthening evidence-based policy, planning and decision-making

2.3.1 Implementation Strategy

To ease Government's burden in monitoring and reporting progress of the international and regional agreements, the indicators in the NDP were closely matched to those from the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063.

Several interconnected strategies shall drive implementation of the NDP, namely:
Rigorous prioritization and sequencing of actions;

- Addressing regional disparities in access to basic services and strengthening integrated urban planning;
- Realignment of sector strategies and action plans to overall orientation of the NDP
- Regional integration and cross-border cooperation, and
- Capacity development

2.4 Vision 2020 – Strategy for Poverty Alleviation (SPA)

The Vision 2020 for the Gambia envisages that the country will be transformed into a middle-income country by the year 2020. The long-term growth strategy of the Vision 2020 is based on four strategic development areas, namely:

- Accelerating private sector development; Restructuring economic management;
- Developing the human capital base;
- Institutionalizing decentralized and democratic participatory government structures, processes and systems

To achieve these, the Government of the Gambia put in place a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) – the second Strategy for Poverty Alleviation (SPA II). SPA II priorities are focused on attaining a high level of economic growth (with special focus on the critical areas of private sector development, agriculture, natural resources, tourism, trade and industry), and a timely attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The four critical poverty issues addressed under the SPA-II for the Gambia were:

1. Enhancing the Productive Capacity of the poor
 - Promoting labour-saving devices for women
 - Providing Access to Credit
 - Re-organizing Agricultural R&D to encourage labour intensive agriculture and development of small ruminants
2. Enhance Access to and the Performance of Social services
 - Expanding Access to Basic Social Services in Rural Areas
 - Delivering responsive Social Programs to the poor
3. Enhancing Sustainability and Quality of Social Services
 - Local Level Capacity Building
 - A Political and Legislative Framework for Decentralization
4. Empowerment of local Government Authorities to assume decentralised responsibilities
 - Promoting Participatory Communications Processes
 - Enhancing Participation beyond Consultation
5. Addressing Gender at National and Local Levels
 - Institutionalizing Dialogue between Government, Civil Society and Donors

The policy has been one of the most successful programmes for social inclusion and poverty alleviation. It graduated to the programme for Accelerated growth and Employment (PAGE) which gave rise to the National Development Plan (2018-2021).

2.5 The Children’s Act 2005

The Children’s Act was promulgated in August 2005. The Act brings together all the laws relating to children, sets out the rights and responsibilities of children and provides for their care, protection and maintenance.

The Act defines a child as any person under the age of eighteen years and regards child abuse as any violation of the rights of a child which causes physical or mental harm to the child.

The Act aims to protect children through several important Provisions or Articles. Apart from making the protection of children everyone’s responsibility, and prohibiting the engagement of a child in exploitative labour and hazardous work, or labour that deprives the child his or her health, education or holistic development, the Act also provides for the establishment of Children’s Courts in all Regions and Police Welfare Units.

2.6 The Women’s Act, 2010

The National Women’s Act was enacted in May 2010. The Act was promulgated to “implement the legal provisions of the National policy for the advancement of Gambian women and girls, and to incorporate and enforce the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Protocol of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and for other matters”.

Women’s human rights are clearly protected in the Act as guaranteed under Chapter IV of the 1997 Constitution of the Gambia. Among these are Right to life, integrity and security of person; right to health and health care; Right to healthy and sustainable context and right to sustainable development.

As part of the Act a National Women’s Council is established which among its mandate is to develop methods for the integration and implementation of gender and women’s rights initiatives in all areas of Government activities? As part of its mandate the Council will also review proposals from Ministries and other agencies of the public sector regarding legislation and written communications to ensure that gender perspective have been considered to achieve equal representation of men and women in all programmes and initiatives of Government, Local Government Authorities and all public institutions.

It will also ensure that the budget and appropriation issues of the Government, local Government Authorities and public bodies and institutions comply with the gender policy of government.

The Act incorporates and domesticates both the CEDAW (International Bill of Rights for Women), which was ratified by the Gambia in 1992. A dedicate Ministry of Women and Children’s Affairs was created in 2018.

The Gambia has recorded remarkable progress in the area of governance. A new draft Constitution has been completed which espouses respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms, and rule of law.

The constitution also advocates for gender balance and fair representation of women, youth and persons with disabilities in parliament, other statutory bodies as well as in the State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs). In the Judiciary, a balance in the gender representation was achieved and for the first time, there are two Gambian female judges at the Supreme Court. At the political level, for the first time, a female was elected as the mayor of Banjul, the capital city.

2.7 National Health Policy 2012-2020

The Health Policy is in line with development strategies of the Gambia Government, especially those related to health. The policy is expected to reform the health system by addressing the major traditional problems of health, the new challenges and the double burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases, curbing the HIV/AIDS pandemic and overcoming a weak health system.

This reform is in line with the local Government decentralization and planning based on the local Government Act (2002), Vision 2020 and the anti-poverty Programme for Accelerated Growth and Employment (PAGE), attainment of MDG: 4 Reduce Child Mortality; MDG: 5 Improve Maternal Health; and MDG: 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

The overall goal is the provision of quality and affordable health services for all by 2020 and, promotes and protects the health of the population through equitable provision of quality health care – Reduce morbidity and mortality to contribute significantly to quality of life in the population.

2.8 Education Sector Policy (2016-2030)

Premised on the Gambia's Vision 2020, Programme for Accelerated Growth and Employment (PAGE), as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Policy document was prepared using a highly participatory approach with the theme "Access, Equitable and Inclusive Quality Education for Sustainable Development". Apart from the issues that have distinct institutional 'homes' based on their specificities, the policy has highlighted themes that cut across the two sectors and made clear pronouncements on how they could be optimally implemented. These themes include, but not limited to the areas of Technical and Vocational Education (TVET), Education Management and Information Systems (EMIS) and Teacher Training.

The main thrust of the document is to provide a policy framework that sets out the national agenda for the delivery of quality education in the Gambia for the period 2016-2030. The Document outlines the aims and objectives of education in this country which are synchronized with the education-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Education for All (EFA) goals, the Global Partnership for Education – related goals and the country's Post PAGE goals, policy priorities are identified to allow for the growth of educational opportunity and improve the effectiveness of education at all levels, from Early Childhood Development (ECD) to tertiary and higher education.

2.9 The Gambia National Social Protection Policy 2015-2025

The National Social Protection Policy 2015-2025 (NSSP) was designed to contribute towards the alleviation of poverty and vulnerability in the country, in line with the Government of the Gambia's Vision 2020 and Programme for Accelerated Growth and Employment (PAGE). The NSSP was developed through participatory national and regional consultations with key ministries, sub-national (local) governments, community leaders, development partners, civil society, the private sector, and local communities.

The long-term vision (2015-2025) for social protection is to establish, by 2025, an inclusive, integrated and comprehensive social protection system that will effectively provide protective, preventative, promotive and transformative measures to safeguard the lives of all poor and vulnerable groups in the Gambia and contribute to broader human development, greater economic productivity and inclusive growth.

The objective is to facilitate the reform of the national social protection system by ensuring more efficient and effective use of resources, strengthened management and administrative systems, and greater progress towards a more inclusive form of social protection that makes basic income and social services available to the Gambia's poorest and most vulnerable people – gradually expanding access to the entire population.

Overall, 48.6% of the population in 2015/16 is poor (HIS 2015/16) with a large difference between urban (31.6%) and rural areas (69.5%) – thus manifesting poverty as a rural phenomenon.

The number of people living below the poverty line (i.e. less than \$1.25/day) increased from 0.79 million in 2010 to 0.94 million in 2015/16 (HIS, 2015/16). The Covid-19 pandemic is expected to have negative implications on poverty. Sectors such as Tourism and Hospitality and Trade have already been affected, and individuals face risk of unemployment or (partial) loss of income.

But they are not the only ones; markets, and small businesses are also affected due to restricted hours. As highlighted, there will be many more new poor or 'differently poor people' as a result of Covid-19. This will be further compounded by inadequate formal safety nets for the vulnerable population.

2.10 The Gambia National Trade Policy 2018-2022

The Gambia has maintained its generally open trade and investment regime since the last Trade Policy review in 2010. The Gambia is the smallest country on the African mainland. It ranks among the poorest countries in the world, with a per capita income of less than US\$500 and approximately half the population of about two million living below the poverty line (US\$1.25/day).

The Trade Policy is a manifestation of the resolve of the Government of the Gambia to make trade a tool for sustainable socio-economic development and advancing the cause of the Gambian private sector as engine of growth, transformation and job creation in line with the National Development Plan (NDP) 2018-2021). The policy, valid for five years (2018-2022), is designed to address persistent poverty and growing inequalities.

It emphasizes the critical issue of implementation, not only of the policy itself, but also interrelated sectoral policies, existing trade agreements and relevant regional and continental initiatives needed to harness trade for development.

It aims to promote trade as an engine for economic growth and to take full advantage of Gambia's trade potential to foster greater integration into the global economy and create employment. Also, there is a National employment policy and strategy (2010-2014) currently being reviewed for the period 2020-2025 which aims to promote a more rapid growth of the productive employment sectors – the labour intensive and labour absorbing economic sectors, particularly agriculture, fisheries, tourism, construction and the informal sector through greater support and incentives for the private sector, and access to credit for productive investment.

In developing the Trade Policy, reference is made to a number of policy documents to ensure policy coherence to national development objectives. The Trade Policy is thus anchored on the NDP which is the overarching development policy document, and other key strategies and policies.

2.11 National Entrepreneurship Policy 2018-2027

The National Entrepreneurship Policy (NEP) aims to build domestic capacities for the private sector. It sets an example of how investment and entrepreneurship policies can create synergies for domestic business sector development as well as foreign investors' attraction. The document stresses that several actions are still required to optimize the regulatory environment. Enhancing entrepreneurship education and skills development, and improving access to finance are the two areas where most significant gaps need to be filled.

The vision of the NEP is that by 2026 the Gambia will have a thriving and sustainable middle-income economy – growing by 7% and at least – driven by self-reliant and innovative local entrepreneurs and an enabling and strengthened ecosystem, embracing all parts of the country. The transformation will have contributed to improved social and environmental challenges.

The Policy aims to tear down obstacles and abolish burdensome requirements that hamper business operations, set efficient bankruptcy procedures and provide a fair second chance to failed entrepreneurs; it will upgrade entrepreneurship education and skills, facilitate access to finance and support new businesses mobilising innovation and technology to solve environmental challenges, and spreading ICT, recognizing entrepreneurs as creators of jobs and prosperity with a focus on the inclusion of vulnerable groups, in particular women and youth.

It will instil the entrepreneurship mind set, whilst addressing cultural biases including gender in the Gambian society, paying specific attention to the status of women entrepreneurs and other disadvantaged groups. Most initiatives will be in partnership with the private sector to strengthen networking, trust and cooperation among the diverse private sector players in the Gambia.

It aims to build a national entrepreneurship ecosystem in the Gambia, to support inclusive and green entrepreneurship development targeted at creating new economic activities, improving local productive capacities, providing solutions to environmental and social challenges and generating decent jobs.

2.12 National Transport Policy

The objective of the National Transport Policy (NTP) is to support, in the long term, the productive capacity of the economy and will assist in the improvement of the living standard of the Gambian citizens.

Since the launching of the Vision 2020 in 1996 the country saw major changes to the structure of the economy, including in agriculture and fisheries. In order to increase and sustain this growth in agricultural and other sectors higher demand on the transport system will be made, and the transport sector has to respond by quantity and quality of transport infrastructure and services.

The policy is being developed within the context of the country's programme for Accelerated Growth and Employment (PAGE II or the National Development Plan (NDP) 2018-2021), and within the broader framework of the national Vision 2020 blue print.

It is envisaged that building on the achievement and lessons from the NTP (developed in 1998), the NTP will play a significant role in defining the priorities and objectives in the transport sector, aimed to serve the country's development goals. The policy will guide the development of the country's transport sector, with focus on the development and maintenance of transport infrastructure in the Gambia, by contributing to reducing extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity.

Other sectoral Policies and Strategies coordinated within the NDP to support the achievement of this policy's objectives include the Trade, Agriculture and Tourism Policies. In addition to the above, the NTP is aligned to other national sectoral Policies and Strategies, including those for accelerating the development of the private sector, such as Public Private Partnership (PPPs) in the transport services and infrastructure, and wider ranging Public/Private Sector relations.

2.13 ICT Policy (2018-2028)

The Policy statement sets out the road map for the development of the Gambia's information society and economy and provides a basis for facilitating the socio-economic development of the country in the emerging information, knowledge and technological age to be dominated by information and knowledge-based economies. The policy covers areas where the deployment and utilization of ICTs can have a significant impact on the development process of the Gambia:

Development of the private sector especially the service sector; Production Activities and Operations; Agriculture operations to improve productivity Administration and service delivery within the public sector; Rural Development Support trade and commerce Education and Training; Good Governance; Poverty Alleviation; ICTs as agents of Wealth Creation and Rapid Economic Growth.

The Policy has as a vision to leverage the benefits of ICTs for a people-centered, free market based and export oriented socio-economic development strategy built on principles of Public-Private Partnership for wealth Creation.

2.14 National Climate Change Policy 2016-2025

The National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) is grounded in the country's national development and poverty reduction frameworks, including the Government of the Gambia's Vision 2020, Programme for Accelerated Growth and Employment (PAGE) and the National Development Plan (NDP 2018-2021). It sets out comprehensive and cross cutting policy directives to implement national development strategies in a climate-resilient manner, drawing on all sectors of the population in a spirit of partnership and collaboration.

With respect to Environmental Resilience and Climate Change, The Government of the Gambia formulated the Policy to provide an overarching framework for managing climate risks, building institutions and capacities, and identifying new opportunities for climate-resilient sustainable development in the Gambia. The goal of the policy is, by 2025, to achieve the mainstreaming of climate change into national planning, budgeting, decision-making, and programme implementation, through effective institutional mechanisms, coordinated financial resources, and enhanced human resources capacity.

The policy objectives mean that the Gambia will pursue climate risk management for pro-poor, equitable and inclusive growth, in line with the NDP and the SDGs. The Policy sets in place enhanced institutional arrangements for coordination and mainstreaming, outline a new integrated approach to resource mobilisation, and develop a clear policy direction for human resource development. It focuses attention on Policy priorities in four key thematic clusters, and emphasises the links between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

Lastly, it outlines the approach to be followed to develop the implementation framework for the policy, through the subsequent National Climate Change Response Strategy and Action Plan.

The NCCP represents the Gambia's determined and systematic response to the interlinked climate threats to sustainable development, wellbeing ecological integrity. Accordingly, the Policy defines the following long-term vision for the Gambia: "Achieve a climate-resilient society, through systems and strategies that mainstream climate change, disaster risk reduction, gender and environmental management, for sustainable social, political and economic development".

The vision suggests that an effective Gambian climate change response requires economic, social and environmental interventions that integrate mitigation and adaptation elements within a developmental framework. This is the meaning of climate-resilient development, in the Gambian context.

With respected to Climate Change, the Gambia is rated among the world's two most ambitious countries; its National Determined Contribution (NDC) has ambitious conditional and unconditional targets that meet the 1.5°C Paris Agreement Commitment.

2.15 National Disaster Management Act 2008

Owing to the intensity of Climate Change and its associated serious impact on life and socio-economic status of any nation, the Government of the Gambia promulgated the National Disaster Management Act in November 2008 complemented by a National Disaster Management Policy. This led to the creation of a Disaster Management Agency with decentralised structures in all the regions in line with Government decentralization reforms.

The Act is streamlined to cater for and encourage the participation of all stakeholders. Issues of gender, youth and the physically challenged are all addressed. Decentralised structures have been very effective in responding to disasters at the local level as witnessed during the Corona pandemic and the flash floods. However, the biggest challenge is how to ensure a coherent collaborative partnership between Central Government/Local Government/and the communities.

2.16 The Gambia National Youth Policy (2009-2019)

The policy was prepared in 2009 and articulates the importance and role of youths in nation building.

It has clearly stated goals and set of policy objectives directed at mainstreaming youths in national development. It has taken care of gender issues as well as disabilities as active participants in all youth activities. Roles and responsibilities have been clearly identified and decentralised youth structures are put in place in all the regions in line with Government's decentralization policy. The issue of illegal migration, though addressed in the policy, has to be given much attention considering the phenomena now among young people.

2.17 National Energy Policy 2014-2018

Policies in the Energy sector such as the National Energy Policy, Strategy and Action Plan (2014-2018), National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP) of the Gambia (2015-2030), Renewal Energy Act (2013) are examples of Policies and Strategies in the Energy sector in the Gambia geared towards promoting Low Carbon Development and reducing Carbon Emissions for Sustainable Development.

The Gambia Government's main energy Policies for the energy sector is underpinned by gradually getting consumers to use renewables, particularly wind and solar. To ensure sustainable use of petroleum products, the Government intends to regulate the importation of petroleum products and prices to enhance affordable access and the use of clean fuel. In promoting the use of clean fuels, LPG has been identified as an important element especially in urban and rural areas and the regional strategies are anticipated to augment the efforts of the Gambia Government.

In respect of domestic fuels, the GOG's target is to encourage the use of modern energy saving methods of cooking, enhance forest management to prevent depletion. The GOG also intends to transfer the management responsibilities of forests to local communities to foster community endorsement.

All the above policies are translated into programmes within the context of the NDP, which ensured strong Interlinkages across economic, social, and environmental

dimensions. Its 8 (eight) key strategic priorities focus on issues related to Governance, Economic Growth, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Social Services (Health and Education), Infrastructure, Tourism, Youth and private sector development. In addition, the NDP has 7 (seven) critical enablers. One of the critical enablers is to promote environmental sustainability, to ensure that the Gambia's Environment and Natural Resources are managed sustainably and conserved in order to increase resilience for the benefit of all by strengthening Environment and Climate Change-friendly policies, creating programmes to raise awareness at all levels for Resilience and Sustainable Management for Natural Resources.

There is a proper coordination mechanism put in place between sectors and institutions in order to streamline the goals that cut across the three dimensions of sustainable development. To realise this, the country has put in place a platform called the Planners forum, which brings together central and local government planners to consistently dialogue and review planning and implementation of sector policies and programmes.

This platform also addresses gaps in sector policies, ensures synergy in sector policies and enhances integrated and inclusive sustainable policy formulation.

2.18 Elements of Participation

The first stage in a decentralised cooperation process is local agreement on the essential elements of the development programme. This includes discussion of issues around common interests and priorities, leading to a community vision, the division of roles and responsibilities for an action plan, indicators of impact and measurements of progress – building partnerships; from vision to action; and monitoring and evaluation.

This is why the Gambia Association of local Authorities (GALGA) representing Local Government Authorities in the Gambia deems it necessary to engage central government as a major partner in the integration of local authorities in the European Union Cooperation Programming Process 2021-2027.

3 CHAPTER 1

3.1 GALGA and Local Authorities in the planning process

Programming process of the 2021-2027 EU Cooperation Preparedness of Local Authorities and their National Associations In the dialogue and interaction with the central Government and the EU Delegation at country level.

The European Union (EU) reprioritized its delivery of Aid to developing countries to ensure maximum on poverty reduction. These policies set out a more strategic EU approach to reducing poverty, including through a more targeted allocation of funding. The funding focuses on sectors which are key for long-term growth and inclusive growth, target countries that are in greatest need of external support and where AID can make a difference. Also EU Aid focuses on sectors setting the foundations for inclusive and sustainable growth, such as:

- Good governance, including respect for human rights and democracy;

- Gender equality
- Role of civil society and the fight against corruption;
- Social protection, health and education;
- Supporting a favourable business environment and deeper regional integration;
- Sustainable agriculture and clean energy;
- Helping to provide safeguards against external shock;
- Turn challenges of food security and climate change into opportunities for growth.

In order to generate more resources, the EU explores innovative ways of financing development, like blending of grants and loans.

3.2 Background

According to the Terms of Reference (TOR), the European Commission has concluded a new financing instrument, the **Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)** that will guide its next programming of the next 6 years (2021-2027).

The EU programming is meant to identify strategic and priority areas and sectors for interventions to “be financed by the EU Cooperation following a political dialogue with the central governments, the local authorities and other development actors of (civil society, private sector, etc.).

The involvement of Local Authorities (LAs) represent a key innovative feature of programming process, which until now has been mostly focused on the dialogue with national governments. Local governments were considered as non-state actors. The European Commission 2013 Communication on **“Empowering local authorities in partner countries for enhanced governance and more effective development outcomes,”** recognizes from then on local and subnational governments (LAs) as **state actors** in their own rights and capacity as enshrined in the **Cotonou Partnership Agreement (CPA)**.

The CPA is a comprehensive political, aid and trade accord and the largest global agreement of its kind. It is also one of the few development cooperation agreements which explicitly include LAs among key stakeholders in its implementation. The Agreement was concluded between the European Union and its 28 members on the one hand and the 79 members of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states on the other hand.

In particular, it recognizes LAs as ‘state actors’ (Art.6) “working as proximity public authorities besides the central government according to the principle of subsidiarity based on the key dynamics and interaction between the two levels of public governance.” It acknowledges further their complementary role and potential contributions (Art.4) in ACP – EU cooperation. Specifically, it provides for LAs engagement in political dialogue and eligibility to EDF funding and makes provision for strengthening LAs capacity and supporting local development.

This is why the LAs are encouraged through their national associations, to be an integral part in the programming process alongside the representatives of the national government, in the dialogue with the EU delegation. One of the priorities of LAs that are shared at the level of the UCLGA is public participation and local democracy. Therefore,

UCLGA is urging members “collectively and consistently to defend a set of political agenda of demands at the programming table.

This is the *raison d’être* for this consultancy to articulate the concerns/needs of LAs through the Gambia Association of Local Government Authorities (GALGA) in line with the Government of the Gambia National Development Plan, during the programming stage with the EU. These include, but not limited to looking at:

- The national development policy and priority sector strategies defined and /or being implemented by the national government and level of participation of LAs.
- Implementation of the decentralization policy
- Implementation of the EU cooperation

This action seeks to create an impetus for the strengthening of participatory local governance which embraces mutually good governance principles that will be implemented through harmonized, effective and efficient partnership mechanisms (tripartite : EU-Government of the Gambia-LAs).

4 CHAPTER 2

4.1 National Policy for Decentralization and Local Development 2015-2024

“The primary aim of the policy is for government to respond to its constitutional obligation to create the enabling policy environment for promoting democratic governance that is participatory.” Decentralization Policy introduction.

The policy orientation is decentralization by devolution. It should be noted that the Government of the Gambia has in place the enabling policy and legal context that can facilitate the progression of the decentralisation process.

Decentralisation and the development role of the local authorities are enshrined in the Constitution of the Gambia (1997); Vision 2020 (Government’s long-term development blue print); the National Governance Policy (1999); The Local Government Act (2002); The local government finance and Audit Act (2004); the Programme for Accelerated growth and Employment (PAGE), the government’s medium-term development strategy, and the National Development Plan (NDP) 2018-2021.

The 1997 constitution of the Gambia prescribes a system of governance that is participatory at all levels of society, especially at local level. Section 193 (1) of the constitution is unambiguous in this regard where it clearly states that “Local government administration in the Gambia shall be based on a system of democratically elected councils with a high degree of local autonomy”.

The Directive Principles of State Policy at Section 214 (3) further iterate “The state shall be guided by the principles of decentralization and devolution of government functions and powers to the people at appropriate levels of control to facilitate democratic governance.”

The Vision 2020 document, under the Good Governance rubric, has also adopted the decentralization strategy:

“To encourage participatory government and balanced development, Government shall pursue an intensive political and institutional decentralization process. This will contribute to poverty alleviation and diffuse the different socio-economic tensions that spring out of rapid population growth, rural-urban drift, unemployment and regional disparities in economic development.”

The ultimate objective of the decentralization policy is based on devolution and not de-concentration or delegation. This has been given Constitutional and legal backing by section 214(3) of the constitution that stipulates “The State shall be guided by the principles of decentralization and devolution of government functions and powers to the people at appropriate levels of control to facilitate democratic governance.

Furthermore the National Governance Policy (1999) recommends a gradual progression from de-concentration to devolution within a ten-year planning period, while Section 49 of the Local Government Act (2002) stipulates that “ Minister responsible for any other ministry may, after consultation with the Minister of Lands and Regional Government, shall devolve functions, services and powers vested in that ministry to a council”.

These policy objectives for local government reform aim at extending the process of decentralization by promoting the direct participation of the population in the management of their own affairs, and the promotion of a spatially integrated approach to local development.

Policy identified eight areas:

Political decentralization, Administrative decentralization, Fiscal decentralization, Decentralised development planning and budgeting, Local economic development, Popular participation and accountability, The involvement of private sector and non-state actors in local governance, Promoting right-based approach to development
The policy will be implemented over a period of 10 years from the date of its adoption. It will be implemented in in 2 phases:

1. Phase one: 2015 – 2019
2. Phase two; 2020 – 2024
- 3.

In pursuit of these goals the government established a strategy, key among them:

- Established a Programme Co-ordinating Committee and Programme Management Unit at the Ministry of Regional Government and Lands for the implementation and monitoring of the reforms. These have been established and evolved into Directorate of Local Governance.
- Developed an appropriate legal and institutional framework. This has been achieved by the enactment of the Local Government Act. 2002 (later with amendments) and the Finance and Audit Act. 2004. These Acts create local capacity for programming and financing development and define central and local government responsibilities. They further involve direct participation of the people in the affairs of Local Governments.

- Capacitating local authorities by providing human, financial and material resources is still illusory.

4.2 EU Communication 2013

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the committee of the Regions (COM 2013) – “Empowering Local Authorities in partner countries for enhanced governance and more effective development outcomes”.

The document forms the basis of EU cooperation with Local Authorities as State-Actors and emphasises the active role that LAs should play in the decentralization process. The Communication integrates the results of “the Structured Dialogue on the involvement of Civil Society Organizations and Local Authorities in EU development cooperation”, the EU renewed approach to poverty reduction and sustainable development:

- The participation of citizens in decision-making processes that affect their lives
- Access to accountability mechanisms as fundamental to the promotion of sustainable development and poverty reduction.

It notes that Local authorities should be key partners, participate and be involved in development policies and programmes to address the complexities of sustainable development and fight poverty. It highlights a major shortcoming of decentralization policies that political recognition has not always been accompanied by an adequate level of autonomy, capacity development and financial resources, thus leaving the empowerment of LAs incomplete.

Local Authorities act as catalysts to change, the Communication states, being the level of government much closer to the people and should be given the necessary support to cooperate with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to address the urgent challenges faced by local communities:

- Social exclusion. Migration, Food security, Limited infrastructures, Rapid urbanisation
- Depletion of resources
- Public safety and violence
- Environmental and social impact of extractive activities
- Climate adaptation and mitigation
- Rule of law and access to justice

To unlock the development potential of Local Authorities, the EU through COM 2013 put emphasis on the principle of subsidiarity to promote the role of LAs as policy and decision makers, in favour of transparent and accountable policy-making and service delivery at the local level.

According to the principle of subsidiarity, public responsibilities, regulatory functions and spending are transferred to the lowest institutional or social level, closest to citizens, that is able and entrusted to complete them. This is likely to empower them, and to boost local development via increased democratic participation, justice, human

rights, active citizenship, participation of women and youth in the public sphere, and multi-level accountability.

COM 2013 urges to EU to promote the following to enhance improved good governance and more effective development outcomes at local level:

- Work in favour of democratically legitimate, accountable and representative Local Authorities and local leaders in partner countries with a particular focus on municipal authorities in rural and urban areas;
- Support the efforts of governments to create a conducive environment, so that LAs can be empowered in the definition and implementation of local policies and plans and fully participate in sustainable development processes
- Together with central governments, the EU should invest in capacity development activities to ensure that Local Authorities, particularly in remote areas with limited capabilities and resources, are able to lead the development of their territories in cooperation with local actors.

From an operational point of view, the NEW EU approach as defined in COM 2013 would promote enhanced political, administrative and fiscal autonomy of Local Authorities through decentralization reforms, capacity and institutional development. It highlights the following:

- Decentralization
- Capacity development of Local Authorities
- Sustainable urbanization

It is reassuring to note that the principles encapsulated in COM 2013 are captured in the Gambia's decentralization policy as entrenched in the 1997 Constitution of the Gambia. The decentralization policy still needs to be validated and implemented through the Local Government Act (2002) and the Local Government Finance and Audit Act (2004).

The values of decentralization are explicitly expressed but the political will to implement is lacking as seen by the slow pace taken by central government bureaucrats and ineffective advocacy by Local Authorities.

4.3 The Cotonou Agreement

The Cotonou Agreement is the most comprehensive Partnership agreement between developing countries (African, Caribbean and Pacific – ACP) countries and the EU. The Agreement aims to reduce and eventually eradicate poverty and contribute to the gradual integration of the ACP countries into the world economy. It is based on three pillars:

- Development cooperation
- Economic and trade cooperation
- Political dimension

The agreement was due to expire in February 2020, but has been extended to December 2020. A new agreement has been negotiated and the future agreement is expected to cover priority areas such as:

- Democracy and human rights
- Economic growth and investment
- Climate change
- Poverty eradication

- Peace and security
- Migration and mobility

The new dispensation is based on the objective realities of the world today considering the fact that the world governance landscape has changed since the signing of the agreement in 2000. The core objective of the partnership has to be reviewed to adapt to the new realities.

The EU is therefore seeking a comprehensive political agreement, setting a modern Agenda framed by the internationally agreed sustainable Roadmaps (the UN 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, as well as the Paris Agreement and the New EU Consensus on Development). The new partnership agreement clearly recognizes Local Authorities as State Actors.

4.3.1 The EU's Strategic Priorities in the New Cotonou Agreement include:

- Speeding up progress towards meeting the goals of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in all its dimensions;
- Moving inclusive, sustainable and economic development forward;
- Building stronger states and societies (through peace, security, justice and fighting against terrorism);
- Supporting private sector development and enhancing regional integration;
- Promoting and upholding human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy, the rule of law and good governance;
- Managing mobility and migration issues;
- Supporting the transition to low greenhouse gas emissions and developing climate resilient economies;
- Ensuring environmental sustainability and management of natural resources.

All the strategic priorities are streamlined in the Gambia's National Development Plan (2018-2021).

4.4 National Indicative Programme (NIP) – The Gambia, 11th EDF

The NIP covers “indicative programmable financial resources” which the European Union envisages to make available to the Gambia for the period 2017-2020. An amount of EUR 117 million has been approved.

The Gambia's national development policy framework has been based on a sequence of poverty reduction strategy papers, ending in 2011, followed by the Programme for Accelerated Growth and Employment (PAGE) for the period 2012 to 2015, extended for the year 2017. For the cycle 2018 to 2021 a National Development Plan has been finalised. The strategy is based on four pillars (i) macroeconomic management; (ii) strengthening the public sector; (iii) promoting sustainable inclusive growth; and (iv) investing in Human Capital.

The programming for the second phase of the NIP (2017-2020) follows the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New European Consensus on Development “Our World, Our Dignity, Our Future.” The strategic objectives are two-fold:

- Stabilising the economic, social and security situation of the country and supporting the democratic transition; and Creating employment for youth and

the most vulnerable groups of the population by boosting investment and improving skills and potentials.

In order to achieve the two strategic objectives, the second phase is based on three focal sectors, aligned with the New European Consensus:

- Sector 1: Governance/ Rule of Law/Security (peace and prosperity)
- Sector 2: Inclusive sustainable growth and job creation (peace, prosperity and planet)
- Sector 3: Renewable Energy/Climate Change/Infrastructures (prosperity, people, and planet)

The Gambia is the African country with the highest per capita rate of irregular migrants to the EU. Root causes of migration will be primarily targeted by providing economic perspective for young people via vocational training and job creation.

All interventions will pay specific action to **gender equality**. Actions under the NIP will also support the effective integration of Climate Change considerations into other sectors, helping the country achieving its commitments under the Paris Agreement in the context of poverty reduction.

4.5 Regional Indicative Programme (RIP) – West Africa 11th EDF

The Regional Indicative Programme (RIP) for West Africa is a programme funded by the European Union under the European Development Fund (EDF), the overall objective of which is to contribute to reducing poverty through supporting better growth and regional economic integration among countries of the region.

Through the current Regional Indicative Programme (2014-2020), the EU will make available to the region EUR 1.15 billion, with priorities centered on regional integration. These are:

- Peace, security and regional stability and private sector
- Resilience, food and nutritional security and natural resources
- Regional economic integration and support for trade

Two regional organisations – the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) and the Economic Community of West Africa (ECOWAS), as well as Mauritania have a mandate in the field of economic integration in West Africa and are therefore responsible for the implementation of the 11th EDF.

The 10th EDF Regional Indicative Programme for West Africa was allocated EUR 595 million and focuses on two main focal sectors:

- Regional integration, competitiveness and the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)
- Political governance and regional stability

In addition, a non-focal sector includes the environment and capacity building to regional organisations.

Within the 10th EDF RIP, a specific envelope of EUR 141.5 million has been allocated to the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund (AITF) for supporting renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in West Africa. The Gambia is benefitting from this.

4.6 The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Sustainable Development Goals is a social contract by UN Member States in 2015 to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.

The blueprint is a universal call to action to end poverty by all UN Member States as part of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development which sets out a 15-year plan to achieve the goals. They address the global challenges related to poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice.

World leaders at the SDG Summit in September 2019 called for a Decade of Action and delivery for sustainable development, and pledged to mobilize financing, enhance national implementation and strengthen institutions to achieve the Goals by the target date of 2030, “leaving no one behind”.

The UN Secretary General called on all sectors of society to mobilise for a decade of action on three levels:

1. Global action to secure greater leadership, more resources and smarter solutions for Sustainable Development Goals;
2. Local action embedding the needed transitions in the policies, budgets, institutions and regulatory framework of governments, cities and local Authorities; and
3. People action, including by youth, civil society, the media, the private sector, unions, academia and other stakeholders, to general and unstoppable movement pushing for the required transformations.

The Sustainable Development Goals are being implemented through 17 goals which are all interconnected:

Goal 1. NO POVERTY – end poverty in all its forms everywhere

Economic growth must be inclusive to provide sustainable jobs and promote equality;

Goal 2: ZERO HUNGER – The food and agriculture sector offers key solutions for development, and is central for hunger and poverty eradication;

Goal 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; this is essential to sustainable development;

Goal 4: QUALITY EDUCATION – Obtaining a quality education is the foundation to improving people’s lives and sustainable development;

Goal 5: GENDER EQUALITY: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world;

Goal 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION – Ensure access to water and sanitation for all.

Clean, accessible water for all is an essential part of the world we want to live in;

Goal 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy.

Energy is central to every major challenge and opportunity;

Goal 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH – Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all.

Sustainable economic growth will require societies to create the conditions that allow people to have quality lives;

Goal 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, AND INFRASTRUCTURE – Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation.

Investment infrastructure are crucial to achieving sustainable development;

Goal 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES – Reduce inequalities within and among countries.

To reduce inequalities, policies should be universal in principle, paying attention to the needs of disadvantaged and marginalised populations;

Goal 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES – make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

There needs to be a future in which cities provide opportunities for all, with access to basic services, energy, housing, transportation and more;

Goal 12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns;

Goal 13: CLIMATE ACTION – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Climate change is a global challenge that affects everyone, everywhere;

Goal 14: LIFE BELOW WATER – conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources.

Careful management of this essential global resource is a key feature of a sustainable future;

Goal 15: LIFE ON LAND

Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss;

Goal 16: PEACE JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS – Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies.

Access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable institutions at all levels;

Goal 17: PARTNERSHIPS – Revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development.

4.6.1 The Gambia and the SDGs

The Gambia actively participated in the formulation and adoption of the SDGs. Since the adoption, the Gambia has been working hard to domesticate the Agenda 2030 and enhance ownership. The Gambia launched the SDGs through a development forum in November 2015. The national launch focused on the theme ‘the Post 2015 Agenda and its financing at local level’ and provided a platform for the Government to locally adopt the Post-2015 Agenda, identified the priority areas for the Gambia and recommended options for mainstreaming the SDGs into the planning process. The forum also identified the most viable options for financing SDGs in the Gambia, including public-private partnership (PPP) and private sector financing (PSF).

4.6.2 Mainstreaming of the SDGs Into National Development Frameworks

During the preparation process of a medium-term National Development Plan, the Gambia seized the opportunity to mainstream the SDGs into its national development agenda. The Gambia launched the SDGs nationally in November 2015 with support from the UNDP.

The launching was preceded by stakeholders’ consultations grouped into Economic, Social, and Environment clusters tasked to critically look at the SDGs and recommend options for mainstreaming the NDP. Recognising the challenges of implementing all the 17 goals and 169 targets, the time horizon of the NDP, the country’s context, the data constraints, and the financial requirements, stakeholders provided the initial

prioritization which resulted in all goals and around 111 targets identified as high priority.

The goals were further prioritized to 8 and 76 targets for inclusion in the NDP. The Government of the Gambia with UNDP support produced the NDP. The 8 strategic priorities and 7 critical enablers that form the basis of the NDP are well aligned with the SDGs. The Local Government Authorities (LGAs) were also provided with support to formulate regional development plans. This provided an opportunity to mainstream SDGs into local development priorities.

4.6.3 Interlinkages between the SDGs and the National Development Plan

NDP priorities	SDGs
- Governance, Human Rights and Security Reform	16
- Macroeconomic Stabilization and Economic Management	1,8,10
- Modernized Agriculture, Agribusiness and Fisheries	1,2,12,14
- Human Capital Development (Education, Health, & Social Protection)	3,4,5,6,10
- Infrastructure and Energy	7,9,12,13
- Tourism and Culture	1,8
- Private Sector Development and Trade	1, 8,9,17
- Youth Development and Trade	1, 3, 4,8,10
- Strengthening Public Institutions	16
- Women's Empowerment	1,3,4,5,10
- Environment, Natural Resources Management, and	
- Climate Change and Land Use	11,13,14,15
- Diaspora in Development	17
- Information and Communication Technology	9,17
- Civil Society	16,17
- Data for Development	17

4.7 Africa Agenda 2063

Africa Agenda 2063 is “a Shared Strategic Framework for Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development & a Global Strategy to optimize the use of Africa’s resources for the benefit of all Africans”.

It is a set of initiatives proposed and currently under implementation by the African Union. It is the continent’s strategic framework that aims to deliver on its goals for inclusive and sustainable development.

It was adopted on 31st January 2015. The stated goals of the Agenda are political economic development, political integration, improvements in democracy and justice, establishment of security and peace on the entire African continent, strengthening of cultural identity through an “African renaissance” and Pan-African ideals, gender equality, and political independence from foreign powers.

The ideals of Africa Agenda 2063 are streamlined in both national and, international documents (SDGs, Cotonou Agreement, the Gambia National Development Plan, etc. and domesticated in our national sectoral policies.

4.8 Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA)

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) highlights the need for integrated national financing frameworks to leverage the full potential of all financial flows – private and

public – for sustainable development. As such the AAAA (Addis Agenda) captures the essence of the challenges to be tackled in the SDGs by turning them into operational commitments.

The Addis Agenda is a global framework that seeks to align financing flows and policies with economic, social, and environmental priorities. Expanding on the previous financing for Development outcomes, the document includes Seven Action Areas: Domestic public resources; Domestic and international private business and finance; International Development Co-operation; International Trade as an Engine for Development; Debt and debt sustainability; Addressing systemic issues; Science, technology, innovation, and capacity building.

The Addis Agenda was adopted three months ahead of the 2030 Agenda and entered implementation in 2016.

4.9 Paris Agreement on Climate Change

The Paris Agreement's central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Additionally, the Agreement aims to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change.

The pact provides a pathway for developed nations to assist developing nations in their climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, and it creates a framework for the transparent monitoring, reporting, and ratcheting up of countries' individual and collective climate goals. It aims to:

- Limit global temperature rise by reducing greenhouse emissions
- Provide a framework for transparency, accountability, and the achievement of more ambitious targets
- Mobilise support for climate change and adaptation in developing countries

With the Paris Accord, leaders from around the world collectively agreed that climate change is driven by human behaviour, that its threat to the environment and all of humanity, and that global action is needed to stop it. It also created a clear framework for all countries to make emissions reduction commitments and strengthen those actions over time.

4.10 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) is an ambitious agreement that sets out the overall objective to substantially reduce disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.

It pursues the following goal: "prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposures and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery, and thus strengthen resilience."

The framework recognizes that the strong commitment and involvement of political leadership in every country is crucial. State level governments share their

responsibilities to reduce disaster risk with other stakeholders such as local governments, the private sector and other non-state actors. It puts in place four clear priorities for action and seven global targets for the substantial reduction of disaster risk.

The Sendai Framework works hand in hand with other 2030 Agenda agreements, including the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the New Urban Agenda, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other non-state actors.

4.11 Istanbul Programme of Action 2011-2020

At the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries in Istanbul, member states agreed on the Istanbul Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the decade 2011-2020 in May 2011. The overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action is to overcome the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries, to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals, and enable half of the 48 least developed countries to graduate out of this category by 2020.

Guided by the overarching goal, the national policies of least developed countries and international support measures, the policy have the following objectives: achieve sustained, equitable and inclusive economic growth in least developed countries, by strengthening their productive capacity in all sectors through structural transformation; and among 5 other objectives “to enhance good governance at all levels”.

The Programme of Action recognizes that multiple crises have created a new consciousness regarding instabilities and vulnerabilities of the global economy and that it is important to redirect attention to the structural transformation of least developed countries through increasing productive capacity and diversification and strengthening home-grown development paths. This is also the new thinking in EU-ACP development cooperation in its new Aid Effectiveness cooperation framework in the formulation of the new Cotonou Agreement which expires in December 2020.