

Report on the First National Dialogue, February 2024

Theme: “Collective Responsibility of Preserving the Nation, Safeguarding the State, and Securing our Resources.”

12th - 16th February 2024

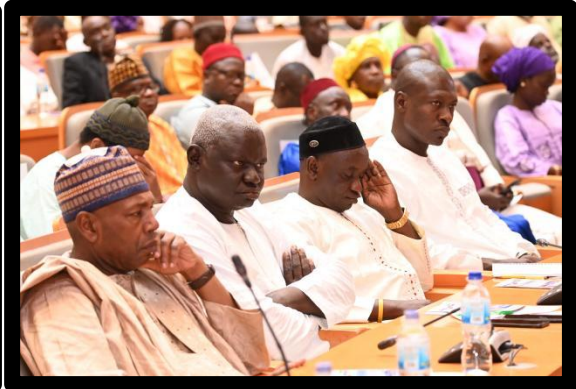


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Acknowledgement

I sincerely express my gratitude to all Gambians for heeding the call to engage in the National Dialogue on critical issues affecting our country and its people. This response demonstrates that, as citizens, we share a deep commitment to the nation's well-being, even though our approaches to addressing these issues may differ.

His Excellency, President Adama Barrow, along with his Office and the government at large, has exhibited commendable leadership by fostering a culture where Gambians engage in dialogue with one another rather than against each other. His approval of a diverse **National Preparatory Committee** underscores his dedication to inclusive development. Furthermore, his non-interference in operational matters instilled confidence in the team, allowing them to act professionally and independently.

I must also acknowledge the exceptional dedication of the National Preparatory Committee members, whose advice, suggestions, and recommendations were instrumental in the successful launch of *The Gambia's National Dialogue Day*, now commemorated annually on **February 16th**. This day will continue to hold a significant place in the annual celebrations of our National Day on February 18th.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the panelists, facilitators, and support teams who collectively channeled their efforts and energies to reflect the essence of who we are as Gambians - striving to uphold our identity as the *Smiling Coast of Africa*.

The compilation of this report was made possible through the invaluable support of Rapporteur General, Hon. Nana Grey-Johnson. I must also pay special tribute to Dr. Cherno Omar Barry, a dedicated member of the Committee, for his meticulous review of the report and updates on the implementation of the recommendations.

My sincere thanks also go to the Media and Communication Team, the Protocol Office, the Administrative Staff, and the Security Teams at the State House for their unwavering dedication to ensuring the success of the First National Dialogue.

It is our hope that this legacy of National Dialogue will continue to define us as a people, providing a platform for constructive engagement and collective solutions to our national challenges.

Amie Bojang-Sissoho

Coordinator, National Dialogue Day

Day 1: Political Dialogue

Meeting with the Political Party Leaders, the First of Three Meetings Scheduled to Address the National Dialogue 2024

Day 1: February 12, 2024

Venue: State House, Banjul



Representatives of the 19 registered Political Parties at the First National Dialogue 2024



The National Consultative Forum: A Pivotal Dialogue on National Unity and Development

The National Consultative Forum convened with a full house of the Executive branch, led by His Excellency President Adama Barrow and His Excellency Vice President Muhammad B.S. Jallow. Representatives from 19 political parties, along with nearly two hundred distinguished invitees—including cabinet ministers, parliamentarians, judiciary officials, members of the press, key stakeholders from governmental and private institutions, local administrative services, and civic leadership—gathered at State House to deliberate on crucial national issues.

Setting the Stage for Dialogue

The discussions were anchored on two fundamental pillars. The first was the mandate outlined by the National Dialogue Preparatory Committee, which sought to organize an inclusive and open dialogue to foster a space where diverse political perspectives could thrive responsibly. The second was the central theme of President Barrow's opening statement: building consensus and institutionalizing a National Dialogue Day as a platform to promote, protect, and nurture peace in The Gambia.

President Barrow urged Gambians to unite as public servants and citizens, emphasizing that national issues must be approached with a spirit of consensus, rather than division. He underscored the collective responsibility of all stakeholders in preserving the nation's stability and advancing democratic principles. He called for active participation in thematic discussions covering politics, religion, ethnic diversity, and the democratic space.

“We must safeguard our nation, secure our resources, uphold our values, and cement our reputation as the Smiling Coast of Africa,” the President declared. He reminded the gathering that this dialogue was a direct outcome of recommendations from the inaugural consultations during the 58th Independence Anniversary celebrations in 2023.

Key Takeaways from the Political Stakeholders

The discussions among political representatives yielded key reflections, which were crystallized into guiding principles for future engagements:

1. **Recognition and Gratitude:** There was unanimous appreciation for President Barrow’s initiative in convening this forum, acknowledging its significance in strengthening political engagement.
2. **Endorsement of National Dialogue:** Political leaders endorsed the goodwill behind the initiative, emphasizing its role in fostering stability and inclusive governance.
3. **Peace and Stability:** The dialogue reflected the country’s long-standing peace and underscored the responsibility of all actors to maintain it.
4. **Ethnic and Minority Considerations:** The need for government policies to be sensitive to ethnic diversity and minority rights was highlighted.
5. **Timeliness of the Forum:** The dialogue was deemed crucial given prevailing socio-political challenges, making it an essential platform for constructive engagement.
6. **Collective Responsibility:** National issues must transcend partisan interests and be approached with a collective problem-solving mindset.
7. **Government Impartiality:** Calls were made for impartiality in employment, resource allocation, and governance practices.
8. **Mandated Reforms:** There was an appeal for the government to meet citizens’ demands for reforms in social, legal, security, and economic sectors.
9. **Socioeconomic Challenges:** Concerns were raised about food security, inflation, and crime, with recommendations for immediate interventions.

10. **Agricultural Investment:** A renewed commitment to supporting agriculture and horticulture through secured loan schemes and state farms was proposed.
11. **Foreign Policy Priorities:** Gambia's foreign relations, particularly with Senegal and the Senegambia region, must be strategically managed to ensure stability and economic cooperation.
12. **Negotiation and Consensus:** Stakeholders emphasized the importance of political give-and-take to bridge divides and drive national progress.
13. **State Resource Management:** Strengthening financial oversight and accountability was identified as critical to governance.
14. **National Values:** Inclusivity and consensus-building must be central tenets of governance.
15. **Peace and Stability:** Issues threatening national unity, such as land disputes and hate speech, must be addressed.
16. **Electoral Reforms:** There was a call for reviewing electoral laws and the voting system.
17. **Education and Youth Empowerment:** Urgent attention was required to enhance education, skills development, and youth employment to curb illegal migration.
18. **Women's Empowerment:** The forum called for stronger policies ensuring women's political and economic security.
19. **Condemnation of Military Interference:** A firm stance was taken against military coups, reaffirming commitment to democratic governance.
20. **Presidential Tours:** The President's 'Meet the People' tour must be a non-partisan initiative rather than a political campaign.
21. **Elimination of Tribalism and Nepotism:** Strong opposition was voiced against tribalism, nepotism, and religious bigotry.
22. **Security and Immigration:** Rising crime rates and ineffective immigration policies require urgent review.

23. **Implementation of Policies:** The lack of policy implementation remains a major governance challenge.
24. **Accountability in Governance:** Delayed implementation of commission recommendations erodes trust in government.
25. **Constructive Political Criticism:** Criticism of government policies should not be mistaken for personal attacks on the President.
26. **Political Freedom:** Restrictions on party activities must be reviewed to uphold constitutional rights.
27. **Anti-Corruption Measures:** Addressing corruption decisively is essential to national progress.
28. **Opposition's Role:** Opposition parties must be recognized as potential governments-in-waiting and treated as integral to national dialogue.
29. **Fiscal Responsibility:** Proper resource management is crucial to addressing financial constraints.
30. **Foreign Service Review:** The bloated diplomatic corps is a financial burden requiring urgent reassessment.
31. **Governance Structures:** Strengthening governance mechanisms is key to national development.
32. **Inter-Party Engagements:** Quarterly or biannual meetings of the Inter-Party Committee should be institutionalized.
33. **Gambia's Global Standing:** Efforts must be made to restore Gambia's international reputation in governance, education, and migration policies.
34. **Artificial Intelligence Adaptation:** AI development must be incorporated into national policies.
35. **Rule of Law:** Justice must be applied uniformly to ensure stability.
36. **Health Policy Reforms:** Increased investment in health, security, and agriculture is crucial.

37. **Leadership and Ethics:** Immorality in governance, corruption, and inefficiency must be tackled.
38. **Public Service Accountability:** Unethical practices in public service, such as per diem abuse and procurement corruption, must be addressed.
39. **Political Party Governance:** Political parties must be held accountable to function as responsible alternative governments.
40. **Civic Education:** Nationwide awareness campaigns on governance and civic responsibility must be launched.
41. **Dialogue Responsibility:** Both government and opposition must engage constructively for national progress.
42. **Central and Local Government Relations:** Clarity on the division of responsibilities between central and local government is necessary.

Closing Remarks by President Barrow

In his closing remarks, President Barrow expressed gratitude to all political leaders for attending and engaging in the dialogue.

“Communities and nations cannot develop without peace,” he emphasized. He commended the preparatory committee for their efforts in bringing together government and civil society, acknowledging the significance of open political discourse in strengthening democracy.

“We cannot progress if we are not talking to each other,” he asserted. The President assured the gathering that all concerns raised—including land management, cost of living, rule of law, and security—would be given due attention.

Highlighting the significance of the forum, he noted the unprecedented attendance of all 19 political parties, a clear indication of national commitment to dialogue. **“We have noted everything you’ve said here,”** he concluded. **“The government will work hard to ensure that your concerns translate into actions benefiting the Gambian people.”**

The forum marked a critical step towards fostering unity, strengthening democratic processes, and addressing national challenges through meaningful dialogue and collective responsibility.

Day 2: Thematic Dialogue

Six Working Groups to Draft Resolutions and
Recommendations

February 14, 2024

Venue: The Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara International
Conference Centre



President Barrow with some members of the National Preparatory Committee

Introduction

The discussions outlined on Day 2 focus on key thematic areas crucial for The Gambia's sustainable development, national unity, and governance. Each group explored pressing societal issues, identifying challenges and proposing concrete recommendations to foster peace, stability, and progress.

- **Group 1** examined the **political environment**, highlighting the importance of constitutional reforms, electoral processes, and governance accountability to ensure sustainable peace.
- **Group 2** focused on **religious tolerance**, emphasizing interfaith harmony as a pillar for social cohesion and national unity.
- **Group 3** explored **ethnic diversity**, advocating for cultural education, anti-discrimination policies, and community engagement to reinforce national unity.
- **Group 4** addressed **national sovereignty**, analyzing governance, security, and the rule of law to safeguard stability and public welfare.
- **Group 5** discussed **the role of media in democracy**, stressing media freedom, professionalism, and literacy as vital for transparency and informed civic engagement.
- **Group 6** tackled **irregular migration**, proposing policies and empowerment programs to curb migration and create local opportunities for youth.

Each thematic area presents a set of discussions, conclusions, and actionable recommendations aimed at addressing national concerns. The findings and policy proposals serve as a roadmap for strengthening The Gambia's institutional frameworks, social cohesion, and governance structures to ensure a more stable and prosperous future.

Group 1: The Political Environment for Sustainable Peace and Stability

Introduction

The political environment plays a crucial role in maintaining sustainable peace and stability in The Gambia. Given the country's democratic aspirations and governance challenges, this thematic area explores key aspects such as constitutional reforms, electoral processes, gender equality, economic governance, and anti-corruption measures. The discussions emphasized the need for strong institutions, inclusive participation, and strategic policy interventions to address national concerns effectively.

Discussion

Participants engaged in extensive discussions on the political landscape, recognizing the importance of democratic institutions and inclusive governance. The deliberations highlighted concerns over government performance, gender-based violence (GBV), economic conditions, corruption, and security. The necessity for constitutional and electoral reforms was underscored, along with the role of civil society and political parties in fostering accountability. Additionally, the need for a robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework was stressed to ensure that policy recommendations translate into tangible actions.

Key Conclusions

1. **Constitutional Reform:** The reintroduction of the 2020 Draft Constitution, with thorough discussions and amendments by the National Assembly, is critical for strengthening democratic governance.
2. **Electoral System Strengthening:** Institutionalizing the Inter-Party Committee (IPC) and eliminating attestations as a voter registration criterion are vital for credible elections.
3. **Gender Equality:** Promoting gender parity in governance structures, from local councils to the Cabinet, will enhance inclusive decision-making and development.
4. **Economic Governance:** Implementing prudent financial management, capping borrowing, and securing marine and land resources will contribute to sustainable economic development.
5. **Combating Corruption:** Establishing independent, well-funded anti-corruption bodies and adopting a national anti-corruption policy will reinforce accountability and transparency.

Recommendations

1. Constitution

- Reintroduce the 2020 Draft Constitution to the National Assembly in its present form.
- Allow National Assembly Members (NAMs) to discuss and amend the Constitution as necessary.
- Facilitate IPC engagement with political parties on the draft Constitution.
- Assign IPC, IEC, and NCCE to lead awareness campaigns on the draft Constitution.

2. Electoral Reform

(Strengthening Civic Education, Institutions, and the Inter-Party Committee)

- Institutionalize the IPC.

- End the issuance of attestations as a criterion for voter registration.

3. Gender Equality

(Inclusive Participation of Women and People with Disabilities)

- Achieve gender parity at all levels, from Village Development Committees (VDC) to Cabinet level, through legislative action.

4. Economic Management

- Impose a cap on domestic and foreign borrowing.
- Strengthen productive sectors of the economy (securing marine and land resources).
- Promote prudent and efficient financial management.
- Implement structured management of the entry and exit of resources from the Consolidated Account.
- Reinstate the declaration of assets requirement in the Anti-Corruption Act.

5. Fight Against Corruption

- Establish strong, independent, and well-funded institutions.
- Develop an anti-corruption policy alongside the Anti-Corruption Bill.

Group 2: Religious Tolerance for Social Cohesion: Individual and Collective Responsibility

Introduction

Religious tolerance is a fundamental pillar of social cohesion in The Gambia, a country known for its religious diversity. This thematic area focused on fostering mutual understanding and respect among different religious communities to strengthen national unity. The discussions brought together representatives from the Gambia Supreme Islamic Council, the Gambia Christian Council, and the Ahmadiyya Jamat, alongside key stakeholders from various faith-based organizations. The dialogue aimed to address pressing issues threatening interfaith harmony, including constitutional concerns, religious conflicts, and policy gaps.

Discussion

The session featured presentations from representatives of both the Muslim and Christian communities, emphasizing the need for interfaith collaboration in promoting peace. The Gambia Christian Council opened the discussion with a prayer, highlighting the historical nuances of religious tolerance, particularly in the Senegambia region. They underscored the importance of embracing love and respect across faiths, tribes, and ethnicities.

Three major threats to social cohesion were identified:

- **The Gambia's Draft Constitution** and its implications for religious freedoms.
- **The Secular-Shari'ah Controversy**, which has caused divisions within religious communities.
- **The Veil Conflict**, which has impacted family dynamics, neighborhood relationships, and interfaith interactions.

Following extensive deliberations, the group arrived at key recommendations to strengthen interfaith harmony and mitigate religious tensions.

Key Conclusions

1. **Establishment of an Interreligious Committee:** A dedicated committee comprising Muslim and Christian leaders should be set up to address interfaith concerns and promote dialogue.
2. **Government Impartiality in Religious Affairs:** The government must remain neutral and appoint religious focal persons at the Ministry responsible for religious affairs to work closely with the interreligious committee.
3. **Political Representation:** The President, upon the recommendation of religious councils, should nominate two representatives from Muslim and Christian communities among the five presidential nominees to the National Assembly.
4. **Religious Tolerance in Education:** Civic education curricula should include religious tolerance, with training and oversight provided by the interreligious committee to ensure balanced teaching of religious education.
5. **Regulation of Religious Activities:** The government should empower religious councils financially and legally to oversee visiting preachers, register religious institutions, and prevent extremist influences.

Recommendations

1. Interreligious Committee Formation

- Establish an interreligious committee composed of representatives from both Muslim and Christian councils.
- Create a structured framework for regular interfaith dialogue to resolve conflicts and promote religious harmony.

2. Government's Role in Religious Affairs

- Ensure impartiality in all governmental dealings with religious groups.
- Appoint two religious focal persons within the Ministry responsible for religious affairs to collaborate with the interreligious committee.

3. Representation in Governance

- The President should nominate two religious representatives—one from the Muslim council and one from the Christian council—to the National Assembly based on recommendations from religious leaders.

4. Religious Tolerance in Education

- Incorporate religious tolerance into the national civic education curriculum.
- Provide training and monitoring mechanisms to ensure balanced and inclusive religious education.

5. Regulation of Religious Institutions

- Grant legal and financial authority to religious councils to oversee visiting preachers.
- Require churches and mosques to be registered under the supervision of the respective religious councils.

This session underscored the importance of interfaith dialogue and collective responsibility in fostering religious tolerance and social cohesion. By implementing these recommendations, The Gambia can reinforce its legacy of religious harmony and ensure peaceful coexistence among its diverse communities.

Group 3: Ethnic Diversity for National Unity

Introduction

The Gambia is a nation rich in ethnic diversity, with numerous distinct cultural practices, languages, and traditions among its various ethnic groups. This thematic area explores how ethnic diversity can be leveraged to foster national unity and social cohesion. The discussions focused on promoting intercultural understanding, preventing discrimination, and strengthening inclusive policies to unify all ethnic groups.

Discussion

The group recognized that while The Gambia enjoys relatively harmonious ethnic relations, challenges persist in maintaining national unity. Concerns were raised about ethnic-based discrimination, cultural marginalization, and the erosion of traditional values. Participants emphasized the importance of education, cultural promotion, and community empowerment in reinforcing unity among ethnic groups.

Key Conclusions

1. **Civic and Cultural Education:** Integrate civic and cultural education into the curriculum to instill values of unity and respect from an early age.
2. **Anti-Discrimination Policy:** Implement a zero-tolerance policy against ethnic discrimination to promote inclusivity and equality.
3. **Cultural Promotion:** Revive the National Troupe and support intercultural conferences to celebrate and share different ethnic traditions.
4. **Awareness Campaigns:** Educate the public on the value of ethnic diversity, address negative elements such as the caste system, and promote justice and equality.
5. **Empowerment Initiatives:** Strengthen councils of elders for wisdom and guidance in unity, while supporting the National Council for Civic Education (NCCE) to carry out its mandate.

Recommendations

1. Integrate civic and cultural education at all levels to foster national unity.
2. Enforce a strict anti-discrimination policy with legal backing.
3. Revitalize cultural institutions and events to promote ethnic harmony.
4. Launch nationwide campaigns to challenge divisive practices and promote coexistence.
5. Strengthen traditional governance structures and empower civic education initiatives.

By addressing these key areas, The Gambia can continue to embrace its ethnic diversity as a strength and ensure national unity remains a cornerstone of its democratic progress.

Group 4: Securing Sovereignty: Safeguarding Stability and Wellbeing

Introduction

National sovereignty is fundamental to the stability and wellbeing of a country. This thematic area explored key issues related to state security, governance, and the rule of law in The Gambia. Discussions focused on defining sovereignty, assessing national security challenges, and identifying ways to strengthen governance institutions to ensure long-term stability.

Discussion

The group highlighted several pressing issues affecting national security, including unresolved governance reforms, delays in the implementation of commission recommendations, and inefficiencies in the justice system. Concerns were also raised about the management of land disputes, regulatory independence, substance abuse, and crime prevention.

Key Conclusions

1. **Governance and Legal Reforms:** Completing all pending reforms, including security sector and electoral reforms, and implementing the recommendations of past commissions.
2. **Regulatory Independence:** Ensuring that technical regulatory bodies operate independently and without government interference.
3. **Land Dispute Resolution:** Establishing decentralized land courts to handle cases efficiently and regulate estate agencies to safeguard national land interests.
4. **Crime Prevention and Substance Abuse:** Enhancing public health approaches to substance abuse, promoting community policing, and constructing rehabilitation centers.
5. **Security Enhancement:** Developing a strategic framework to monitor governance and national security trends while equipping security forces with adequate resources.

Recommendations

1. Complete all security sector and electoral reforms and implement recommendations from past commissions.
2. Ensure regulatory bodies such as the Medical Control Agency and PURA operate independently.
3. Establish and decentralize land courts to handle disputes efficiently.
4. Strengthen public health approaches to substance abuse and enhance community policing.
5. Equip security forces with adequate resources and develop a national security monitoring framework.

By implementing these recommendations, The Gambia can strengthen its sovereignty, safeguard national stability, and ensure the long-term wellbeing of its citizens.

Group 5: The Media and the Safeguarding of the Democratic Space

Introduction

The media plays a fundamental role in safeguarding democracy in The Gambia. A free and responsible press is essential for transparency, accountability, and the promotion of informed civic engagement. This thematic area explored the evolving media landscape, the challenges faced by journalists, and the necessary interventions to ensure media freedom and integrity.

Discussion

Participants emphasized the need for a robust media environment that can operate without undue influence or financial constraints. The discussions highlighted financial difficulties faced by private media houses, the need for accountability mechanisms within the industry, and the role of legislative reforms in enhancing press freedom. Strengthening media literacy and capacity building were also identified as critical measures to foster a responsible and informed media landscape.

Key Conclusions

1. **Financial Support for Media:** The government should provide subventions to private media to enhance their financial sustainability and effectiveness.
2. **Accreditation and Accountability:** An accreditation system should be established through the Gambia Press Union and the Gambia Media Council to ensure media professionalism and accountability.
3. **Capacity Building:** Continuous training and support initiatives should be strengthened to enhance media capacity and resilience.
4. **Legislative Reforms:** The repeal of draconian press laws should be expedited, and reforms should ensure the transformation of Gambia Radio and Television Services into a true public broadcaster while implementing the Access to Information Act.
5. **Media Literacy in Education:** Media literacy should be integrated into the national curriculum to empower youth in critically navigating the media landscape.

Recommendations

1. Allocate government subventions to private media to address financial challenges.
2. Establish an accreditation system through the Gambia Press Union and the Gambia Media Council.
3. Enhance media capacity-building initiatives through training and professional development programs.
4. Expedite the repeal of restrictive press laws and transform GRTS into a public broadcaster.
5. Integrate media literacy into the national curriculum to educate and empower young people on media ethics and critical consumption.

By implementing these recommendations, The Gambia can strengthen press freedom, uphold democratic values, and create a resilient media landscape that serves the interests of all citizens.

Group 6: Irregular Migration and Empowerment

Introduction

Irregular migration has been a persistent challenge in The Gambia, with young people seeking opportunities abroad under precarious conditions. This thematic area focused on strengthening migration governance, promoting empowerment initiatives, and fostering sustainable solutions to address the root causes of irregular migration.

Discussion

Participants highlighted the need for comprehensive migration policies, effective advocacy, and skills development programs to create opportunities for youth and returnee migrants. The discussions underscored the importance of balanced partnerships, governmental leadership in migration governance, and public awareness campaigns to shift perceptions about migration.

Key Conclusions

1. **Enhanced Migration Governance:** Strengthening community sensitization, advocacy, legislation, and policy frameworks to address irregular migration challenges.
2. **Bilateral Cooperation:** Establishing balanced partnerships to enhance labor migration policies and ensure migration contributes to national development.
3. **Public Awareness and Narrative Shift:** Changing the perception of migration by promoting government-led solutions and fostering national coordination.
4. **Employment and Skills Development:** Providing market-driven skills training to enhance employment opportunities for youth and returnee migrants.
5. **Strengthening National Capacities:** Enhancing public and private institutions, as well as NGOs, to deliver effective empowerment programs and support services.

Recommendations

1. Improve migration governance through community sensitization, advocacy, and legislation.
2. Develop strategic bilateral agreements to enhance labor migration frameworks.
3. Promote government leadership in migration responses and avoid duplication of efforts.
4. Establish quality skills development programs aligned with market demands to create employment for youth and returnee migrants.
5. Strengthen national institutions, including public and private entities, to implement effective empowerment initiatives.

By implementing these recommendations, The Gambia can address the challenges of irregular migration while empowering its youth and fostering socioeconomic development.

Day 3: National Dialogue 2024

Opening Ceremony, Thematic Reflections, Expert Panel & Audience Contributions

Date: February 16, 2024

Introduction to Day 3 of National Dialogue 2024

Day 3 of the **National Dialogue 2024** served as a crucial moment for national reflection, strategic discussions, and expert insights on The Gambia's path forward. The day was structured into three key segments: the **Opening Ceremony, Thematic Group Resolutions & Audience Contributions**, and a **Panel of Experts**, each designed to foster meaningful dialogue on governance, unity, and national development.

The day commenced with **prayers and reflections** from religious leaders, emphasizing the need for unity and mutual respect across political, social, and religious divides. The **official remarks** from key national figures—including the Chief Justice, Speaker of the National Assembly, and President Adama Barrow—highlighted the significance of dialogue in strengthening democracy, safeguarding sovereignty, and promoting national progress.

The **second segment** focused on thematic reflections, where resolutions from the six discussion groups were presented. These included deliberations on **constitutional reform, governance, gender rights, disability inclusion, economic policies, and security**. Audience contributions enriched the discourse, bringing forward additional perspectives on electoral reforms, social justice, and national development.

The **final segment** featured an **expert panel discussion**, where legal, historical, economic, and civil society leaders provided deep insights into **judicial reforms, youth inclusion, economic empowerment, disability rights, and governance challenges**. Key issues such as the **delayed implementation of reforms, women's representation, and the role of SMEs in economic transformation** were addressed, with strong calls for action.

Day 3 underscored the urgency of **translating dialogue into concrete policies and reforms**, reinforcing national commitment to **inclusive development, democratic resilience, and sustainable peace**. The session concluded with a call for continuous engagement, ensuring that the momentum of the dialogue leads to **real progress for all Gambians**.

Part 1: Prayers and Reflections

Most Rev. Bishop Bannie Manga, Gambia Christian Council

Bishop Manga invoked the unifying spirit of the Gambian people, recalling the nation's collective support for its football team in their match against Cameroon. He used this shared sense of purpose as a metaphor for the objectives of the National Dialogue—bridging political, social, and economic divides for a stronger Gambia.

“In that moment of unity, there was no tongue, no tribe, no religion, and no region—only The Gambia, striving for recognition on an international stage,” he stated. He lamented that such unity is increasingly fading, expressing his fear for whether Gambians still remain true to their national pledge to work together for the greater good.

Alhajie Essa Foday Dabo, Gambia Islamic Council

Alhajie Dabo commended the forum's objective of bringing together stakeholders to discuss national security and cohesion. He emphasized that Islam calls for unity and rejects division, recognizing that while differences exist, they should be embraced as diversity rather than sources of discord.

He urged Gambians to respect one another and avoid personal attacks, warning against the spread of divisive information that could fracture communities. “Regardless of our religious beliefs, tribal languages, or regions, we are all Gambians with one homeland. We must unite to build and preserve it,” he urged.

Welcome Remarks

Mod K. Ceesay, Chief of Staff & Chairman, National Organizing Committee

Ceesay warmly welcomed all attendees and extended gratitude to President Barrow for spearheading this initiative. He underscored the forum's significance in bringing together political and social stakeholders to deliberate on the nation's path forward.

He expressed appreciation for the organizing committee's efforts, particularly acknowledging Amie Bojang-Sissoho, Director of Media and Communication at the Office of the President, for

her exceptional organizational leadership. He concluded with prayers for a fruitful dialogue and a stronger Gambia.

Remarks by Chief Justice Hassan B. Jallow

Chief Justice Jallow congratulated the President and the committee for launching The Gambia's first national dialogue, emphasizing its role in strengthening democracy, peace, and stability.

Dialogue, he noted, fosters mutual understanding and allows citizens to develop consensus on national challenges. "Differences in opinion are inevitable and even healthy, for just as a garden flourishes with flowers of different hues and scents, so does democracy thrive on pluralism," he stated.

He called for the establishment of a mechanism to sustain national dialogue, proposing regular discussions between the three arms of government—the Executive, the National Assembly, and the Judiciary—to enhance cooperation and direction.

Reflecting on The Gambia's legacy, he praised the governance model established by founding President Alhaji Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara and lauded President Barrow for continuing and strengthening that legacy.

"The rule of law must reign supreme," he emphasized. "Not just any law, but one grounded in fairness, decency, and international standards." He called for reviewing laws to align with national aspirations, strengthening the justice system, and investing in crime prevention and law enforcement to protect fundamental human rights.

Remarks by Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly, Bakary Tombong Jatta

Speaker Jatta commended President Barrow for initiating this historic gathering, emphasizing its alignment with the principles of governance enshrined in The Gambia's Constitution. He reflected on the National Pledge, which teaches that progress is only achievable through the unity of government and people.

As The Gambia approaches its 59th Independence Anniversary, he encouraged reflection on national progress, achievements in democracy and human rights, and areas requiring improvement.

He called for patriotism from all Gambians, both at home and abroad, to steer the country toward peace, security, and development. He assured citizens of the National Assembly’s commitment to enacting laws that uphold democracy, rule of law, and transparency while ensuring government accountability.

Recognizing past challenges, he highlighted The Gambia’s resilience in overcoming adversity and reaffirmed that, despite political differences, reconciliation and collaboration remain paramount for national unity.

He acknowledged the government’s unprecedented outreach to opposition parties, promoting inclusivity in governance, and warned against divisive rhetoric, particularly on social media. “Political leaders who tolerate toxic discourse only alienate voters rather than attract them,” he cautioned.

“This dialogue marks the beginning of a national conversation,” he concluded. “It must continue beyond today, spreading across the nation as we seek better ways to serve our people.”

Keynote Address by His Excellency, President Adama Barrow

President Barrow expressed gratitude to all who contributed to making the National Dialogue a reality, emphasizing that it marked a historic moment in The Gambia’s democratic journey.

He framed the theme, “*Preserving the Nation, Safeguarding the State, and Securing Our Resources*,” as a collective responsibility of all Gambians. “We, the citizens, own this country, and we must take charge of our destiny,” he stated.

The dialogue, he noted, aimed to foster national unity, peace, and progress. Preserving the nation entails protecting the people’s well-being, values, and heritage. Safeguarding the state requires upholding sovereignty, strengthening institutions, and ensuring stability. Securing resources means responsibly managing national wealth for sustainable development.

President Barrow underscored dialogue as a core democratic principle that fosters consensus and bridges divides. He urged participants to engage constructively, free from political grandstanding or personal attacks.

“This forum is not about scoring political points—it is about The Gambia,” he affirmed. “Let us seize this opportunity to iron out our differences and build a nation where all Gambians coexist peacefully.”

He highlighted the need for inclusive governance, stating that while differences may persist, common ground can always be found. He encouraged realistic resolutions and a commitment to follow-up actions, emphasizing that the success of the dialogue would be measured by its impact on citizens, institutions, and policymaking.

A nationwide dissemination strategy was in place to ensure the dialogue's outcomes reached even the most remote communities, with regional forums planned to extend participation.

As The Gambia prepares to celebrate its 59th Independence Anniversary, President Barrow urged all citizens to commit to a united, peaceful, and prosperous future.

He concluded by calling for wisdom, patience, and humility in deliberations, praying for divine guidance in building a better Gambia.

Part 2: Presentations and Audience Contributions

Poetry Performance by Saffiatou Joof

Gambian poet Saffiatou Joof captivated the audience with her spoken-word rendition of "*The Independence Poem*." Her performance, celebrating the theme of National Dialogue 2024, received rapturous applause and was a powerful artistic expression of national pride and unity.

Presentation of Thematic Group Resolutions

The six thematic groups presented their key resolutions, followed by an open-floor session for audience contributions. The discussions were dynamic, with participants raising additional concerns and observations beyond the five resolutions stipulated per thematic issue. Many groups noted that they had developed more than five recommendations but had to prioritize their key proposals for presentation.

Key discussions emerged around constitutional reform, governance, electoral processes, gender rights, security, disability rights, economic policies, and national sovereignty. Several crucial points were highlighted:

1. Constitutional Reform and National Consensus

- A call was made for a careful review of the rejected 2020 Draft Constitution before any attempt to reintroduce it. Participants emphasized the need to

understand the reasons for its rejection, particularly concerning religion, sovereignty, and governance structures, to avoid repeating past mistakes.

- Political parties were urged to build consensus before presenting a revised draft to the National Assembly, with clarity on the term *secularism* to prevent future misinterpretations.

2. Slow Implementation of Reforms

- Participants expressed concerns over the sluggish pace of implementing critical reforms, particularly those related to governance, national security, and justice.
- There was a strong recommendation for accelerating the implementation of commission recommendations, including those from the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC) and other investigative bodies.

3. Women's Rights and Representation

- Women's voices resonated strongly in the discussion, with concerns raised over the slow progress in gender equality. Calls were made for increased representation of women in Parliament and the Cabinet.
- The audience strongly condemned any attempts to reverse laws protecting women's rights, particularly those against harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM). They reminded lawmakers that women—who make up 52% of the population—must be recognized, respected, and protected.

4. Disability Rights and Inclusion

- Participants expressed disappointment over the exclusion of people with disabilities from the thematic group reports. They urged immediate action to address the needs of persons with disabilities in governance, education, and employment.
- The dialogue emphasized that disability rights must be integrated into national policies to ensure inclusivity and social protection.

5. Electoral Reforms and Voter Registration

- Concerns were raised about the current voter registration system, particularly regarding attestations and the need for a centralized process.
- Some participants called for the removal of attestations as a criterion for voter registration, arguing that it led to inconsistencies and potential electoral malpractice.

6. Agricultural and Economic Support

- Representatives of the farmers' union called on the government to continue supporting agricultural development through the provision of fertilizers, farming materials, and machinery.
- They requested additional tractors (at least 500) to boost productivity and ensure sustainable livelihoods for farmers

7. Judicial System and Access to Justice

- There were concerns over delays in the judicial system, with courts overwhelmed by unresolved cases.
- Alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms were recommended as an effective means to decongest the courts and ensure timely justice.

Conclusion

The plenary session underscored the National Dialogue's significance as a platform for open discussions, the identification of challenges, and the proposal of actionable solutions. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to fostering national unity, promoting democratic governance, and working collaboratively to implement the resolutions that emerged from the discussions.

This session reinforced the importance of continued dialogue and engagement to address the concerns of all citizens and build a stronger, more inclusive Gambia.

Part 3: Panel of Experts on the Theme of the Dialogue

Before the commencement of this segment, Chief Justice Hassan B. Jallow was given the opportunity to address several issues raised during the discussion on the thematic reports.

On gender parity, he acknowledged the underrepresentation of women in district tribunals but highlighted a historic milestone: the appointment of two female Cadis for the first time in a century, with plans to increase their number. However, he clarified that Cadi Courts fall under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Local Government and Lands, not the judiciary.

Addressing alternative dispute resolution (ADR), he acknowledged the heavy caseload of 13,000 cases, averaging 150 cases per judge. Given this burden, he emphasized the importance of encouraging litigants to first seek mediation through ADR mechanisms, involving elders, Alkalolou, chiefs, pastors, and imams to resolve disputes outside the courts.

Regarding land disputes, the Chief Justice acknowledged their increasing complexity and emphasized the need for a dedicated land court to expedite resolution. He warned that prolonged land conflicts could destabilize communities. Similarly, he underscored the necessity of a

commercial court to handle banking and trade-related disputes, as businesses suffer when their financial interests are entangled in prolonged legal battles.

On the draft constitution, he reiterated the collective desire for a new constitution but cautioned against reintroducing the same rejected document without addressing the concerns that led to its initial failure. He urged all stakeholders to find common ground before resubmitting the draft to the National Assembly.

Hassoum Ceesay

Historian and author Hassoum Ceesay provided an overview of historical issues relevant to the dialogue, referencing British colonial policies from 1884 to 1900. He explained how the British administration deliberately divided communities along ethnic lines by creating 36 colonial districts, similar to the Hausa, Yoruba, and Igbo demarcations in Nigeria. For instance, Nianija District was designated for the Fulas, while others were organized along Mandinka and Wolof lines, reinforcing tribal divisions.

However, he noted that Gambians resisted these artificial boundaries, leading to the eventual collapse of the policy. In response, the British introduced a numerical system for districts and later established the Colony and Protectorate, incorporating locally influenced laws and administrative structures.

He traced the historical roots of political parties in The Gambia, explaining that ethnic and regional affiliations shaped their formation in the 1930s. The Provincial Peoples Society (PPS), primarily Mandinka-based, evolved into the People's Progressive Party (PPP), while P.S. Njie's United Party drew support mainly from the Wolof community. Similarly, I.M. Garba Jahumpa established the Gambia Muslim Congress, leveraging religious sentiment.

These early parties were formed from ethnic societies, but when it came to governance, they relied on individuals with formal education. This often led to misrepresentation, with Banjul-born elites appointed to represent rural districts they knew little about.

Miss Lala Touray

Miss Lala Touray underscored the importance of youth inclusion in national development, stressing that young people constitute 60% of the population. She argued that a country cannot claim to be serious about development while sidelining its youth.

She called for national policies that prioritize young people, women, and persons with disabilities. Special legislation is needed to protect women, ensuring they are not just statistical figures in voter registers but active participants in governance and development.

She painted a grim picture of the realities facing young people: rampant drug addiction, rising crime rates, and mass emigration. Many youths, disillusioned by limited opportunities, are risking their lives in search of better prospects abroad.

She criticized the lack of government investment in youth development, noting that the Ministry of Youth Affairs is the least funded in the national budget. Without jobs, funding, and access to opportunities, the potential of young Gambians remains untapped.

Muhammed Krubally

Principal Magistrate Muhammed Krubally, who is visually impaired, spoke as the representative of The Gambia Federation of the Disabled and the National Disability Advisory Council. He highlighted the plight of approximately 300,000 persons with disabilities (PWDs) in The Gambia and called for greater respect, promotion, and protection of their fundamental rights.

Krubally outlined eight essential principles for the full and effective participation of PWDs:

1. Respect for inherent dignity and individual autonomy.
2. Non-discrimination.
3. Accessibility.
4. Full and effective participation in all sectors.
5. Equality of opportunities.
6. Respect for diversity and inclusion.
7. Gender equality.
8. Recognition of the evolving capacities of children with disabilities.

He expressed disappointment that none of the six thematic areas addressed disability inclusion. He warned that The Gambia cannot achieve meaningful development if it continues to marginalize PWDs.

PWDs face persistent challenges, including unemployment, lack of access to public and private buildings, absence of braille materials, and limited sign language interpretation on television. Women with disabilities struggle to secure financing for self-employment, and many remain outside the social security system without access to housing, land, or disability insurance.

Citing the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which advocate for “leaving no one behind,” he called for fully funded policies that empower PWDs, ensuring their representation in the National Assembly and the state cabinet.

Dr. Jorjo Ndure Tamedou

Dr. Jorjo Ndure Tamedou, CEO of InSIST Global and Co-Founder of Afrijula, emphasized the importance of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in poverty alleviation. He referred to the concept of ‘Filling the Missing Middle’—supporting SMEs to bridge the gap between micro-businesses and large corporations.

He highlighted Africa’s demographic projections, noting that by 2050, half of the world’s youth population will reside on the continent. If properly harnessed, this could be a demographic dividend; if mismanaged, it could lead to economic disaster.

Dr. Tamedou advocated for policies that promote innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship, particularly by improving access to capital for those lacking traditional collateral. Government support for SMEs is critical, as they generate more employment opportunities than large corporations.

He endorsed the Yiriwa National Development Programme, which aims to diversify economic empowerment beyond tourism, promote agriculture-based businesses, and foster entrepreneurship. Given The Gambia’s high youth unemployment and high rates of irregular migration, he urged greater investment in human capital, including education, healthcare, and social protection.

Serigne Falou Njie

Serigne Falou Njie offered a broad reflection on national development, emphasizing the need for a cohesive strategy. He highlighted four key focus areas in the Yiriwa framework:

1. Population demographics
2. Disability inclusion
3. Child welfare
4. The Gambian diaspora

He criticized the lack of an ICT-driven data system to inform youth programming and stressed the need for synergy in national development efforts. Without coordinated strategies, he warned, progress would remain elusive. He emphasized that political will and accountability are essential for meaningful change.

Nenneh M.C. Cham

Nenneh M.C. Cham emphasized the collective responsibility of citizens in nation-building. She paid tribute to the country’s founding fathers, whose unity and determination led to

independence. She stressed the need for upholding the rule of law, ensuring transparency, and fostering inclusive development.

Cham called for legal reforms to safeguard democratic values and combat corruption. She highlighted the importance of ensuring women's participation in politics and fully implementing laws that protect their rights. She also urged legal professionals to advocate for policies promoting equal access to justice.

Question and Answer Session

The session featured candid discussions on governance, security, and national development. Issues raised included the state of public services, corruption, and the role of the diaspora in economic transformation. Voices from the audience questioned why The Gambia, after nearly six decades of independence, had failed to match the development progress of countries like South Korea.

The discussion underscored the urgency of translating commitments into action, particularly regarding women's rights, education investment, and accountability in governance.

Comprehensive Summary of the Regional Consultative Dialogue (July 2024)

The **Regional Consultative Dialogue (RCD) 2024**, held from **3rd to 11th July 2024**, was a nationwide initiative aimed at **fostering national unity, security, and responsible governance**. The dialogue sought to **engage key national stakeholders and community representatives** in discussions on critical national issues, ensuring a participatory approach in shaping government policies and national development strategies .

Objectives of the Dialogue

The primary objective of the RCD was to **bridge the gap between policymakers and local communities**, ensuring that governance and development strategies are aligned with the realities and aspirations of the people. Specific goals included:

- Promoting **political tolerance, ethnic harmony, and religious coexistence**.
- Addressing **pressing socio-economic challenges**, including youth unemployment, irregular migration, and corruption.
- Strengthening **security measures**, particularly in response to illicit drug trade and land disputes.
- Enhancing **agricultural productivity and food security** through improved access to farming inputs and irrigation.
- Encouraging **transparent governance** and effective law enforcement to curb corruption and tribalism.
- Creating a framework for **sustainable peace and economic prosperity** through national dialogue and policy reforms .

Participants and Stakeholders

The RCD was a **multi-stakeholder forum**, bringing together representatives from diverse institutions, including:

- **Government Officials** (Office of the President, Regional Governors, National Assembly Members).
- **Traditional and Religious Leaders** (Chiefs, Alkalolu, Supreme Islamic Council, Christian Council).
- **Civil Society Organizations** (National Council for Civic Education, TANGO, Inter-Party Committee).
- **Media & Youth Representatives** (Gambia Press Union, National Youth Council).
- **Academia & Advocacy Groups** (University of The Gambia, Writers Association) .

Each team was deployed to different **regions of the country** to facilitate dialogues, document concerns, and propose actionable recommendations that reflect community perspectives .

Structure of the Dialogue

The RCD followed a structured agenda, incorporating:

1. **Opening Remarks** – Introduction to the National Dialogue and its objectives by district and regional leaders.
2. **Review & Contributions** – Communities assessed and contributed to **existing national recommendations** while proposing new ones.
3. **Presentations & Discussions:**

- **Building a Secure and Peaceful Nation** – Focused on inclusive politics, social cohesion, and national security.
 - **Empowering Youths & Combating Misinformation** – Addressing media influence, youth employment, and migration challenges.
4. **Final Discussions & Closing** – Participants **brainstormed solutions and policy proposals** to be forwarded to decision-makers .

Impact and Expected Outcomes

The RCD 2024 set the foundation for **ongoing national dialogue** by creating a platform where **grassroots concerns inform policy decisions**. The recommendations derived from these consultations are expected to:

- Guide the **government in formulating legislative policies** to promote national cohesion.
- Influence **reforms in agriculture, education, security, and governance**.
- Strengthen mechanisms to **combat corruption, misinformation, and drug trafficking**.
- Encourage the **creation of employment opportunities** to curb irregular migration.

The outcomes of the RCD underscore the **importance of inclusive governance** and the necessity for **continued engagement between citizens and policymakers** in addressing national challenges.

Key Recommendations

1. Political Environment

- Enact **laws against tribal politics and hate speech** to promote unity.
- Encourage **political maturity and tolerance** among leaders.

2. Agriculture

- **Prevent fertilizer smuggling**: Farmers sell subsidized fertilizer to Senegal, leading to poor yields.
- **Improve access to fertilizers**: Ensure availability year-round rather than at government-determined times.
- **Develop storage facilities** for women in horticulture to boost agricultural productivity.
- **Provide tractors and essential inputs** to enhance food security and reduce imports.
- **Introduce irrigation systems** to reduce reliance on rainfall.

- **Combat deforestation** through strict regulations and penalties.

3. Education

- **Reduce college fees** to make tertiary education accessible for low-income families.
- **Institutionalize the RCD process** to occur annually for continuous community engagement.

4. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

- Engage circumcisers to understand **their practices and the extent of FGM**.
- Some participants suggested that **FGM should be a matter of choice**.

5. Social Issues & Governance

- **Increase civil servants' salaries and incentives** to reduce corruption.
- **Address corruption strictly**: Enforce tougher penalties for corrupt officials.
- **Strengthen the judiciary** to combat **drug trafficking and abuse**, particularly KUSH.
- **Develop policies for land dispute resolution** to reduce prolonged legal battles.

6. Religious Tolerance

- **Unify Islamic clerics** to ensure peace and consistent observance of Islamic feasts.

7. Ethnic Diversity & National Unity

- Enforce **legal consequences against tribalism**.
- Promote **cultural traditions** and "**Joking Relations**" to bridge tribal divisions.

8. Security

- **Enact strict penalties for drug-related crimes**.
- **Improve emergency services**, including providing ambulances.
- **Equip security forces** with mobility, weapons, and improved facilities to combat crime.

9. Media Regulation & Freedom

- **Combat misinformation** on social media through legislation and punitive measures.
- Promote **media literacy** while ensuring **press freedom with responsible journalism**.

10. Youth Empowerment & Irregular Migration

- **Establish regional skills training centers** to empower youth.
- **Improve salaries and incentives for security personnel**.
- **Develop industries and factories** in rural areas to **reduce unemployment** and discourage migration.
- **Create job opportunities** in both **rural and urban areas**.

Conclusion: A Call to Action for National Progress

The **Regional Consultative Dialogue (RCD) 2024** has served as a **landmark platform** for national discourse, bringing together diverse stakeholders to **identify pressing national challenges and propose practical solutions**. The dialogue reaffirmed the collective responsibility of all citizens—**government officials, traditional and religious leaders, civil society, the media, and ordinary citizens**—in safeguarding the peace, security, and prosperity of the nation.

The discussions revealed a **strong public demand for inclusive governance, political tolerance, economic opportunities, and social justice**. The **key recommendations** emerging from the dialogue provide a **comprehensive framework for policy reform**, tackling **tribalism, corruption, youth unemployment, agriculture, security, and governance**. These recommendations must now **transition from dialogue to action**, requiring commitment at both **policy and implementation levels**.

For meaningful change to occur, the **Government, civil society, and all stakeholders must demonstrate political will and sustained engagement**. The fight against corruption, misinformation, and illicit activities should not just be rhetoric but must translate into **concrete legal and institutional reforms**. Similarly, **empowering youth, improving education, enhancing agricultural productivity, and ensuring fair land dispute resolution** require **targeted investments and strategic policymaking**.

Above all, **national unity and social cohesion must remain at the core of The Gambia's development agenda**. As such, the **Regional Consultative Dialogue must evolve into a permanent mechanism** that facilitates continuous engagement between citizens and policymakers. **The progress of the nation is a shared responsibility**, and all sectors must work together to ensure that the resolutions from this dialogue lead to **sustainable development, security, and prosperity for all Gambians**.

The success of this dialogue should **not be measured solely by the number of recommendations made, but by the extent to which these recommendations are implemented**. This is a call to action for **leadership, commitment, and accountability**—a collective commitment to building a **stronger, more united, and prosperous Gambia**.

The Implementation of the recommendations

The implementation of the recommendations from the six working groups in the **National Dialogue** under the theme *“Collective Responsibility of Preserving and Safeguarding the Nation and Securing our National Resources”* is **progressing with varying degrees of completion** across different sectors:

1. Political Environment

- The **2020 Draft Constitution** is under discussion at the National Assembly, with awareness campaigns facing funding challenges.
- Electoral reforms and **institutionalization of the IPC** are in progress.
- A **new gender policy** has been launched.
- The **Anti-Corruption Act** has been passed, but the commission is yet to be set up.

2. Religious Tolerance

- **Interreligious dialogue initiatives** are encouraged, and a **department for religious affairs** has been identified for oversight.
- Progress is being made in integrating **religious education into the national curriculum**.
- The development of a **policy for registering religious institutions** is underway.

3. Ethnic Diversity and National Unity

- Efforts are ongoing to **integrate civic and cultural education** into the school system.
- National policies are being encouraged to include **anti-discrimination measures**.
- Reviving the **National Troupe** and promoting cultural awareness is under discussion.

4. Sovereignty, Stability, and Wellbeing

- **Security and electoral reforms** are in progress.

- The **independence of regulatory bodies** is encouraged, with monitoring ongoing.
 - A **land court system** is under consideration to address land disputes.
 - Steps are being taken to **combat drug abuse and crime**, with advocacy for community policing.
5. **Media and Democratic Space**
- **Government subventions to private media** are being explored.
 - Accreditation and **accountability systems for the media** are under discussion.
 - The **Access to Information Act** has been enacted, with an implementation commission set up.
 - Integration of **media literacy into the education system** is under consultation.
6. **Irregular Migration and Empowerment**
- **Community sensitization and skill-building programs** for returnees are in progress.
 - Bilateral partnerships on **labour migration with Spain and Saudi Arabia** are ongoing.
 - A **national migration programme** is being considered to streamline initiatives.
 - Follow-ups with ministries and NGOs are in place to enhance **youth employment and empowerment programmes**.

General Status:

Many **reforms are ongoing**, but challenges such as **funding, coordination, and policy implementation** remain in some areas. Follow-ups with relevant government ministries and stakeholders are crucial for full execution.

Annex A : Participants' List in the Six Thematic Groups :**Group 1 Political Environment for Sustainable Peace and Stability**

Sn	Name	Designation	Institution
1.	Momodou Jyu Jallow	Program Manager	PAG
2.	Samba Baldeh	Co Chair Ipc	IPC
3.	Hon Saikpou Bah	Co Chair Ipc	IPC
4.	Mod Ak Secka	Ps	MOA
5.	Samboujang Njie	Ceo	IEC
6.	Baba Ceesay	Sas	MOTC
7.	Eugene Doherty	Director	PPI
8.	Michael Davies	Executive Director	PPI
9.	Peter Gomez	Projects Officer	ACDHRS
10.	Lang Lang Comma	Private	
11.	Lare Sisay	U D P	UDP
12.	Awa Touray	I P C	IPC
13.	Biran Gai	Crpd	CRPD
14.	Fatoumata F Fatty	I P C	IPC
15.	Sait Matty Jaw	E D	CRPD
16.	Dodou Jah	I P C	NPC
17.	Ansumana Yabou	Programe Officer	NCCE
18.	Lamin Manneh	Retiree	UDP
19.	Aji Kumba Jobe	West Field Nyc Program	NYC

		Officer	
20.	Mama Koma	Deputy Woman Mobilizer	NPP
21.	Ndegen Jobe	Deputy Speaker	NYP
22.	Tabu Njie Sarr	Women Righth Manager	ACTION AID
23.	Fatou Touray	Cc Rep For Wcr	PDOIS
24.	John C Njie	Member	TANGO
25.	Fatou Sey	Banjul Mogcsw	MOGCSW
26.	Dr Faal Jabbi	Ipc	IPC
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NO.	NAME	DESIGNATION	INSTITUTION
1.	Kalipha Dampha	Imam	GSIC
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4.	Yahya I Daffeh	Deputy Imam	GSIC
5.	Rev.Fr Antoine Sambou	Priest	GCC
6.	Omar A Bojang	Iman	GSIC
7.	M Al-Amim Sanneh	Imam	GSIC
8.	Moses Sonko	Pastor	GCC
9.	Revv. Pierre Bass	Priest	GCC
10.	Rev. Shaka Asheft	Priest	GCC
11.	Margaret Keita	Member/FIC	GCC
12.	Muhammed Lamin Jarju	Imam	GSIC
13.	Sekou Omar Dibba	Lecturer	Ahmadiyya mission
14.	Prof Omar Jah	PS	Ministry of Health
15.	Rev L Gabriel Leonard	Rev.	GCC
16.	Demba Jallow	GSIC	GSIC
17.	Amie Colleh Ndure	GSIC	GSIC
18.	Fr. Moses Drammeh	Gen.Sec GCC	GCC

Group 2 Religious Tolerance for Social Cohesion

Group 3 Ethnic Diversity for National Unity

NO	NAME	DESIGNATION	INSTITUTION
1.	Lamin S. Ceesay	M&E Officer	NYC
2.	Amadou Kora		Mandinkas
3.	Jaliba Kuyateh	Kumareh Band	Brikama office
4.	Momodou Jammeh		Balankas
5.	Hassoum Ceesay	DG	NCAC
6.	Emmanuel Joof	Chairperson	NHRC
7.	Babucarr Cham	Chairman	Media Council of the Gambia
8.	Sering Faye	Chairman	NCCE
9.	M.L.K. Boyye	chief	K. Nozh
10.	Alagie S Ceesay	Alkalo	Sinchu Alagie
11.	Moses Jassey	President	Kayong kaloum
12.	Tumani S Sambou	President	Bainunka Family Ass. Gambia
13.	Awa Biyaye	Deputy women leader	Bainunka family
14.	Momodou M Sarr	President	Music union of the Gambia
15.	Yusupha bojang	PM	NCCE
16.	Ansumana Ceesay	SPO	NCCE
17.	Mambabou Sowe	Member	TANGO

18.	Omar Bah	Ass. SG	Fulbe Africa
19.	Momodou Jeng	Director	MOBSE
20.	Mohammed Kanuteh	Civic Edu. Officer	NCCE
21.	Louise S.H Alsan	ACO	NCCE

Group 4: Securing Sovereignty: Safeguarding Stability and Wellbeing

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1.	Lamin J Gassama	DIR INTEL	DLEAG
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3.	Abdoulaye Saine	DIRECTOR	NYANG SARREH INSTITUTE
4.	Bai Dodou Jallow	DIRECTOR	FSQA
5.	Louis Mendy	COMMUNICATION EXPERT	ONS
6.	Ebrima Mboob	DIRECTOR ADMIN PILLAR	GID
7.	Abdoulie K Conteh	DPT FPM	GAF
8.	Dawda Badgie	ED	NEA
9.	Nani Jawara	MD	NAWEC
10	Salama Njie	NNC	WANEP
11	Bubacarr A Baldeh	ADMIN	MCA
12	Mod Ak Secka	PS	MOA
13	Dawda Fatty	DIRECTOR	DPT OF LAND&SURVEY
14	Ebrima Jawara	PS	MECCNAR
15	Omar Bah	PROGRAM OFFICER	NYC
16	Dr Cherno O Barry	PRESIDENT	WRITERS ASSOCIATION

Group 5: Irregular Migration and Empowerment

SN	NAME	DESIGNATION	INSTITUTION
1.	Tombong Kuyateh		YAIM
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4.	Fatoumatta M Sanyang	PROGRAM OFFICER	PIA
5.	Ismaila Jawara	YOUTH REP	ITAG
6.	Sarata L Baojang	PROGRAM ASSISTANT	TGA
7.	Binta Manjang	RESEARCH OFFICER	CEPRASS
8.	Lamin Dampha	ED	CEPRASS
9.	Fabba Jammeh	DIR EMP.	MOTIE
10.	Samba Mballow	MIGRATION OFFICER	GID
11.	Abdoulie O Bah	NYP	NYP
12.	Alieu Kujabi	PM	NANA
13.	Ndumbek Saho	DIRECTOR	MOFA
14.	Musa Saidy	FINANCE MANAGER	NEDI/MOYS
15.	Alieu Saho	VICE PRESIDENT	UTGDA
16.	Ebrima Saine	SG	UTGMA
17.	Amb Lang Yabou	PSI	MOFA
18.	Alieu Jobe	PRESIDENT	YEJ
19.	Mustapha Badgie	DIRECTOR	NYSS
20.	Satang Dumbuya	COMMITTEE MEMBER	NGBV
21.	Omar Bah	PROGRAM	NYC
22.	Mberry Jobe	NYC	NYC
23.	Basiru Jaye	NYC	NYC

Group 6: Media

NO.	NAME	DESIGNATION	INSTITUTION
1	Saffiatou Joof	V. President	YWAG
2	Wumi Adekule	Dean of SJDM	UTG
3	Gibou Joof	DD of Internal Audit	PURA
4	Edrisa Jallow	IPC	IPC
5	Ebrima A Njie	Deputy Director	DOIS
6	Baboucarr Cham	Driver	NCAC
7	Modou Musa Sisawo	D/PRO	GPF
8	Bai Emil Touray	E.S	MCA
9	Sang Mendy	MAJAC	Managing Director
10	Lamin Cham	Editor	Standard
11	Demba A Jawo	Private	
12	Ismaila Lowe	Staff	NYC
13	Yahya Jawo	Staff	West Coast Radio
14	Muhammed S Bah	President	GPU
15	Isatou Keita	V. President	GPU
16	Mama Jaye	PP/News	GRTS
17	Pa Makan Khan	Director of communication	IEC
18	Amie Bojang Sissoho	DPPR	OP