

Public-Private Dialogue

Public-Private Dialogue in Guinea

by

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1 - Background and Context

Since the successful completion of the first democratic elections in 2010, the government has been cognizant of the needs to engage with the private sector to shape the reform agenda in Guinea. More recently, there has been a combination of favorable developments:

- Explicit commitment to more extensive dialogue with private sector on a regular basis, by President Alpha Conde during the Abu Dhabi conference on Guinea on 24 - 26th November.
- Re-affirmation by the Council of Ministers of 10th December 2013 of the need to promote and develop private sector in Guinea and set up a public-private dialogue. The issue was raised while the council was discussing the only item in its agenda related to the 2014 Budget. However there are yet no clear steps and milestones on how the government will proceed and no indication if any budget would be made available.
- The very imminent launch of the World Bank support Project on SMEs which has a PPD component.
- In the new investment code under review and that has to be adopted by the new assembly, it is planned to set up a Presidential Advisory Investment Council.
- The Private sector organizations are all calling for this dialogue to happen because it is necessary as they are facing critical issues that only dialogue with the government can help sort out.

In Guinea, though there can be sometimes ad hoc meetings between Government and private sector, there is no official and structural dialogue platform. The government is

aware of the need to go further in the partnership with the private sector and is working toward the establishment of a PPD platform with the support of the World Bank Group.

2 - Objectives

- Establish a PPD platform to facilitate dialogue between government and the private sector
- Facilitate reforms, ownership and implementation
- Support private sector development by identifying, prioritizing issues and agreeing on the solutions
- Build trust between government and the private sector

3 - Status of partnership to date

The PPD platform for Guinea is not yet set up but all actors from government and the private sector agree on the need to have it. IFC conducted in December 2013 a PPD mission which has enabled its team to meet with stakeholders from the private sector and the government. The process is ongoing.

4 - Structure, processes and milestones

It is early at this stage to talk about structure, processes and milestones in Guinea as we are currently on the process of setting up the PPD platform. We can however update on the process. IFC has recently conducted a mission and met the stakeholders in order to do a remapping of the stakeholders and identify critical issues to consider in a public and private dialogue.

5 - Results if any

- We have a list of the issues that the private sector considers as critical for PPD to deal with.
- We have identified some of the critical private sector organizations
- There is also willingness of the private sector organizations to work together in better framing and defending their positions.
- The three patronat organizations are ready to work under one umbrella organization to harmonize their positions

6 – Challenges

The process to set up the PPD in Guinea has shown that there are some challenges to face in order to have an operational and efficient PPD platform:

- There is need for a private and private dialogue. The private sector is scattered and fragmented. There is need for them to work together so as to be efficient in their participation in the future platform.
- There is also need for more coordination and synergy in the government approach for the PPD platform.
- Building trust between the government and the private sector is critical.

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