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# The Commonwealth-La Francophonie G20 Annual Dialogue

Washington DC, 11 October 2017

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## CHAIR'S SUMMARY

1. Representatives of the Commonwealth and La Francophonie met in Washington with leaders of both the outgoing and incoming G20 Presidents to discuss recent outcomes, opportunities and challenges of the G20 agenda.
2. The 2017 dialogue builds on a platform of engagement first established in 2010, in which the two organisations have worked with successive G20 Presidents to enable developing countries to share their perspectives on key growth and development issues. For the first time the dialogue was held in the side-lines of the annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank.
3. The meeting was co-chaired by the Commonwealth Secretariat's Deputy Secretary-General, Dr Josephine Ojiambo and La Francophonie's Conseiller de la Secrétaire Générale, Mr Moncef Follain.
4. Introductory remarks were provided by Mrs Patricia Fuller, Director General, Economic Development Bureau, Canada, following which there were two substantive discussions framed around the recent outcomes of the G20 Summit in Hamburg and reflections on the G20 agenda going forward.

### **Recent G20 Outcomes: The G20 Hamburg Summit**

5. Mr Dominik Ziller, the Director General (acting) International Development Policy, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany (BMZ), noted that under its Presidency Germany has focussed on advancing three aims of building resilience, improving sustainability and improving responsibility, under the broader theme of 'Shaping an Interconnected World'.

6. A key initiative of the Germany Presidency was the launching of the G20 African Partnership. Amongst other things this has involved the establishment of investment partnerships with African countries to promote greater investment in the areas of renewable energies, employment and fair taxation. Mr Ziller confirmed that several African countries had begun the process of negotiating compacts and that, to ensure continuity, an African Advisory Group has been established under the G20 to oversee the implementation of this partnership over time.
7. Representatives of African countries, some already engaged in the initiative, welcomed the partnership emphasising the challenges facing countries to effectively mobilise domestic resources to meet the financing needs to achieve the SDGs. The specific challenge in developing and implementing effective policy frameworks for the taxation of the agricultural sector were noted in particular. They emphasised their needs for assistance in these areas, welcomed the establishment of an African Advisory Group and requested further information on the Group be provided to interested countries in due course.
8. Mr Ziller confirmed the continuity of initiatives under successive G20 Presidents, as part of the accountability framework development. The Commonwealth and La Francophonie have contributed to the previous two comprehensive accountability reports.

#### **Opportunities and Challenges of the G20 Agenda: Reflections from the Incoming G20 Presidency**

9. In advance of the incoming Argentinian Presidency, which becomes operational on 1 December, The Honourable Ambassador Pedro Villagra Delgado, Argentina's G20 Sherpa, provided reflections on the opportunities and challenges of the upcoming G20 Agenda.
10. Ambassador Delgado affirmed the commitment of Argentina to undertake outreach activities, not only to inform countries of the Argentinian Presidency's intentions, but to listen and reflect on perspectives beyond the G20. In this respect he welcomed the opportunity to engage in the annual dialogue with The Commonwealth and La Francophonie, noting the large membership of the two organisations.
11. He noted that the G20 needed to place people at the centre of the G20 agenda, and indicated that the G20 can play an important role in helping to shape a global response to some of the forces that are increasingly transforming global and national economies with consequent social and political impacts. Ambassador Delgado also noted the importance of continuity in the G20 agenda across Presidencies, and highlighted that closing

the infrastructure gap in developing countries, climate change and promoting gender equality (including greater economic participation), as significant issues that required the response of all countries.

12. Other G20 countries present at the meeting affirmed the relevance and importance of such outreach meetings with developing countries, and welcomed both the recent focus of the G20 on Africa, as well as the reflections of Ambassador Delgado on the G20 agenda from the perspective of the incoming Presidency.
13. In response to Ambassador Delgado's remarks a number of small states emphasised the important role that the G20 has and should continue to play in leading the global response to, and helping to forge an international response around many of the challenges facing small states, including de-risking and climate change. Ambassador Delgado noted the importance of taking into account the perspectives of small states, including those from the Pacific and the Caribbean.

**Josephine Ojiambo**  
Deputy-Secretary General  
Commonwealth Secretariat  
London

**Moncef Follain**  
Conseiller de la Secrétaire Générale  
La Francophonie  
Paris

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