

GÜNTER NOOKE  
PERSÖNLICHER AFRIKABEAUFTRAGTER DER BUNDESKANZLERIN  
Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung

## **Welcoming Remarks (Englisch)**

### **CONNEX Multi-Stakeholder Negotiation Support Forum**

Mittwoch, den 30. November 2016, 09.00 Uhr

Raum CC4, OECD Conference Centre, Paris

*Es gilt das gesprochene Wort!*

Dear Excellency Magassouba and dear Excellency Zwane!  
Dear Minister Suzuki! Dear Ambassador Duquesne!  
Honorable Panelists! Distinguished conference  
participants!

- It is my great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all of you to the third session of the CONNEX Negotiation Support Forum within the OECD Policy Dialogue on Natural Resource-based Development!
- When we initiated this Forum with the aim of stimulating an international and multi-stakeholder dialogue among OECD and Non-OECD countries we did not expect the strong development the CONNEX Initiative has achieved so far. Some truly remarkable outcomes have been reached since we met here for the first Negotiation Support Forum about one year ago.
- I warmly welcome the commitment of the incoming Italian G7 Presidency for its plans to keep CONNEX on the G7 agenda. Special thanks to you, Director Saralli! You can be sure to receive our support whenever it is needed.

- Another success story of the past year has been this Forum. We did not expect the CONNEX Negotiation Support Forum to arise such overwhelming interest on all sides involved. From my point of view we managed to pick the right topics for this year's dialogue sessions: Key attributes for long standing extractive contracts, how to assemble multidisciplinary teams for complex contract negotiations as well as terms of reference for recruiting external advisors are topics of particular relevance for bringing forward the CONNEX Initiative.
- Also, I highly welcome the drafting of policy guidance papers on all of these topics. With results like these, the Negotiation Support Forum is on the way of becoming a forum for defining internationally accepted standards of fairly negotiated and implemented extractive contracts.
- Thank you to Lahra Liberti and her team at the OECD Development Centre for making this success possible, and thank you also to the wide range of experts involved through our Friends of CONNEX group! We are happy to continue our cooperation with the OECD in 2017!

As some of you might have heard already, Germany is committed to strengthen its commitment for CONNEX. For extending our contribution we are currently preparing to establish a CONNEX Support Unit in Berlin in early 2017. The Support Unit will be implemented by GIZ and aims at providing limited institutional structures to the Initiative for making it more visible, better represented internationally and better approachable for developing country partners when seeking support.

- In line with this, the Support Unit's main function will be to boost the CONNEX Initiative's efficiency in delivering support to partner countries worldwide in providing assistance for complex contract negotiations and to generate international support among like-minded countries and private donors. Germany has secured a budget line to back up the CONNEX Support Unit and is currently seeking co-funding from other donors.
- With these measures, Germany wants to build a solid ground for the CONNEX Initiative's future. You

are all invited to join this endeavor! Thanks again to the OECD for organizing this third Negotiation Support Forum, to all of you for coming here today and for your efforts to bring forward the CONNEX Initiative! I wish all of us some fruitful and enriching discussions!