

# Report on CRGE Forum's engagement July 2021 – June 2022

## Background

The CRGE Forum is one of the Sector Working Group (SWG) under the Development Partner Group (DPG).

The CRGE Forum was established in 2018 in close consultation with its development partners. The forum aims to improve coordination between Government and development partners to enable the effective implementation of Ethiopia's CRGE Strategy. Beyond donor coordination the forum aims to support resource mobilization and ensure sustainability of development partnership. Since its establishment various activities have been undergoing to make the Forum fully operational. The UK and Norway are currently co-chairing on the development partner's side – Norway since January 2019 and the UK since April 2021. UNDP fields the Secretariat supporting the operation of the forum.

## Restructuring of Government 2021/2022

Until the election in 2021, the CRGE Forum met quarterly. However, following Ethiopia's general elections in June/September 2021, the Government has re-structured several executive organs. The Government of Ethiopia underwent significant reforms to reflect current priorities and strategies and support the delivery of its 10 year development plan (2020/21 to 2030). Those Machinery of Government changes led to a change in functions and mandates of several ministries and government institutions. As such the responsibility of the CRGE Forum moved to the newly established Ministry of Planning and Development, while the CRGE Facility remained unaffected by the restructuring and is still hosted inside the Ministry of Finance.

**The Machinery of Government changes and a review of CRGE structures meant that the forum slowed down and was unable to formally meet.** As part of the re-structuring the Ministry of Planning and Development revisited the CRGE structures (based on the assessment done in 2019) and initiated an Government internal process to look at lessons learned during the first ten years of implementing the CRGE Strategy and identify improvements going forward. As a consequence no meetings were conducted in 2021-2022 as all formal meetings were put on hold until the responsibilities for the CRGE Forum were clarified and potential changes finalized. Nevertheless, development partners continued to engage with Government directly.

**Despite the halt of the CRGE Forum meetings and the machinery of Government changes significant progress was made by Government across domestic agendas and the international climate arena.** Those included the completion of the first phase of the Green Legacy Initiative; high level attendance at the COP27 in Sharm el Sheik; in addition to important groundwork on taking the ambitious NDC forward and preparing a Long Term Low Emission Development Strategy.

## Major challenges

- Unable to hold regular meetings of the CRGE forum due to re-structuring of the federal government institutions.
- No work-plan was agreed for 2021/22
- UNDP not engaging and filling the role of the secretariat.

#### **Next steps**

- Revisit the TOR for the CRGE Forum considering the institutional restructuring
- Organize a High-Level Meeting to update development partners on the revitalization of the CRGE Forum
- Convene regular meetings of the CRGE forum TWG
- Prepare and approve annual work plan
- UNDP to set out tangible actions on how they will field the secretariat (including assurances on resources) and support the CRGE forum