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## COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

The Gambia Standards Bureau was established by an Act of Parliament in 2010 but it began operations in 2012. As the National Standardization Body, it is mandated to be responsible for Standardization, Testing, Certification, Inspection and Metrology. The Bureau is a member of ISO and IEC. The Bureau has set up a National Metrology Laboratory to conduct calibration services for measurement devices in The Gambia and to maintain the primary reference standards.

Noting that standards play a key role in facilitating trade and ensuring investor confidence, the Bureau actively participates in the harmonization of standards within the ECOWAS region. It sits in the Technical Management Board which oversees the regional Standards Harmonization Process within the fifteen-member States of ECOWAS. The aim of this harmonization of standards is to support the goal of ECOWAS to integrate its regional market and boost trade among its Member States.

Drawing from the National Quality Policy of The Gambia, the Bureau is committed to the development and improvement of the quality of products and services in the country. This challenge requires the availability of the right infrastructure and competent human resources.

In view of the above, the following areas are highlighted for consideration for collaboration:

- Certification
- Inspection
- Testing
- Metrology
- Training
- Accreditation

The list above is not exhaustive and is therefore meant to be indicative, in consideration of our mutual priorities.

While looking forward to a fruitful mutually-beneficial collaboration, I thank you for your good work in promoting investment by Italian companies and products in Gambia as well as your facilitation of contacts between Institutions of our two countries.

Yours sincerely,

**Papa Secka**  
Director General

