

Fact Sheet: G7-CONNEX Initiative
STRENGTHENING ASSISTANCE FOR COMPLEX
CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS
June 17, 2014

Well conceived and negotiated contracts are essential to a country's successful and inclusive development, protecting both host country and investing company interests. Such contracts can boost development and economic growth.

To address this, G7 leaders announced at the 2014 Brussels G7 summit:

“(...) a new initiative on Strengthening Assistance for Complex Contract Negotiations (CONNEX) to provide developing country partners with extended and concrete expertise for negotiating complex commercial contracts, focusing initially on the extractives sector, and working with existing fora and facilities to avoid duplication, to be launched in New York in June and to deliver improvements by our next meeting, including as a first step a central resource hub that brings together information and guidance.” G7 Summit Communiqué, June 5, 2014

Bringing together Information on Existing Resources to Improve Accessibility

The G7, working with the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment, will support the central resource hub www.negotiationsupport.org that compiles under one internet address information on existing assistance providers and guidance on preparing for negotiating and monitoring the implementation of complex contracts. This web-based platform is freely accessible and provides a one-stop shop with resources currently available for technical support in contract negotiation and enforcement.

Enhancing Existing Negotiation Support

Currently, numerous initiatives, including those sponsored by International Financial Institutions, bilateral assistance programs, academic institutions, the private sector, and NGOs, provide varying types of contract negotiation assistance. CONNEX will develop a series of improvements which are to be identified in cooperation with existing support providers in order to enhance rapid and holistic assistance to developing countries. By committing to consistent best practices, donors will work with providers to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of their efforts.

CONNEX will, in consultation with governments of developing countries, companies and current providers, explore and discuss guiding principles for experts on the ground. In a holistic approach, the assistance should offer legal support as well as expertise on other relevant aspects.

Linking to Long-Term Capacity Building and Increasing Transparency

CONNEX will contribute to long-term capacity building of host governments and will be linked to existing programs in this area. CONNEX complements initiatives aimed at increasing transparency in the extractives sector.

Further steps of the initiative will be discussed at the next meeting in Berlin in autumn 2014.

###