



Seoul Policy Centre

Global Partnership, Local Action: Implementation Strategies for Effective Development Co-operation at Country Level

Dates: 18-19 November 2013

Venue: Plaza Hotel, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Background:

The Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness was held in Busan, the Republic of Korea at the end of 2011. Bringing together political leaders, government representatives, parliamentarians, civil society organizations and private sector representatives from both developing and donor countries, the Forum sought to assess progress in improving the quality of aid and design a framework for development cooperation in a changing development context. The outcome document – Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation seeks to provide a basis for cooperation of all involved actors and achieve synergy of different modalities of cooperation at the country level. Since the High Level Forum in Busan, over 160 countries and 45 organizations have endorsed the agreement.

The Global Partnership on Effective Development Co-operation (the Global Partnership), emerged as a result of the agreement in Busan, brings together a wide range of countries and organizations from around the world that are committed to ensuring that development co-operation is effective. With a light global structure, it leaves countries significant leeway in determining their own priorities and finding solutions. Against this backdrop, Mexico will host the first ministerial-level meeting of the Global Partnership on 15-16 April 2014.

Focused on inclusivity and country evidence on progress and challenges, the upcoming ministerial-level meeting provides an opportunity for the international community to examine how effective development co-operation can be advanced in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

Since the High Level Forum in Busan, some countries have made significant headway in advancing the effectiveness of development co-operation at the country level, adopting and strengthening aid policies, conducting development fora, taking measures to increase transparency of development cooperation, and expanding partnerships, such as:

- Some traditional donors, both bilateral and multilateral, continued to tackle “unfinished business”, including commitments made in Paris and Accra, by reforming their approach to development cooperation and taking measures to increase effectiveness and coherence.
- A number of “Busan Building Blocks” and other voluntary initiatives continued their thematic actions on the voluntary basis, supporting research, conceptual work and country-level pilots on specific themes.
- Innovative initiatives were launched by a number of countries in some areas, including South-South cooperation.

Taking stock of the ongoing initiatives, overall progress and challenges drawing on country-level experience will not only be useful to give an impetus to the Global Partnership, but also build significant evidence base and provide lessons learned feeding into the discussion on the implementation of the post-2015 development framework. The first ministerial-level meeting in this context presents an opportunity to amplify that progress and scale up effective cooperation in ways that are fit for the post-2015 landscape, drawing on substantive discussions built upon progress since Busan and its impact on inclusive development while addressing Domestic resource mobilization for development, Middle-income countries (MICs), South-South and Triangular co-operation, and Partnering with the private sector for effective development co-operation.

While the Steering Committee of the Global Partnership plays an instrumental role in deepening and broadening consultations on these topics in sharpening the key deliverables for the ministerial-level meeting and building up strong buy-in from all the members of the Global Partnership, there will be a need of broad-based discussion across themes in order to take stock of the implementation, identify challenges and suggest ways forward.

A number of regional initiatives have been organized, including the Asia Workshop on the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation organized by the Government of Bangladesh as well as a sub-regional workshop of Eastern and Southern Africa on development effectiveness. The workshops addressed the mixed progress in the Global Partnership implementation across Asia as well as sub-regions in Africa and highlighted the need for a more practical discussion to advance implementation in selected areas.

The workshop in Seoul therefore provides an opportunity to build on the outcomes of these regional initiatives and consultations as well as a number of various consultations spearheaded by the Steering Committee members to further deepen the stock-taking, drawing directly on country and regional experiences as well as various voluntary initiatives supporting various thematic aspects of implementation.

Objective:

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea and the UNDP Seoul Policy Centre will organize a 2-day international workshop focusing on behavior change at the country-level during the implementation of the Global Partnership and with a view to take stock of progress and challenges from the voluntary initiatives, including the Building Blocks, designed to support the implementation of Busan commitments. The workshop also provides an opportunity to deepen substantive components of the thematic sessions of the first ministerial-level meeting by engaging broader stakeholders on these substantive topics. It will consider:

- Policies, strategies and measures put in place by partner countries to implement the Global Partnership, in particular to advance the country-level work of new cooperation & effectiveness policies, strategies and measures put together by traditional and emerging donors, civil society and the private sector;
- Key challenges encountered by countries to advance effective development cooperation and policy coherence for development. They include institutional capacity, policy enabling environment and potential opportunities presented by global and regional policy dialogue and development cooperation architecture;
- Key proposed deliverables for the ministerial-level meeting in April 2014, drawing on country and regional experiences. In particular the discussion may consider how effective development cooperation might feature in a post-2015 development framework and what, in concrete terms, the Global Partnership can bring to efforts to implement the post-2015 agenda; and
- Future directions which show how Building Blocks and other voluntary initiatives can contribute to effective development cooperation results at the country level.

This workshop therefore aims to feed into the preparation of the first ministerial-level Meeting in Mexico in complementing the evidence generated through the global monitoring process with qualitative stock-taking of progresses based on country-level analysis and evidence drawn from the work of the Building Blocks.

Format:

The two-day meeting will have an open and interactive format. The discussion session will be organized around lessons learnt from implementation of the Global Partnership since the beginning of 2012 at the country level, taking into consideration the substantive topics of the ministerial-level meeting. A short survey will also be administered during the workshop focusing on recommendations for the ministerial-level meeting.

Background documentation:

A background paper on the challenges of implementation will be produced by a Working Group comprising various institutions. The paper will identify various sets of issues related to the implementation of Global Partnership at country level. The discussion at the workshop will try to come up with practical solutions to the problems identified in the paper.

Thematic papers will be commissioned on the issues that are deemed important in preparation for the first ministerial-level meeting of the Global Partnership hosted by Mexico.

Any other relevant documents will also be shared by the Building Block leads and other stakeholders.

Participants:

The international workshop will reflect the principles of broadened partnership and bring together representatives of the governments involved in Global Partnership implementations, as well as countries that are not involved with the Global Partnership and engaged in alternative models of development cooperation. The participants will also include representatives of active Busan Building Blocks, relevant thematic and regional initiatives, local governments, private sector, parliamentarians and civil society organizations. Given the focus on country level implementation, the participants are expected to be directly involved in work related to international cooperation and its development effectiveness.

Expected outcomes:

- Practical suggestions to the countries on overcoming challenges to the Global Partnership implementation;
- Showcases, recommendations and key proposed actions/deliverables to be considered for the first ministerial-level meeting of the Global Partnership to further advance and deepen country level implementation and progress;
- Key lessons and recommendations on development cooperation/partnership for the design and implementation of the post-2015 development framework.

Technical rapporteuring will be organized during the session to make sure that each session comes up with specific recommendations. They will be integrated into the report with clear diagnosis and recommendations.

In addition, the workshop will serve as a catalyst for a community of practice on development effectiveness across regions bringing together development practitioners from across the world and encouraging an exchange of solutions for further country level implementation.
