

## PLENARY

### Progress since Busan and Inclusive Development

15 April 2014, 9.00 am

#### Objective:

The Busan High Level Forum marked a turning point in development co-operation in which the principles of accountability, results, transparency, inclusivity and whole-of-society country ownership were affirmed by the broad range of stakeholders assembled. The new approach to development effectiveness post-Busan was about putting these principles into practice by ensuring that the partnership was led by - and included - a wide range of partners and stakeholders to ensure development co-operation was both inclusive and effective. The New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States marks a new approach which was widely endorsed in Busan. The Mexico High Level Meeting provided a unique opportunity to build on the promise of Busan, gauge progress over the past two years towards the effective implementation of these principles and the specific commitments that demonstrate those principles in practice, and to contribute to the post-2015 development agenda.

This plenary session aimed to reinvigorate political will and energy to deliver on commitments from Busan, Paris and Accra building on evidence from the monitoring report, share lessons on how principles work on the ground, and discuss more concrete ideas which can accelerate progress or address bottlenecks in implementation of the Busan principles.

#### Participants:

- Moderator – Ms. Zeinab Badawi, BBC Journalist
- Ms. Saada Mkuya Salum, Minister of Finance, Tanzania
- Mr. Raj Shah (USAID Administrator)
- Ms. Roselynn Musa, FEMNET and Co-Chair of the CPDE
- The Right Honourable Helen Clark (UNDP Administrator)
- Hon. Nancy Abisai, MP, East African Legislative Assembly (Kenya)
- Ms. Anna Palmqvist, H&M Global Sustainability Manager
- Mr. Samara Kamura, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sierra Leone
- Ms. Lei Lei Thein, Deputy Minister National Planning & Economic Development, Myanmar
- Mr. Vitalice Meja, Coordinator of Reality of Aid Africa
- Mr. Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner Development Cooperation
- Mr. Kyle Peters, World Bank VP
- Ms. Clare Woodcraft, Emirates Foundations CEO
- Ms. Joana Ortega, Vice-President of Catalunya
- Mr. Paúl Carrasco, President of RU-FOGAR, Vice-President of UCLG and President of El Azuay (Ecuador).

## Key issues discussed:

The first plenary session based discussion around the four shared principles of the Busan agreement - inclusive development, country ownership, results and transparency and accountability – as well as fragility and conflict. The Global Partnership monitoring report highlighted that while there is some cause for optimism, renewed commitment and more effort will be needed to translate these principles into practice and reality. As the opening address from Korea highlighted that these principles are pivotal to how we work on the ground with aid but also beyond that to the broader scope of development co-operation. However a stronger partnership will be needed to make this a reality.

Korea, along with many other Busan endorsers, is taking steps to internalise these principles, for example, by moving towards joining IATI by the 2015 deadline. Other interesting examples of progress provided by panellists included:

- The US's push to localise their development co-operation through measures such as localising procurement of food aid and pushing to meet their IATI commitments.
- Myanmar, a relatively new participant in the development effectiveness fora, has instituted a new results and data system to be IATI compliant.
- The EU and its member states have accelerated efforts to improve and strengthen results-based programming that support national/country development plans through joint programming efforts.
- The World Bank have also supported country-led results framework by continuous support to country development planning and results framework and making sure that the Country Assistance Strategies draw on the country's results framework. .

Discussion more generally highlighted several key points for each of the Busan pillars.

How to achieve inclusive development and growth in a way that is country led and does not drive up inequality was a key area of focus for the first panel. Several speakers highlighted the importance of ensuring that development was truly owned in an inclusive way so all stakeholders, including in parliaments and civil society, shape and have a stake in the future and development of their countries. While this can be complex and at times difficult, as many stakeholders represent diverse and potentially fragmented groups, country ownership will be strengthened by ensuring that inclusive partnerships are a reality. Development partners can support this ownership and inclusivity by ensuring that co-operation is aligned to country-led development plants.

The panel also emphasised the need for action at the country level. In countries such as Mozambique with the rise of mineral revenue, there is greater expectation for inclusive growth. The inclusive development agenda means enabling and delivering engagement with all people, in particular the most vulnerable and marginalised, in policy dialogue and accountability frameworks. There was also recognition that these are not tasks without challenges but that should not be an excuse. There are examples of initiatives and efforts happening already, such as the establishment of an action plan that brings all partners on board with the development effectiveness agenda, the establishment of a code of conduct that binds partners and the government on actions, and enhancing medium-term development frameworks for which partners are requested to align their cooperation with. Business also has a stake and a role to play in ensuring equitable growth and development, not least as this affects their supply chain directly. Companies such as H&M have are committed to paying a living wage, support skills development and a voice for workers through collective bargaining for example. However, it was also noted that individual companies are limited

in their impact, have a limited capacity to influence their colleagues and that this was an area where more work was needed.

The spotlight talk on the New Deal focused on 'challenges but changes' by noting for example the countries that had moved from needing peacekeepers to supplying them. So how do we hold onto these gains? A focus on governance and economic issues as well as development and poverty is needed as well as more and better efforts to tackle corruption in difficult contexts – while progress is being made but more is needed. Post-2015 will be a crucial place to try to drive next steps for the New Deal.

The panel on transparency, accountability and results focused on where to next. Substantial gains have been made, particularly on transparency, but to a degree these have also emphasised the need to go further. And further progress is possible - particularly in areas that have resonance for both taxpayers and partners as highlighted by the EU - and the Busan agreement provides a vital roadmap.

The availability and use of data will be a crucial challenge post-Mexico and an area where the partnership can help to drive results. The data revolution will be a vital part of this but we cannot just rely on technology and must also think about supporting the development of systems and frameworks to allow good and equal access to data as well as accountability on the gathering and use of data. Transparency as such is not only about the what, where, and when, but also about the how and why which also means talking about what doesn't work and trying to find new solutions to old problems.

Transparency is also allowing a greater focus and effectiveness of results as people can see the results that are delivered and hold governments to account, as in Myanmar where a new system is helping to ensure that the results their government delivers are the ones that work for people. However, there are also difficulties and not unexpected pitfalls such as the difficulty of adequately measuring, and getting people to value, inherently hard to measure things such as capacity building and institution strengthening. At the same times, changes and trends such as urbanisation are throwing out new difficulties and challenges that need to be addressed.

### **Main conclusions and next steps:**

An ambitious development and poverty eradication agenda requires the mobilisation of diverse resources, though development co-operation will remain vital, and the genuine inclusion of all stakeholders. All development stakeholders have their roles to play in achieving these goals. Parliamentarians to drive and oversee policy and budgets, business and the private sector as an engine for growth and potentially transformative actor, civil society ensuring sustainability and inclusiveness, and governments to develop national strategies and a key delivery mechanism. And for each of these actors, the principles of Busan should be the guiding principle shaping how they act and how they interact. The Mexico HLM provided a useful reality check as to how the principles have translated into behavioural changes and impacts on the ground. Progress has been made in some areas and we have held on to some of the successes of the past but future progress will necessitate renewed commitment and a shift from discussion to action.