



2015

Busan Global Partnership Forum

November 23 – 24, 2015 | The-K hotel, Seoul, Republic of Korea



Background Note

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Developed by *Development Initiatives* in consultation with the *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea*

Introduction and political context

The [Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation](#) agreed at the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan on 29th November-1st December 2011 marked a significant shift in the international debate from aid effectiveness to development effectiveness, and led to the launch of the [Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation \(GPEDC\)](#). GPEDC is a multi-stakeholder initiative that brings together governments, the private sector, civil society and others to ensure that funding, knowledge and policy produce maximum impact on development. GPEDC is underpinned by the four shared principles agreed at Busan: ownership of development priorities by developing countries; focus on results; inclusive development partnerships; and transparency and accountability.

The Busan Partnership also included a number of specific commitments and progress on these is monitored by GPEDC's High-Level Meetings, the first of which took place in Mexico on April 2014. To support this process, GPEDC has developed a global monitoring framework consisting of ten indicators, the majority of which are based on data collection at country level. The first round of monitoring took place in 2013–2014 with GPEDC's first Global Monitoring Report published in 2014. The monitoring framework is a key attribute of GPEDC and regarded by many as the basis for GPEDC's contribution to the post-2015 development framework. The second round of monitoring will take place in 2015–2016, with the second progress report published in advance of the next High-Level Meeting, expected to take place in Kenya in the second half of 2016.

The Busan High-Level Forum resulted in the launch of ten Building Blocks, which brought together coalitions of the willing to support accelerated action in the following areas: fragile states, South–South cooperation, private sector, climate finance, transparency, the Effective Institutions Platform, results and accountability, managing diversity and reducing fragmentation, gender, and statistics. While there has been no formal follow-up process, many of these Building Blocks continue to play an active role in promoting their issues, and in Mexico they were supplemented by the launch of 39 new Voluntary Initiatives. The GPEDC Steering Committee has indicated that it is keen to capitalise on the energy and enthusiasm of these Global Partnership Initiatives and draw them more closely into its overall program of work. Full details of all of these initiatives can be found in the [synthesis note](#) prepared for the GPEDC Steering Committee in January 2015.

The Government of Korea has played a key role in the GPEDC since its inception and seeks to drive accelerated application and delivery of the principles and objectives agreed at Busan by hosting a series of annual workshops that focus on progress in implementing the commitments made at Busan, with a particular focus on implementation at the country-level. The first Annual GPEDC Workshop was held in Seoul in November 2014 and was given a mandate in the Mexico HLM Communiqué (16 April 2014) to *“take stock and bring together partners to review implementation of the Busan commitments at country level, in order to support building up of evidence-based global high level political dialogue and commitment on effective development cooperation.”*

Building on the success of this event, and taking into account the feedback from participants, this note outlines background information for a series of the Annual Busan Global Partnership Forums¹ hosted by the Government of Korea, with a specific focus on the 2015 Forum. The Annual Forums will be preceded by a Learning and Accelerating program organised by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) that seeks to increase awareness and understanding of GPEDC and the development effectiveness agenda, as well as providing opportunities to share experiences and lessons learnt on the implementation of the Busan commitments at country levels to support the subsequent Forum discussions.

Purpose and objectives of the Annual Busan Global Partnership Forum and the GPEDC Learning and Accelerating program

The overall aim of this series of Annual Forums and the Learning and Accelerating program is to focus on progress in implementing the Busan commitments at country level. While the biennial GPEDC High-Level Meetings monitor overall progress at political level, the Annual Forum will complement this by bringing together practitioners at the country level to share experiences, promote best-practice and learn from each others' examples.

The emphasis will be on practical action at county level, with the Learning and Accelerating program supporting participants to understand the relevance of the Busan principles and commitments to their own work, and to develop the skills they need to implement them in their own contexts. The Forum provides a unique opportunity to share country case study experience and explore in detail where and how success has been achieved, together with the contexts and facilitating factors that led to such success.

Whilst this Forum will be structured around the Building Blocks (see below), progress against the Busan principles will be the cross-cutting theme. Observations and lessons for the principles taken from the Forum discussion will be a key component of the concluding session. Objectives of the Annual Forum:

- To strengthen support for the Busan principles and commitments and help to build a knowledge base of best practice around them;
- To review progress in implementing the principles and commitments at country level, sharing critical reflections and putting forward recommendations to GPEDC's bi-annual HLMs and Global Monitoring Reports;
- To capitalise on the work of the Busan Building Blocks and Mexico Voluntary Initiatives in taking forward this agenda, drawing on their expertise and outreach on specific policy areas;
- To provide a forum for GPEDC stakeholders beyond the Steering Committee to contribute to its work by sharing their ideas and practical experience with each other;
- To promote a clear, shared understanding of GPEDC's contribution to the post-2015 development agenda and provide an opportunity for country-level stakeholders to feedback and engage on this agenda.

¹ The title of the initiative has been changed from 'workshop' to 'forum' in response to the requests from last year's participants to better accommodate the participation of high-level policy makers.

Themes and approach for the 2015 Forum

The following key themes have been identified as priorities for the 2015 Forum:

- 1) The role of GPEDC and its contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**
- 2) The role of the private sector in development effectiveness**
- 3) Development effectiveness in states of fragility**

The 2015 Forum will be the first GPEDC meeting to take place after the UN Sustainable Development Summit. The Forum will consider the GPEDC's contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with a clear emphasis on implementation at country level. The 2030 Agenda sets a much broader agenda than the Millennium Development Goals and requires a fundamental shift in the development finance architecture. The emphasis on inclusiveness, integration, and universality has important implications for how the GPEDC demonstrates its unique value-addition to support multi-stakeholder actions for making development cooperation and finance maximize its impacts at country level. A much wider range of development actors will play a greater role in providing development co-operation, and within governments a wider range of ministries will be involved. These shifts imply, in turn, a need for greater coherence and visibility of multi-stakeholder development partners at the country level around common goals. This session will focus on practical implications of the universal and inclusive 2030 Agenda with regard to policy, practices and behaviours of various development actors and their impacts on development effectiveness at the country level. It will do so by drawing on practical lessons from ensuring coherence and synergies of various development finance and interventions by multiple development actors at the country level. GPEDC members have a wealth of experience in monitoring effectiveness commitments at country level as well as strengthening the impacts of their cooperation, and could make a valuable contribution to the future monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Reflecting upon areas where the GPEDC can bring a unique value to the Means of Implementation, this session will also discuss a series of recommendations for a revised GPEDC Monitoring Framework and for those developing the SDG monitoring framework. The Global Monitoring Framework's unique contribution rests on its emphasis on capturing the quality of the development cooperation provided, rather than the quantity. It has been described by some as providing the "how" of the post-2015 framework while the SDGs provide the "what". A session exploring what this means in practice for those involved in monitoring SDG indicators at country level is a timely contribution to the debate as the 2030 Agenda addresses the need for reviewing the effectiveness of the international development system, which should be interpreted to include development effectiveness. (para.74(c))

Themes 2 and 3 ensure an approach that covers both actor (the private sector) and context (fragile states) perspectives. There is considerable interest in both these areas, and both are core themes in post-2015 discussions. The role of the private sector is especially topical in the context of recent Financing for Development (FfD) discussions, while the specific needs of fragile states have been highlighted in FfD and post-2015 discussions around the SDGs and are also relevant to the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit. These themes maintain a clear link to Busan, where the need for stronger relationships between development co-operation and the private sector was recognised, and where a New Deal for engagement with fragile states was agreed.

Sub-themes for the breakout sessions

While these themes are the main focus of this year's Forum, there is scope to explore additional sub-themes during the breakout sessions. In each case, the focus will remain on implementation at country level and relevant Global Partnership Initiatives are invited to support these sessions. Topics are:

- **South–South Cooperation (SSC).** This session draws on lessons from different SSC assessment and evaluation experiences to examine whether and how SSC can be assessed and measured to achieve sustainable development outcomes. It will approach the issue through three examples: a research project on developing indicators for measuring SSC between Thailand and Laos; a social appraisal of Chinese assistance to Cambodia; and a case study on Brazil-Angola cooperation in education and skills development that pilots the Network of Southern Think Tanks’ (NeST) framework for assessing the quality of SSC. The session will provide an opportunity to share the perspectives on the different methodologies for assessing the quality and impact of South–South cooperation and how various international initiatives (including the GPEDC, its Voluntary Initiatives, and the DCF) can help systematize, understand, and foster SSC in support of sustainable development. It will suggest some areas for follow up.
- **The role of civil society organisations (CSOs) in promoting development effectiveness.** This is a roundtable session gathering national monitoring coordinators, civil society focal points, and representatives from the donor community and other development stakeholders engaged in parallel accountability processes (e.g. the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States). Through the moderation of CPDE’s Co-Chair the panelists will be invited to share best practices, reflect on challenges and answer questions on GPEDC’s monitoring efforts and, more broadly, how to enhance country-level accountability in a post-2015 landscape.
- **Climate finance.** The session aims to raise awareness of the objectives of the Partnership on Climate Finance and Development and to mobilise support in taking forward the Partnership’s objectives from further partners.
- **Financing for results.** This session will provide an opportunity for participants to:
 - Discuss progress and challenges relating to GPEDC’s ‘focus on results’ in the evolving development landscape/context towards integrated financial frameworks.
 - Inform themselves on a number of country experiences on strengthening the link between results and national financing, leading to accountable and transparent exchange of data
 - Discuss ways how to monitor and manage change towards development results

Supporting materials

Each of the key plenary sessions is informed by a background paper that is available to delegates in advance of the Forum. These go beyond simple desk reviews of the topics in question. They synthesize analysis of contemporary discourse with key lessons and experiences that emerge from country case studies gathered specifically for the Forum. In this way the reports elicit evidence and consolidate elements for success and bridge global discourse with country experience, aligned to the GPEDC agenda.

Background papers drawing on case study evidence have been produced for the private sector and fragile states plenary sessions. An independent background paper has also been produced for the plenary session on the role of GPEDC and its contribution to the 2030 Agenda.

Cross-cutting theme rapporteurs

These Rapporteurs will pull out the key lessons learned relevant to the cross-cutting themes of Busan principles. It is expected that the principles will be considered through the plenary sessions, but are not themselves the focus of specific sessions and are nevertheless important to highlight. The Rapporteurs’ role will be to follow proceedings and draw links between what is discussed and the cross-cutting themes, reporting back to the participants at appropriate points.