Contributing to effective implementation of the 2030 agenda: Towards the second High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation

Side Event at the ECOSOC FFD Follow-Up Forum, 18 April 2016, 13:15-14:30

Background

Adopted in September 2015, Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aspire to transform our world for the benefit of people, planet and prosperity. They call on all countries and development stakeholders to ensure that no-one is left behind. In agreeing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) in July 2015, the international community recognised that delivering the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs will require not only more resources, but also making sure that these resources are used effectively. The AAAA also noted common goals and ambitions to strengthen international development co-operation and welcomed continued efforts to improve its quality, impact and effectiveness, including adherence to agreed development co-operation effectiveness principles.

Summary

Co-hosted by the Governments of Kenya and Mexico and moderated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the side event provided an opportunity to reflect on broad-based changes to the multilateral development system brought about by the 2030 Agenda, SDGs and AAAA. It also addressed how the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation may need to evolve in consideration of the new development landscape, in order to support innovative approaches to development co-operation and to scale up for a multi-trillion dollar, universal agenda.

Speakers included: Amb. Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations; Mr. Tegegnework Gettu, United Nations Under-Secretary General and UNDP Associate Administrator; Ms. Gina Casar, Executive Director, Mexican Agency for International Development Co-operation / Representative of the Mexican Global Partnership Co-Chair; Amb. Jeroen Verheul, Representative of the Dutch Global Partnership Co-Chair; Mr. Klaus Rudischhauser, Acting Director General for International Co-operation and Development, European Commission; Mr. Haje Schutte, Head of the Statistics and Development Finance Division, Development Co-operation Directorate of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); Mr. Luca De Fraia, Deputy Secretary General, ActionAid Italia / Representative of the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness; and Ms. Louise Kantrow, Permanent Representative of the International Chamber of Commerce to the United Nations. The event was moderated by Ms. Gülden Türköz-Cosslett, UNDP Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Director of the Bureau for External Relations and Advocacy.

Key Messages

- The 2030 Agenda necessitates that all countries and actors work together to realise sustainable development and emphasises the importance of quality / effectiveness of all types of co-operation. There was broad appreciation that the Global Partnership can act as a practical, inclusive and multi-stakeholder platform, providing a ‘quick start’ for driving effective co-operation for the SDGs / AAAA and a ‘short-cut’ to accelerate implementation. This role also poses an important question about how the Global Partnership should be positioned in light of the AAAA and 2030 Agenda.

- To this end, various development stakeholders have already started the work of delivering on the SDGs, for instance, the business community is forging ahead in its work to become better fit for supporting the 2030 Agenda, with recognition that ‘business cannot succeed when society fails’.
The Global Partnership must evolve with a grander vision, a greater reach and an openness to adapt. In doing so, the Partnership will need to consider its core capabilities in order to rise up and meet this ambition. This includes reflection on models of engagement / representation for key constituencies, involvement of emerging partners, progress on unfinished aid effectiveness commitments, bridging the development-humanitarian divide and how best to shift to the 2030 Agenda to ensure no one is left behind.

Remaining commitments from Paris and Accra must be addressed, and discussants urged the need to maintain the Global Partnership’s focus on ‘unfinished business’. The Global Partnership will also need to review whether commitments made on effectiveness are still suited to the context of Agenda 2030. This includes consideration of new elements of focus including ‘speed of delivery’, and embracing both new and emerging actors in the evolving development landscape. In this context, there was appreciation that the principles of effective development co-operation can also be applied beyond ODA, and that the Global Partnership could become a catalyst for translating principles into action while measuring behaviour change.

Different types of co-operation and country / regional contexts should be further considered in order for ODA and development co-operation to have exponential impact. In addition, in the context of the 2030 Agenda, middle-income countries cannot be left out of the equation, and further consideration of the application of development effectiveness principles will be crucial for driving a more predictable and impactful development landscape.

The universality of the 2030 Agenda requires a response to fragmentation in reporting on support to SDG implementation. The Global Partnership has a role to play in strengthening synergies between various flows and actors and can strengthen the link between evidence and knowledge from country / project-level experience to the global conversation on effective co-operation for sustainable development. However further work is needed on monitoring and reporting to reduce redundancy, overlap and duplication. The Partnership’s inclusive platform can draw together a broad range of stakeholders in support of innovative solutions for more effective development co-operation and support full and active dialogue between countries and actors through enhanced knowledge sharing and mutual learning.

The existing make-up of Global Partnership membership also provides a basis on which to build a more inclusive platform for all development stakeholders to share knowledge and good practices, and to engage in policy dialogue on equal footing. For example, the Global Partnership’s monitoring framework is being used by over 80 countries to monitor the effectiveness and quality of development co-operation. This monitoring framework can also provide useful inputs to the AAAAA and SDG review and follow-up.

Conclusion

The 2030 Agenda and SDG framework are redefining the development landscape. In this context, the Global Partnership has an opportunity to evolve into an important venue for partnership and participation, supporting implementation of the SDGs. To do this well, the Global Partnership will need to adapt. This includes through strengthening its constituency model, broadening participation to an even wider range of stakeholders and strengthening working-level machinery.

HLM2 can be a watershed event that defines the future of the Global Partnership. To this end, Global Partnership stakeholders need to decide on the shape and focus of the Partnership in the context of the 2030 Agenda, SDGs and AAAAA. This journey has just started, and all partners are encouraged to take part in the discussion over the next several months.

Contacts

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A complete recording of the side event can be found at: http://effectivecooperation.org/2016/04/06/gpedc-side-event-at-ecosoc-financing-for-development-forum/