

GPEDC Working Group on Knowledge Hub on Effective Development Co-operation

*Report to Steering Committee¹
(Final Draft)*

¹ This report was prepared by the GPEDC Working Group on Knowledge Hub on Effective Development Co-operation. The group is led by Cameroon (Mr. Moses Ayuk Bate) and composed of BIAC – the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD (Mr. John Sullivan), Japan (Mr. Yoshida Toru), the Netherlands (Mr. Arjan Schuthof), Reality of Aid (Ms. Erin Palomares), the United States (Mr. Andrew Ditmanson) and the World Bank (Mr. Frank Wissing Madsen). The terms of reference for this Working Group are available at: <http://effectivecooperation.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/TOR-WG-Knowledge-Hub.pdf>

I. Introduction

1. During the 8th GPEDC Steering Committee meeting in September 2015 in Mexico City, it was decided to establish a Working Group on Knowledge Hub on Effective Development Co-operation with the objective of “develop[ing] a strategy and make concrete recommendations on how the GPEDC can become a knowledge hub for exchanging ideas and experiences as well as promoting innovative initiatives to implement development effectiveness commitments in support of the SDGs.” The Working Group developed a preliminary note and presented it at the 9th Steering Committee meeting in Lilongwe (29 February-1 March 2016). This final report brings out some elements of a demand assessment for knowledge and makes specific recommendation in order to operationalise the analysis that was presented in the preliminary note.

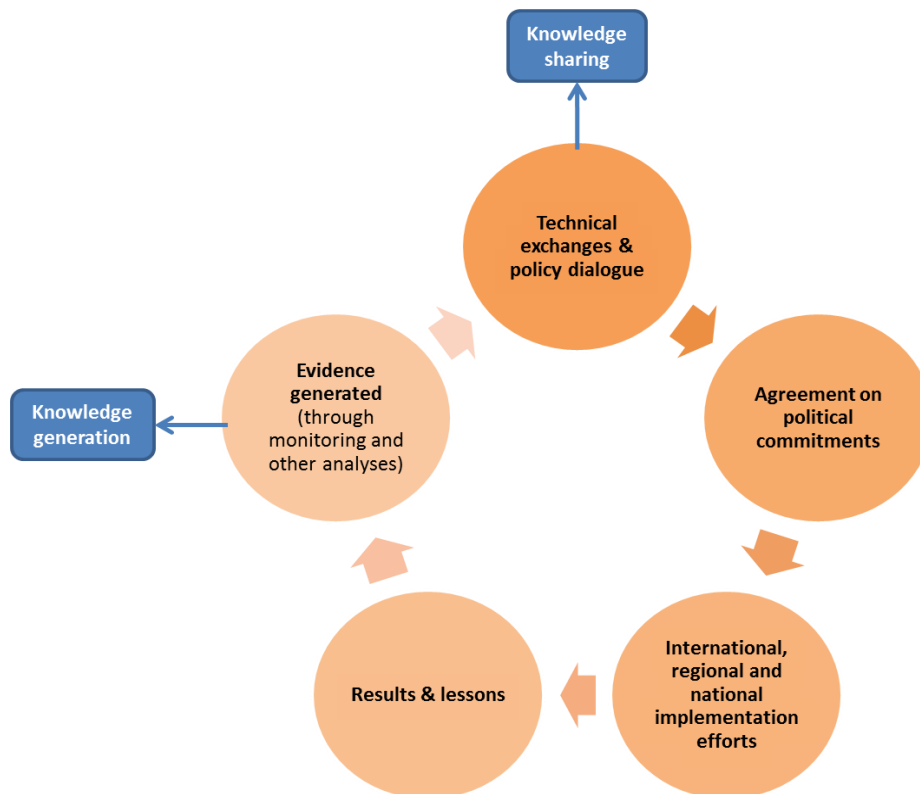
II. The role of the GPEDC knowledge hub in the SDGs process

2. One of the main specific contributions the GPEDC can make to UN-led processes in support of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is to provide a platform for knowledge exchange and learning on effective development cooperation at all levels. With the adoption of the SDGs, many developing countries are mainstreaming these goals in their national development strategies and establishing national indicators to monitor progress. Despite the wide range of development resources now available, development cooperation resources still constitute an essential part of investment budgets of many developing countries. Development cooperation has to be more effective in order to achieve desired development outcomes. The GPEDC knowledge hub can be useful for this purpose, as countries need to know what works best, where and how.

III. How knowledge is currently generated and shared in the GPEDC

3. Among the core functions of the GPEDC is to play the role of knowledge hub for effective development cooperation. In order to make recommendations on how to strengthen this GPEDC function, it is first important to understand how knowledge is currently generated and shared in the GPEDC. The figure below illustrates this process.

Figure 1: Knowledge generation and sharing through GPEDC activities



4. The GPEDC generates evidence on effective development co-operation (**knowledge generation**) through its regular monitoring exercise and analyses prepared by its Global Partnership Initiatives (GPIs), regional platforms and other

initiatives linked to the GPEDC. Through technical exchanges (e.g. monitoring workshops, regional workshops and GPI meetings) and policy dialogue (e.g. High-Level Meetings, Busan Global Partnership Fora – hosted annually by the Republic of Korea), GPEDC stakeholders share knowledge on effective development co-operation (**knowledge sharing**). This process can inform political decisions and commitments made by GPEDC stakeholders, which drive international, regional and national efforts to implement more effective development co-operation. These efforts then generate results and lessons that can produce additional evidence on progress on implementing effective development co-operation (**knowledge generation**).

❖ Knowledge generation

5. The GPEDC currently generates evidence on progress in implementing the key principles and commitments for effective development co-operation through its monitoring exercise and analyses on the results and lessons learnt from its implementation efforts.
6. The **GPEDC global monitoring exercise** generates evidence on result-focus, transparency, predictability and untying of development co-operation; alignment of development co-operation with national priorities; strengthening and use of country systems; adoption of a gender perspective in public expenditure management; mutual accountability among development actors; enabling environment for civil society to engage in and contribute to development; and engagement and contribution of the private sector to development.
7. **Global Partnership Initiatives**, which are voluntary and led by different development actors (national governments, international organisations, civil society, local and regional governments, think tanks, foundations, private sector), are also producing results, lessons and generating evidence around specific commitments and innovative areas of effective development co-operation. Through their work, they are helping to generate greater understanding on: using and strengthening country systems through all co-operation modalities; harmonising efforts of providers of development co-operation and aligning them with national priorities; ensuring greater transparency in development co-operation; strengthening national statistical systems; using development co-operation to support domestic resource mobilisation; using gender disaggregated data and gender equality tracking systems; creating an enabling environment for CSOs; increasing effectiveness of philanthropic engagement.²
8. **Regional and country-led implementation efforts** also generate evidence on how countries are making development co-operation more effective, “building on previous efforts to strengthen aid management policy frameworks, reinforce institutional settings, and develop systems to track ODA at the country level”.³ This evidence is presented in over 35 country briefs, which show that “a number of countries are currently exploring various ways to mobilise and utilise development resources and track their impacts” in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. “These efforts aim to strengthen domestic enabling environments, which will allow for maximum impact through integrated policies, institutions and instruments”.

❖ Knowledge sharing

9. The knowledge generated by GPEDC is currently shared through technical exchanges and policy dialogue, which happen both face-to-face (meetings) and virtually (through online tools).

i. Meetings

- *International GPEDC meetings*: Ministerial-level meetings (HLM) and its preparatory meetings, Steering Committee meetings (organised by GPEDC Co-chairs and JST), Busan Global Partnership Fora (hosted by the Republic of Korea), Learning and Acceleration Programme (hosted by the Republic of Korea).
- *Regional GPEDC meetings*: regional pre-monitoring workshops, post-monitoring workshops, meetings organised by regional platforms (e.g. Arab Coordination Group, Asia-Pacific Development Effectiveness Facility, NEPAD, Pacific Island Forum).
- *Side events to key international meetings* (E.g. UN General Assembly meetings, UN DCF meetings, UN ECOSOC meetings, World Bank-IMF Annual Meetings, OECD Global Fora on Development).

ii. Online tools:

- GPEDC website (<http://effectivecooperation.org/>), community site (<https://www.unteamworks.org/GPEDC>), blog, social media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, etc)
- GPEDC newsletter (monthly) and GPEDC Monitoring newsletter (quarterly)
- Monitoring webinars, videos, helpdesk and support material

² This information was drawn from the bi-annual GPEDC reports “Update on Global Partnership Initiatives”.

³ This information was drawn from the room document “Strengthening Development Co-operation: Synthesis of Country Implementation Efforts”, presented at the 9th Steering Committee meeting in Lilongwe (Malawi)

IV. Demand for knowledge in the GPEDC

10. Between May and June 2016, the Joint Support Team conducted several consultations on the mandate and working arrangements of the Global Partnership. With regards to knowledge generation and knowledge sharing, preliminary results of consultations with Steering Committee members show that they would like the GPEDC to:
- Focus on the core effectiveness principles and delivering on all existing commitments from Paris to Busan. They are universal and applicable to all actors.
 - Help ensure that all actors understand and apply development effectiveness principles and turn commitments into action.
 - Enhance efforts on implementation of effective development co-operation, but with a view to sharing knowledge and providing guidance to all relevant stakeholders at all levels.
 - Sequence Global Partnership's meetings to facilitate more technical discussion among communities of interest and guarantee regular, high-level opportunities for review and accountability, aligned to, but not duplicating other efforts.
 - Develop guidelines and promote knowledge sharing on best practices, as well as provide capacity support for monitoring.

V. Proposal for a GPEDC knowledge hub on effective development co-operation

11. The existing process for knowledge generation and sharing already provides a wealth of information on development co-operation. However, the key issue is how to incentivise knowledge generation, distil results and lessons coming from implementation of commitments for effective development co-operation and improve tools that can facilitate knowledge exchange. With this purpose in mind, the group proposes the establishment of a GPEDC knowledge hub (the scope to be further determined based on the needs assessment), with the following vision statement, mission, objectives and components for the GPEDC knowledge hub.

Vision statement: Policy-makers and practitioners learn from evidence and understand better key success factors in development co-operation for achieving sustainable development results

Mission: To be the knowledge hub for countries and organisations to share knowledge and experiences in promoting effective development co-operation and innovative initiatives to implement development effectiveness commitments in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Objectives

- ✓ **Overall Objective:**
 - Through knowledge generation and sharing, foster implementation of development co-operation effectiveness commitments in support of the SDGs.
- ✓ **Specific Objectives**
 - Strengthen the GPEDC anchorage to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
 - Gather and share information on effective development co-operation;
 - Fostering action and building trust between partners.

Components

- ✓ **Knowledge generation:** Through GPEDC monitoring reports; analytical work based on results and lessons from GPIs; analyses on successes and failures from implementation of development effectiveness at national and local level (produced by governments and other GPEDC stakeholders themselves, as well as by universities and research institutions); direct inputs from stakeholders.
- ✓ **Knowledge management:** A knowledge management interface (e.g. through a knowledge management unit in the OECD/UNDP Joint Support Team, curators at regional and national level, staff with specific responsibilities) which facilitates translation and distilling of implementation efforts by GPEDC stakeholders and processes mentioned above into lessons and knowledge that can be shared.
- ✓ **Knowledge sharing:** In addition to existing knowledge sharing tools and mechanisms to leverage them, the GPEDC could consider: (i) creating a database-management system to organise knowledge generated from GPEDC stakeholders and processes so that they can be easily retrieved; (ii) creating a dedicated online space that shows the work of GPI's that are innovative, generate new knowledge and whose lessons can be showcased during events and key fora (e.g. HLM).
- ✓ **Knowledge utilisation:** GPEDC stakeholders should be encouraged to use knowledge available.

VI. Recommendations for strengthening the knowledge hub function of the GPEDC

12. In order to chart the way forward, the Working Group proposes recommendations that focus on 1) short-term actions to improve knowledge sharing within the GPEDC and 2) preparing and implementing a medium to long-term strategy to strengthen the GPEDC as a knowledge hub.

➤ Short term actions

13. The recommendations proposed below focus on short-term actions that could be achieved with the existing resources and capacities available in the GPEDC. If agreed at the forthcoming Steering Committee meeting in July 2016 in New York, these short-term actions could be implemented by the 2nd High Level Meeting (HLM2), to take place between 28 November and 1 December 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Recommendation 1. By October 2016, the Joint Support Team should produce a monitoring report that is user friendly and contains messages that can inform key international fora and impacts policy makers and practitioners alike.

Recommendation 2. From mid-September to mid-November 2016, and pending available resources, the Joint Support could establish an online community of practice (possible hosted in <https://www.unteamworks.org/GPEDC>) to discuss the results and insights of the 2016 Progress Report as well as the way forward in using such results. All countries participating in the 2nd monitoring round will be invited and should be encouraged to participate in this community of practice.

Recommendation 3. By July 2016, all Global Partnership Initiatives should prepare a short input for submission to the JST ahead of HLM2 focusing on (i) progress made and lessons learnt since the 1st High-Level Meeting (Mexico City, April 2014); (ii) policy messages for discussion at HLM2; and (iii) actions that the GPEDC could agree on during HLM2 to accelerate progress in effective development co-operation. The JST should compile such inputs and use them to inform the 2016 Progress Report.

Recommendation 4. By mid-August, the Joint Support Team should clarify how it will improve knowledge generation, knowledge management and sharing in its current functions.

Recommendation 5. Starting in July and by November 2016, GPEDC Co-chairs, Steering Committee members, GPIs and the Joint Support Team should facilitate interlinks between different planned events, identify progress in knowledge generation and identify gaps for further action. This could be done by:

- Co-creating content and effectively using expected outcomes of envisaged regional workshops in Latin America, Asia-Pacific and Africa in September, establishing links between them, and using generated knowledge, insights and lessons as input for subsequent fora in Vienna (providers workshop, OFID), Seoul (Busan Global Partnership Forum) and Nairobi (HLM2).
- Using the occasion for GPEDC to provide input to the HLPF to gather and extract knowledge on effective development at country level as a contribution to the global Agenda 2030 process.

Recommendation 6. By October 2016, the Joint Support Team should prepare a roadmap for the GPEDC knowledge hub that is endorsed by the GPEDC at HLM2.

Recommendation 7. By November 2016, the GPEDC should use the HLM2 to communicate about its knowledge hub for effective development co-operation. This could be done by organising a side event on knowledge, using gladiator sessions and plenary sessions to discuss issues around knowledge generation/management/sharing, effectively publicising the function of the GPEDC as a knowledge hub on effective development cooperation.

➤ Medium and long term actions

14. The recommendations proposed below focus on medium- to long-term actions that will require additional human and financial inputs.

Recommendation 8. Over the next years, the GPEDC should focus on sharing knowledge on the core effectiveness principles and commitments endorsed in Paris, Accra and Busan, ensuring that all actors understand and apply such principles and turn commitments into action. The Steering Committee may review the priority issues for knowledge sharing in the GPEDC after High Level Meetings – according to thematic priorities agreed at such meetings – and after each monitoring rounds – according to the result of exit surveys.

Recommendation 9. Steering Committee members, GPIs and other GPEDC stakeholders should commit to contribute lessons/knowledge to the knowledge sharing mechanisms GPEDC puts in place.

Recommendation 10. Steering Committee members, GPIs and other interested GPEDC stakeholders should commit to lead policy dialogue, expert/thematic dialogue, regional discussions and/or constituency consultations that can help to distil key lessons/messages/knowledge to be shared among the Partnership.

Recommendation 11. The Joint Support Team should continue to improve the content and presentation of on-line tools with a clear emphasis on sharing and co-creating knowledge around key principles and commitments for effective development co-operation. It could create a dedicated online space where Global Partnership Initiatives, agencies, governments and other implementation efforts that are innovative, generate new knowledge and lessons can showcase their work.

Recommendation 12. Global Partnership Initiatives that focus on knowledge sharing (e.g. the Promoting Effective Partnering initiative) should use the dedicated online space (recommendation 11) to share their experiences and lessons on how best knowledge is gathered, made accessible and disseminated.

Recommendation 13. The Joint Support Team should design mechanisms to support developing countries to establish an ongoing process of knowledge gathering and knowledge sharing among stakeholders at country level, building on the results of the GPEDC monitoring exercise. This could be done by building on the findings of the Working Group on Country-Level Implementation; establishing an online space where monitoring findings can be outlined, shared and ultimately translated into practice; establishing effective mechanisms for linking knowledge generated at the country-level to global follow up and review processes.

Recommendation 14. The Joint Support Team should use the monitoring exercise to better assess demand and provide tailor-made services to participating developing countries.

Recommendation 15. The Steering Committee and the JST should consider complementing the GPEDC monitoring process by a GPEDC evaluation; much like the Paris Declaration evaluation complemented the Paris Declaration monitoring exercise. The GPEDC evaluation will assess the relevance, effectiveness, sustainability and impact of effective development cooperation principles. A GPEDC evaluation as a knowledge generation process is well placed to inform the learning needs for SDG implementation.

Recommendation 16. GPEDC Co-Chairs, Steering Committee members, GPIs and other interested GPEDC stakeholders should seek and establish links with key like-minded academic and policy institutes, and global knowledge brokers, including from the South. For example, the World Bank internationally supports effective knowledge management in client countries as well as South-South knowledge transfer with support of partners such as China, Indonesia, India, Mexico, Korea, GTZ and DFID. Other options might include the Global Partnership for Knowledge Exchange or the Global Delivery Initiative.

Recommendation 17. The structure of the knowledge hub should be beyond the JST. The knowledge management unit within the JST is an option; however, in order to ensure the sustainability of such knowledge hub, it is necessary to collaborate with existing think tanks, universities and research institutes who are already working on development effectiveness agenda. Those entities can be selected in each region, ideally one from the South and one from the North per region, focused on thematic issues such as domestic resource mobilization, partnerships with private sectors, etc., which should be decided according to the result of need assessment above mentioned. Those knowledge partners (curators) will also conduct analytical work on the key factors of effective development cooperation vis-a-vis SDGs.

Recommendation 18. Regional platforms or “knowledge curators” at international, regional and country levels could help to create clear links between knowledge generation at country-level, regional and global level, knowledge sharing within regions, among regions and at the global level.

Recommendation 19. The Joint Support Team should clarify how it will help or support generation, management and sharing of knowledge in the GPEDC, including by considering establishing a knowledge management unit.

Recommendation 20. The Joint Support Team should improve branding and public relations of the GPEDC Knowledge Hub.