

Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation

Revised concept for the Advisory Group on monitoring

(Incorporates principles agreed by Steering Committee 20 January 2015)

BACKGROUND

The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC) was established in 2011 at the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, Republic of Korea, to sustain political dialogue on issues relating to the quality and effectiveness of development co-operation. Aiming at making a significant contribution to the “how” of effective development co-operation, the GPEDC is a platform where all stakeholders come together voluntarily to track progress, hold each other to account and learn lessons for improving the way they work at the country level.

A distinct feature of the GPEDC is its global monitoring framework, which provides a mechanism for monitoring implementation of commitments agreed in Busan. It builds on experience and lessons of international monitoring efforts since 2005, and responds to developing countries’ demand for a global accountability framework to support national implementation efforts. The monitoring framework consists of a set of ten indicators that measure progress in improving the effectiveness of development co-operation in specific areas related to ownership, results, inclusive development partnerships, transparency and mutual accountability among partners.

The joint UNDP-OECD team supporting the GPEDC has been called on to develop, refine and implement the monitoring methodology. The Steering Committee and the Co-Chairs of the GPEDC are responsible for guiding the Joint Support Team and for delivering the overall objectives of the Global Partnership. The Co-Chairs and the Steering Committee (SC) also play an important role in ensuring broad consultation, engagement and support for the monitoring approach from constituents within the Global Partnership, and securing active stakeholder participation in the monitoring process itself.

The GPEDC’s first monitoring round culminated in a Progress Report released in April 2014, and presented at the First High Level Meeting of the GPEDC in Mexico City. Ahead of the 2nd monitoring round – which is planned to start around mid-2015 – the UNDP-OECD Joint Support Team (JST) is currently conducting a light stock-take to identify lessons from the first monitoring effort, as well as refining the four global pilot indicators to ensure that the monitoring process is further strengthened and offers a credible and appealing model of mutual accountability for the second monitoring round. In addition, a review of the global arrangements for monitoring is foreseen to ensure the relevance of the Global Partnership monitoring framework (indicators and multi-stakeholder process) to the post-2015 development agenda.

Preliminary feedback received from stakeholders on key lessons learned from the 1st monitoring round pointed out that the monitoring process encountered challenges in maintaining neutrality and securing stakeholder engagement, while at the same time managing stakeholders' varying expectations and strong vested interests. Furthermore, experience reconfirmed that monitoring stakeholder performance entails complex methodological approaches, and requires continued investments in sound technical measurements to ensure relevance and credibility. The 2014 July Steering Committee meeting supported expanding the monitoring exercise to a greater number of countries, and strengthening the monitoring process, including through establishing an advisory group that will advise on the technical measurement approaches, and on strengths and room for improvement of the current monitoring framework with a view to further strengthen the credibility and robustness of the monitoring process.

ROLE

Without prejudice to the decision-making role of the Steering Committee, the Advisory Group will provide technical expertise and advice to the Co-Chairs and the Steering Committee on the implementation of monitoring efforts and complement the work of the Joint Support Team to review and refine the GPEDC monitoring framework in the context of post-2015.

In particular, the Group will play a key role in:

- Providing expertise for technical review of the refined measurement approaches and methodologies of **the GPEDC's four global pilot indicators** (1. use of country results frameworks; 2. CSO enabling environment; 3. private sector engagement; 4. transparency);
- Supporting the **implementation of the 2nd monitoring round**, contributing expertise particularly to quality assurance of the second Progress Report through supporting the translation of the results and key findings into actionable and policy relevant recommendations;
- Providing guidance on the ways in which the **monitoring framework can be applied to non-traditional cooperation modalities**; including south-south cooperation, triangular cooperation and other innovative development approaches;
- **Reviewing the GPEDC's monitoring framework to ensure its conceptual relevance to post-2015 accountability efforts.** The Group would play a particular role in:
 - i) stress-testing the current indicators (a review of strengths and weaknesses) and identifying ways to strengthen them;
 - ii) analytical work in identifying existing indicators and/or additional indicators of relevance for monitoring the quality of development partnerships in the post-2015 framework;
 - iii) crafting recommendations of areas of revision of the monitoring framework in the post-2015 context, including technical expert guidance on relevant and appropriate methodologies and approaches for effective accountability for Busan Principles at national, regional and global levels.

As the GPEDC's monitoring work progresses, new areas and questions may be brought to the attention of the Group.

A detailed work plan with clear outputs and timelines will be proposed by the Group, with the support of the JST, to the Steering Committee for endorsement.

GROUP COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP

The Group is composed of 8-10 individuals.

The participants should be technical experts, academics or members of think tanks, and will be invited on the basis of the following criteria, in prioritised order:

- a) proven experience and specialised technical expertise in the area of monitoring indicators, statistics and evaluation of development co-operation and development and social policies more broadly. Specific experience in relation with the topics of the existing indicators will be valued;
- b) excellent understanding and knowledge on global, regional and national country-led monitoring accountability frameworks and processes as well as development co-operation policy,
- c) regional diversity and gender balance.

While particular efforts will be made to secure that members have strong insight into the relations between recipient and provider countries of development co-operation, CSOs and the private sector, they will act impartially and without regard to interests of any organisation to which they are affiliated. Any member that may have an affiliation to a Steering Committee member, or to any stakeholder participating in Global Partnership monitoring efforts, will contribute impartial views from technical monitoring or evaluation functions rather than views representing policy making functions.

The GPEDC Co-Chairs will invite Steering Committee members, in consultation with their constituencies, to nominate individual members that fulfil the above criteria. Based on nominations, the Co-Chairs will present a transparent proposal on the Advisory Group composition, which reflects the breadth of participation in the GPEDC, to the Steering Committee for approval on a non-objection basis. Subsequently, individual members will be invited and appointed by the GPEDC Co-Chairs.

GOVERNANCE AND WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

The Group will be chaired by one of its members, suitable to manage and organise the work, as decided within the Group itself on the basis of consensus.

Options to structure the Group's work around specific streams related to relevant indicators/themes will be explored to ensure technical collaboration with relevant stakeholders (including Building Blocks and Voluntary Initiatives). Such arrangements will be further detailed in the Group's work plan.

The Group will agree on its advice and recommendations on a consensus basis. If consensus fails, they will be adopted by two-thirds majority of the Group's membership.

The Group will present its recommendations to the Steering Committee. Care will be taken to present recommendations in a way that transparently presents the considerations and positions of individual Advisory Group members, and allows members of the Steering Committee to actively consult with their respective constituencies in order to gather comments to feed back into the Group's work, and more generally to strengthen multi-stakeholder engagement in the monitoring process and to support further anchoring Global Partnership accountability efforts at country level.

All decisions, including approval of monitoring methodology, remain the prerogative of the Steering Committee. It can adopt, amend or reject recommendations made by the Group and will play a key role in ensuring that recommendations are politically actionable.

Working modalities will be flexible and time-efficient, combining face to face meetings -with a frequency suggested by the AG itself- supplemented by virtual exchanges through teleconferencing and electronic platforms. A preliminary suggestion would be to hold 2-3 physical meetings: one to start the work, one mid-term and one for closing the discussions (detailed timing to be determined). Online and virtual sharing tools will be utilised in order to make information available to SC members.

TIMEFRAME

Following Steering Committee agreement on its Terms of Reference and membership, the Group will be established aiming for March 2015. The Group will carry out its work until the presentation of the 2nd Monitoring Report and the endorsement of the refined monitoring framework at the next High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership (planned for mid-2016).

RESOURCES

Where appropriate, members of the Advisory Group may be compensated for time and expenses. Preliminary estimates of the maximum cost related to organising a small number of Advisory Group meetings, facilitating video conferencing and covering per diems and potential fees fall in the range of € 400 000/ US\$ 470 000 (for 10 members). Costs associated with convening this Group were not included in the original Joint Support Team budget for 2014-16, but estimates have been included in the revised resource mobilisation note (January 2015). Facilitating the functioning of the Advisory Group would require mobilisation of the corresponding additional amount of funding, over and above the original JST resource requirements for 2015-16.

Estimated costs for 10 members

	Unit	Number of Units (for 10 members)	Unit cost (EUR)	Cost for 10 members (EUR)
Fees for members' participation	man/day	300	900	270000
Video conferences	per hour	50	216	10800
Face-to-face				118908

meetings (2 days / 2 times a year / 2 year)				
- Meetings				26028
- Travel				92880

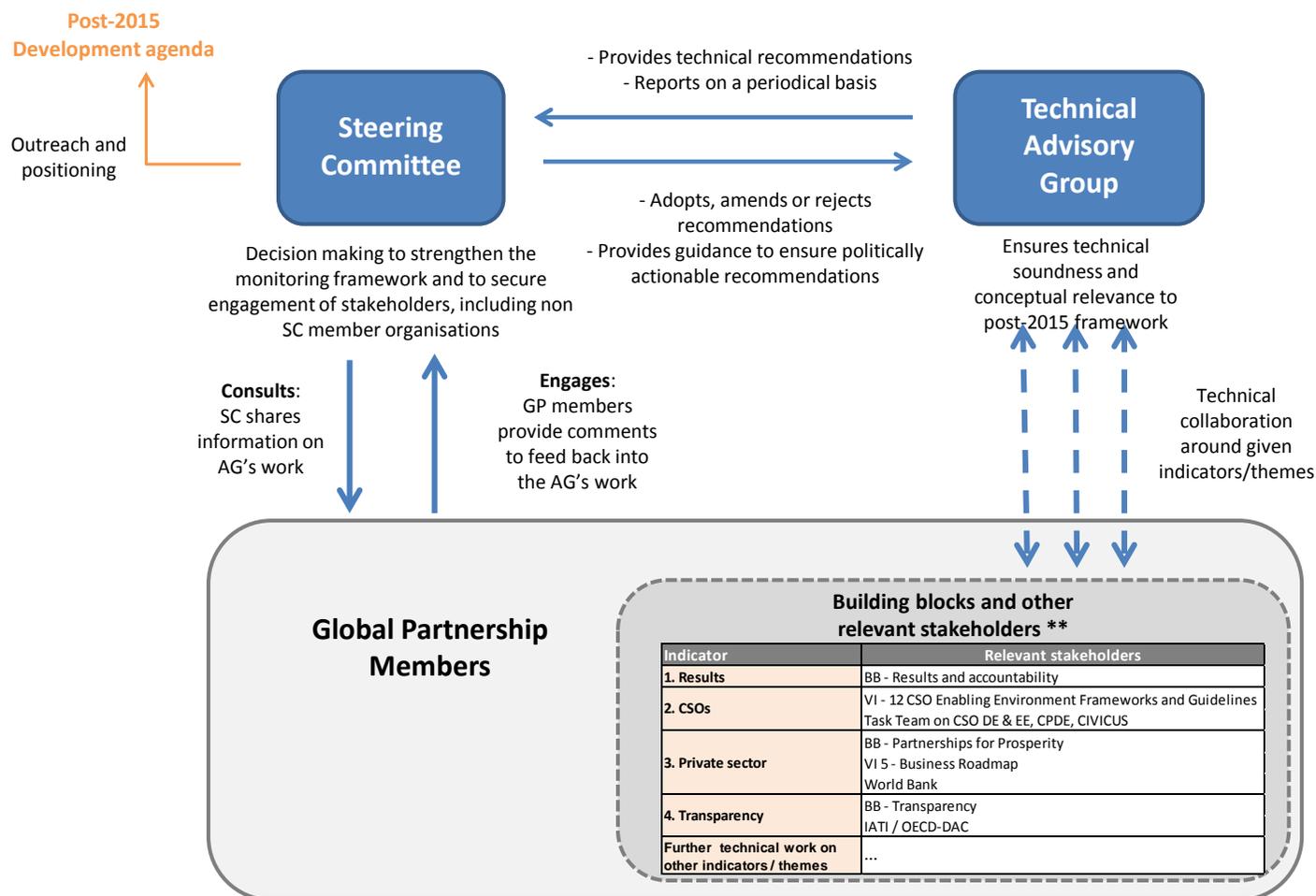
Total	399708
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Note: Around 65% of this budget consists of potential fees, based on the assumption that pro bono work cannot be guaranteed. The estimated fees are based on OECD top expert fees, and correspond to 30 days of work for each expert during a 2 year period.

Annex: Figure on working arrangements

Annex 1 – The Advisory Group’s working arrangements

Advisory Group’s working arrangements*



* The Co-Chairs and Joint Support Team guide and support the overall process

** The list of relevant stakeholders is not comprehensive, it will be further defined in the Group’s work plan