

# RECOMMENDATIONS from ASIA-PACIFIC

## *Building Asia's Evidence for the First Ministerial*

### AUGUST 2013

#### Context

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Twenty-eight Government Development and Economic Cooperation policy makers and practitioners of twelve countries from the Asia-Pacific and Civil Society Organization (CSO) platform from Asia-Pacific having discussed in Dhaka on 25-27 August 2013, country experiences and accrued knowledge on effective development cooperation in the region, informed by the implementation of the Busan Commitments and the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC), have come to the following common understanding:

- We recognize that rapid economic growth has contributed to remarkable progress in the Millennium Development Goals by the region, although these are accompanied by rising inequalities.
- We acknowledge the requirement for deepening of the Millennium Development Goals in the remaining two years to address the issues of income and non-income inequalities, the need for quality education outcomes, youth unemployment and vulnerabilities, gender inequality and social exclusion, health and environment risks, conflict and fragility, governance, slow progress in global partnerships on ODA, trade, technology and affordable medicines.
- We anticipate that aid and other development financing will remain important part of the efforts to reach MDGs targets and ensuring stronger links between the uses of country generated revenue and development partners' funding remain critical till 2015 and beyond.
- We reaffirm that efficient country systems are critically important for country ownership and more domestic resource mobilization to manage development goals.

#### Strategies

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As policy makers and practitioners for development and economic cooperation, **we recommend the following three broad strategies**, at the country level, and will actively seek regional cooperation, in a practical and feasible way:

- 1. Strengthen and operationalise country-led results and accountability frameworks and multi-stakeholders' platforms to assess performance.**
- 2. Placement of ODA in a broader development finance landscape for financing development priorities including MDGs and Post-2015 development agenda.**
- 3. Upscale successful South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation from the region including Asian Approaches to knowledge sharing platforms on development.**

#### Specific Actions

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We also **urge the developing nations from the Asia-Pacific to adopt the following measures** to implement the recommended strategies:

- 1. Strengthen and operationalise country-led results and accountability frameworks and multi-stakeholders' platforms to assess performance.**

- **Strengthen multi-stakeholder Results and Accountability Frameworks** that draw from country-specific national development plans which set out the key medium-term development priorities to be achieved using a rights-based approach.
  - **Design and outline the performance framework for development cooperation providers** that draw from development finance, aid, and cooperation policies.
  - **Strengthen participation and dialogue and share knowledge** with parliamentarians, CSOs, private sector and our development cooperation partners to improve the quality, delivery, measurement and accountability for development results.
  - **Use country systems** as the preferred option of delivery, and which may include better Public Financial Management and Results Based Management Systems, therefore reinforcing results-based aid and results reporting with increased transparency.
2. **Placement of ODA in a broader development finance landscape for financing development priorities including MDGs and Post-2015 development agenda.**
- Assess the sources of development finance and aid in countries in the Asia-Pacific and **develop medium term comprehensive development financing strategies** beyond 2015 and **develop country-led development finance and aid policies** that reflect a broader development finance landscape, groups of actors and beneficiaries, and new ways of delivering results, based on Busan commitments and its linkage to post-2015 development agenda.
  - **Target technical assistance to enhance institutional, systems and human resource capacity**, as well as **strengthen national planning and budget processes** required for a wider and more complex development finance envelope, wider partnerships, and group of actors.
  - **Encourage the emerging development partners, like the BRICS grouping**, to enhance their engagement in development financing and cooperation, in line with their growth and prosperity.
3. **Upscale successful South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation from the region including Asian Approaches to knowledge sharing platforms on development.**
- **Upscale South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation** (knowledge sharing, mutual learning, ownership, and diversity in practices from across the Asia-Pacific region) through regional cooperation.
  - **Translate good practices** from countries in the region **into adaptable development solution packages** for **South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation** in other developing countries within and outside the region.
  - **Document the body of evidence** on South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation as Asian Approaches **and promote it globally.**

#### Stock-taking measures

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We **propose the following initial stock-taking measures** to track the implementation of the recommended strategies, which may be supported by the recently launched Asia-Pacific Development Effectiveness Facility:

- A consolidation of the evidence and perspectives from the Asia-Pacific region ahead of the First Ministerial to be hosted by Mexico in April 2014.
- Periodic online knowledge-sharing conference/events and the use of social networking to discuss challenges and exchange solutions.