



The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation

Development Partners' Conference

Effective Development Co-operation to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals: What do development partners contribute?

OPEC Fund for International Development, Vienna, 29 - 30 September 2016

Summary of discussion

35 major development cooperation partners – members of the European Union and the OECD's Development Assistance Committee, the Arab Coordination Group including the OPEC Fund for International Development and multilateral organisations – are firmly committed to accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs by improving the ways in which they partner for development. The Conference was hosted by the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) at its Headquarters in Vienna.

The Global Partnership remains the platform for development partners to engage with the full range of actors to advocate for more effective development co-operation – ensuring everyone lives up to existing promises and adapting commitments further to the ambitious needs of the SDG era.

Development Partners look forward to the Second High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership in Nairobi (28 November – 1 December) as an opportunity to review progress and agree on joint action to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda. To inform the preparations and the draft Nairobi Outcome Document development partners agreed on the following priorities and next steps. These build on preliminary findings from the 2016 monitoring round¹:

¹ See Background documentation DOC 2: http://effectivecooperation.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/OFID_background-package_16-09-27_dist1.pdf

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS' AGREED ACTION POINTS

- (1) *Make better use of the progress report:* Use monitoring findings and further analysis to inform decision making, leading structured discussions at global and country-level and effectively communicating findings; support the continued strengthening of the monitoring methodology and data collection process (**build on recommendations of the MAG**).
- (2) *Intensify efforts to strengthen and use country public financial management systems:* Explore joint risk management through pooling (i.e. clarify which risks can be better managed through pooling mechanisms and identify concrete best practices); convene a discussion amongst providers and partner countries to identify and address bottlenecks around use of country systems, including consideration of possibilities to use budget support as a means to strengthen country systems and capacity.
- (3) *Strengthen capacity for greater use of country results frameworks and procurement systems:* Identify, share and promote best practices to build capacity for results-based operations. **Propose liaising with GPI on Results and Accountability.**
- (4) *Support implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda by smarter use and effective coupling of development co-operation with other sources of development finance:* Identify ways to adapt behaviour and instruments to better leverage private sector's engagement and resources; use country level development finance assessments and strategies to more effectively mobilise development finance from all sources. **Propose liaising with private sector in the Steering Committee and HLM2 and with Asia-Pacific Platform for Development Effectiveness.**
- (5) *Promote the Global Partnership as a knowledge hub:* Generate, pool and disseminate knowledge on effective partnering that serves country needs and implementation of the 2030 Agenda and is based on monitoring, GPIs and policy dialogues (**build on report by Working Group on Knowledge Hub. See [findings](#)**).
- (6) *Attract new partners:* Promote mutual learning and knowledge sharing about different approaches of development co-operation to strengthen complementarity and development results at scale. **Propose liaising with different groups through Steering Committee members and the Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST).**
- (7) *Enhance use of development cooperation data:* Support use of financial data for management purposes and policy dialogue at country level; ensure coherence of data between country and headquarters' level; enhance compatibility of development partners' data to serve countries' own information management systems. **Propose liaising with IATI and through JST.**
- (8) *Encourage better development effectiveness performance of the multilateral system:* utilise multilateral organisations' internal review processes (such as the UN agencies' QCPR)

to promote further alignment of multilateral agencies' policies and procedures to agreed effectiveness principles. **Propose Norway as lead.**

(9) *Increase gender mainstreaming*: Reducing gender inequality is both an end in its own right and a prerequisite for sustainable development. Promote knowledge sharing, targeted action and investment as well as the formulation of sound policies in all areas. Strengthen gender responsive budgeting, intensifying efforts to support countries to strengthen their systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality. **Propose liaising with the GPI Gender Equality Initiative**

(10) *Link development cooperation and humanitarian assistance*: the Global Partnership should facilitate exchange of lessons with the Grand Bargain signed at the World Humanitarian Summit, particularly around monitoring development actors' behaviour. **Propose liaising with the DAC International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF).**

Development partners will further elaborate these priorities by engaging with different actors from the Global Partnership. They also highlighted the following points:

- Maintain a strong focus on all four effectiveness principles, the three dimensions of sustainable development, partner countries' and people's needs and the specific contexts in which implementation of agreed actions are to take place;
- Find ways to operationalise the principle of leaving no one behind in the context of effective development co-operation without duplicating global-level efforts for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda; and
- Promote measures to counteract the shrinking policy space for civil society organisations.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP MANDATE

The agreed priorities will also contribute to shape the vision and mandate of the Global Partnership going forward. Development Partners welcomed the value the Global Partnership adds as an innovative, flexible platform outside of the United Nations, exploring and building on the willingness and capabilities of different actors to take a lead in reducing transaction costs and freeing up resources for more efficient SDG implementation. Going forward, development cooperation actors should use the Global Partnership as a vehicle to promote:

- *"Mutual Accountability"*: Unblocking the bottlenecks that hinder progress on principles for effective development co-operation, and modernizing its monitoring framework to reflect the challenges for 2030, including the pledge to leave no-one behind;
- *"Mutual Benefits"*: Unleashing the potential of development co-operation as a catalyst for public-private partnerships for development results at scale;
- *"Mutual Learning"*: Learning from southern partners and from different modalities of development co-operation to strengthen the effectiveness of development co-operation;

- “*Evidence and data*”: Generating essential evidence and data from the country-level to inform assessment and policy dialogue on the effectiveness development co-operation.

A renewed mandate will have implications on the *working arrangements* of the Global Partnership. Development partners propose the following innovations:

- Continuation of accountability by *convening stakeholders at the high level every two years* using the margins of the High Level Segment of Heads of State-level High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) every four years, alternating with stand-alone Global Partnership high-level meetings every four years.
- Facilitation of more specialised *technical and policy dialogues* between different global partnership stakeholders and ‘communities of interest’ to advance specific principles and commitments, share lessons and address bottlenecks, encourage mutual learning and ensure linkages between country, regional and global levels. This includes more dedicated engagement with the private sector through dialogue and partnerships.
- Establishment of a *work plan* for the Global Partnership;
- Maximise use of *Global Partnership Initiatives* as “natural leaders” on key priorities

Development partners welcomed Germany as the next Global Partnership Co-Chair for development partners.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP MONITORING

Development partners based their deliberations on the preliminary findings from the 2016 monitoring round where over 125 development partners participated in 81 countries. Findings show that, despite continued progress and success stories in most areas, development partners must work to make progress in a range of areas (predictability, use of country systems, and enabling environment for civil society).

Data and evidence from the Global Partnership monitoring provide the impetus needed to improve behaviour of development partners. The findings can be used in regular and targeted policy dialogues to fully understand their implications, foster structured learning and inform policy making more directly. Making use of findings in these ways can ensure the relevance of the monitoring exercise for development partners and partner countries alike.

The methodology of the monitoring framework will have to continue to evolve to adapt to country needs. Linkages to the SDG agenda and its monitoring framework will determine the relevance and prominence of the Global Partnership’s monitoring in future.

Development partners continue to value all development effectiveness indicators and principles but agree on reviewing them to address changing demands. As the scope of the Global Partnership is shifting to include other flows of finance, the types of commitments will also evolve based on the strengths and contributions different stakeholders can make.