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6 The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation
7 Providers' Conference, Vienna, 29-30 September 2016
8

9 Effective Development Co-operation to Help Achieve the Sustainable
10 Development Goals:
11 What do Providers Contribute?
12

13 Opening remarks by OFID Director-General
14 Mr. Suleiman J. Al-Herbish
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20 Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,
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22 It is a pleasure to welcome you to OFID's headquarters and the
23 beautiful city of Vienna. Let me first acknowledge in this respect the
24 tireless efforts of the Netherlands co-chair and its negotiating abilities
25 which have made this conference possible.

26 Our gratitude goes also to the Joint Secretariat for its diligent
27 servicing of the GPEDC and for preparing the second monitoring
28 report and facilitating its discussion today.

29 We are also pleased that H.E. Macharia Kamau, Ambassador and
30 Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations in New

31 York and the Chief Negotiator of the Nairobi Outcome Document, is
32 able to join us and we look forward to his views on the Outcome
33 Document in particular.

34 **We are honoured to host your discussions on the role of providers**
35 **and on the significance of effective co-operation in the context of**
36 **the SDGs.**

37 In my introductory remarks, I shall say a few words on **where we**
38 **stand today as a development community.** I shall also make some
39 comments **on our agenda to emphasize its relevance** and in
40 particular the way it contributes to the GPEDC Second High Level
41 Meeting. I shall close my introductory remarks on the **contribution of**
42 **the Arab Coordination Group and the perspective of the Group**
43 **on the 2015 Development Agenda.**

44 Ladies and Gentlemen,

45 In the course of preparing this conference, we deliberated the **context**
46 **of our development work** from a provider's perspective as well as
47 that of developing countries. I shall make some observations in that
48 respect.

49 **The story is one of changes and evolutions.**

50 Indeed, deep, economic, social and political transformations are
51 taking place in our partner countries; in particular, the aspirations of
52 the poor and the under-privileged for a better life are more pressing
53 than ever: witness today's flows of forced migration in life-
54 threatening conditions.

55 Closer to our mandates, we observe that the **development finance**
56 **landscape is changing** and with it, the **community of cooperation**
57 **providers**. The new landscape comprises more emerging countries
58 and new trade and investment power-houses. It also includes the
59 private sector acting on commercial bases or in public-private
60 partnerships.

61

62 **The cooperation values and their drivers have also evolved.**

63 Traded and public goods are **more readily integrated**, and
64 development strategies that mix the provision of funds, policy
65 frameworks and the promotion of capacities **are more readily**
66 **recognised**.

67 It is important, and timely, that as providers, we take stock of these
68 changes and **understand communalities and differences** in this new

69 context. We need to define **what effective cooperation** means for us
70 and for our Partner countries now that we have, in the SDGs, a
71 reference framework for all.

72 Ladies and Gentlemen,

73 **Let me now say a few words on where we stand as a development**
74 **community.**

75 Throughout 2015 and earlier, we, the development providers and the
76 development stakeholders, on the one hand, and the international
77 community on the other, have deliberated on the **development needs**
78 **of our world.** We have drawn on the lessons of the past, notably the
79 MDGs, and we are recognising people's aspiration for a better life.
80 These deliberations were **wide-ranging and informed by expert**
81 **analyses.** The results are of historical significance: We have now

- 82 • a **development model** built on defined Sustainable
83 Development Goals.
- 84 • the foundations of a **financial model** based on the Addis
85 Ababa Action Agenda.
- 86 • **promising conclusions** on climate change as of COP 21.

87

88 The challenges of the 2030 Agenda are **numerous, complex and**
89 **pressing**. No less than 17 Sustainable Goals were needed to reach a
90 consensus among a **broad community of stakeholders**. More than a
91 simple quantitative economic model, the SDGs have taken into
92 consideration **the quest for a quality of development**. For that, the
93 SDGs specify stand-alone goals and define across the board targets
94 which reflect **the concern for inclusiveness, justice and equal**
95 **opportunities**.

96 **The challenges are even more pronounced when funding options**
97 **are addressed**. SDG 17 and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda
98 acknowledge the **scale and the ambition of the 2030** Development
99 Agenda and the **need for unprecedented levels of financial**
100 **resources**, official and private, foreign and domestic. The
101 mobilisation of these resources requires invariably reforms and
102 attractive investment regimes. These need institutionalizing by a
103 capable administration that enjoys the support of fund providers, and
104 national and global stakeholders.

105

106 Ladies and Gentlemen,

107 Turning to the object of our conference, we can state confidently that
108 it is important and timely. Being a conference of providers, **its**
109 **conclusions** are of critical consequences to the developing countries
110 and its **timing** has much bearing on the outcome of Second High
111 Level Meeting due to take place in two months' time.

112 The true value of the conference, as indeed stated in its agenda, is in
113 **the discussion of what development cooperation providers can, or**
114 **should, contribute concretely towards the fulfilment of the SDGs**
115 **and the implementation of other aspects of the 2030 Agenda.**

116 **We are invited to discuss the role of the GPEDC as an institution.**

117 We believe that it must be re-appraised in the light of the
118 **developments that have taken place since Busan and the track**
119 **record of the institution.** In Busan the discussions revolved around
120 the questions of **what** development should be and **how** its processes
121 should be conducted.

122 We believe that the definitions of SDGs and their holistic formulation
123 provide an answer to the “what” question. A partial answer to the
124 “how” question is provided by the Busan move from observing **aid**
125 **effectiveness to that of development effectiveness.** This move was

126 of great consequence; nonetheless, the “how” question remains with
127 us and, it goes to the heart of the GPEDC rationale.

128 We will also be discussing the **second monitoring report. The**
129 **report is a major deliverable of the GPEDC.** Its discussion by the
130 providers in this conference, and the conclusions of the regional
131 workshops, will give us an insight **into the track record of the**
132 **institution.**

133 Our view is that the GPEDC must be seen to **complement** the
134 arrangements envisaged by the UN system for the deployment of the
135 2030 Development Agenda. But its **true importance is in its**
136 **capacity to bring value to Partner countries’** technical and
137 institutional capacities in the context of the new agenda.

138 In short, with regard to the conference and the agenda, we believe that
139 the issues raised **are relevant and that we need a consensus on**
140 **them.** I look forward to your deliberations. I do believe that the time
141 has come for a clear statement (in the draft communique of **Nairobi**
142 **and beyond).**

143

144 Ladies and Gentlemen,

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146 Let me now turn to the **contribution of the institutions of the Arab**
147 **Coordination Group** to their Partner countries, and **the position of**
148 **the group with regard to the SDGs.**

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150 As you certainly know, the Arab Coordination Group is a **consortium**
151 of Arab bilateral and multinational development institutions and the
152 Islamic Development Bank and OFID. The institutions of the group
153 have in common **a majority of shareholders.** They harmonise key
154 policies and co-finance operations.

155 As development agencies, the institutions of the Coordination Group
156 **have been providing development funds to low and middle income**
157 **countries for over 40 years.** The institutions of the group are
158 committed to the Busan principles of **country ownership,**
159 **transparency, effectiveness and results.**

160

161 In Busan and in Mexico City, they committed to **enhancing** their
162 financial contribution to the development of their Partner countries.
163 The records show that **they have lived up** to their commitments. In

164 the period 2011-2013 each institution of the group has managed a
165 growth of over 10% in signed commitments. In 2014 the
166 commitments of the group reached **USD 10.85 billion**, a level
167 comparable to the regional development banks. In 2015 commitments
168 grew to **USD 13.60 billion**, an increase of 25% over 2014.

169 As to use of funds, **infrastructure** is invariably the main target of the
170 institutions' operations. However, **conscious of the need for**
171 **effectiveness** in the use of limited resources, they also provide funds
172 for **enhancing technical knowledge and building institutions**.

173

174 The institutions of the group work together and with other
175 development institutions. They are **committed to international**
176 **cooperation**. They stood by the Monterrey consensus and adhered to
177 the principles of the Paris Declaration. They contributed to the Busan
178 process which led to their joining the Steering Committee of the
179 GPEDC. Naturally they have been preparing to play an active role in
180 the mobilisation of resources for the 2030 Development Agenda.

181 The Heads of Institutions of the group **adopted in January 2016 a**
182 **formal declaration in support of the 2030 Development Agenda**.

183 They agreed that the 17 development goals and the 169 related targets
184 reflect appropriately the economic, the social and the environmental
185 features of **sustainable development** and underwrite fully the
186 overarching objective to **eradicate poverty, restore dignity and**
187 **promote shared prosperity.**

188 They concluded that, taken together, the SDGs have the potential to
189 **enhance the welfare of the developing countries** and meet the
190 aspirations of their people for prosperity. In conclusion of their
191 declaration, the heads of institutions called on the institutions of the
192 group to:

- 193 • **assist in the formulation of national SDGs;**
- 194 • Commit to an **active role in global and local partnerships;**
- 195 • Encourage dialogue among Partner countries and promote
196 **South-South Cooperation;**
- 197 • Commit to a broad regime of **support to building Partner**
198 **countries' technical and institutional capacities.**

199

200 Ladies and Gentlemen,

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202 We believe that the policies and the core activities of the institutions
203 of the Arab Coordination Group **converge well with the goals and**
204 **the narrative of the SDGs;** the operations of the Group span the
205 entire spectrum of economic and social sectors and include, where
206 needed, debt relief. With this experience and a tested policy
207 framework, the **Group is well prepared to support national SDGs**
208 **and country-defined priorities.**

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210 I thank you for your attention and look forward to your conclusions.