



***Development cooperation in the age of the Sustainable Development Goals:  
Strengthening the role of parliaments***

**Parliamentary Forum at the  
Second High-level Meeting (HLM2) of the  
Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC)**

**Kenyatta international Convention Centre - Nairobi, Kenya, 29 November 2016**

**DRAFT PROGRAMME**

**9:30 – 10:00 Opening Session**

Welcome remarks by the organizers:

- Hon. Mr. Ekwee D. Ethuro, Speaker of the Senate (Kenya)
- Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the IPU
- Ms. Miet Smet, President of AWEPA

**10:00 – 10:40 Briefing on the GPEDC - What role for parliaments?**

Representatives of the GPEDC Steering Committee will present the work of this multi-stakeholder partnership since its inception in 2011 and discuss expectations of the partnership going forward. This will include a reflection on the specific role of parliaments in supporting the country-level work of the partnership as part of national development cooperation structures and related processes.

**10:40 – 11:00 Coffee break**

**11:00 – 12:30 Session I: Strengthening Official Development Assistance through parliamentary oversight and related processes**

Official assistance (financial and non-financial), together with contributions from CSOs and private foundations, remains a key component of development cooperation in its own right, by providing direct support to public services and infrastructure, and as a catalyst of other flows of development finance. Yet, only a few countries have scaled up aid to the official global target of 0.7% of GNI and progress toward improving the effectiveness of aid (i.e., national ownership, alignment of development plans, use of country systems, aid on budget, etc.) remains slow and with mixed results. A key factor in this is insufficient parliamentary oversight compounded by weak capacities and the relative marginalization of parliaments from aid coordination processes, including the key process for the national development cooperation policy.

This panel discussion will spotlight the steps that parliaments and development partners can take to move the aid effectiveness agenda forward.

**12:30 – 14:00 Luncheon offered by the Parliament of Kenya**

## **14:00 – 16:00 Session II: Mobilizing domestic resources – national taxation, illicit flows, and the international tax regime**

A country's own resources provide the most reliable source of development finance that people can control through their elected representatives. While a number of countries remain heavily dependent on aid, many are phasing out of aid and looking for ways to raise their own domestic revenue. Yet progress on this front continues to face a number of challenges, such as weak state administrations that are unable to assess and collect taxes, corruption of public officials, and large informal sectors that have little incentive to contribute to the public purse.

In many developing countries, a large share of domestic resources come from the contribution of transnational companies, particularly extractive industries (oil, minerals etc.), in the form of taxes and royalties. Potential revenue for development is lost each year due to tax avoidance techniques utilized by these companies. This is compounded by opaque ownership structures, the existence of tax havens and a weak international tax regime to track illicit flows. Additional resources are lost due to international tax competition in which countries lure foreign investors by offering lower tax rates or overly generous subsidies.

This session will discuss the legislative and regulatory reforms parliaments should advance to improve tax collection at home and to strengthen the international tax regime so as to generate additional resources for sustainable development.

## **16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break**

## **16:30 – 18:00 Session III: Leveraging public and private partnerships – parliamentary oversight and political considerations**

Public-private partnerships (PPPs) can provide essential public services and infrastructure which many developing countries' governments may otherwise be unable to finance on their own. While PPPs have always had a role in development, they have become more common in recent years. A new generation of PPPs is being created that includes new forms of "blended finance" (mixing aid flows with private investments). Yet, finding a convergence of interests between the public and private sectors is not always easy. The success of these partnerships is not guaranteed, and examples of failures – in terms of unexpected liabilities, affordability of the public services to be provided, or the long-term viability of the partnership - abound. When problems occur, it is sometimes because of a lack of transparency and accountability to the parliament and the public at large.

This session will review the conditions that must come together for public-private partnerships to succeed and in which parliaments can play a role. These include: exploring alternative financing before entering into a partnership, reporting potential liabilities through the budget process, greater transparency of contractual arrangements, and regular reporting to parliament on the results of PPPs.

## **18:00 – 18:30 Closing session – adoption of a Parliamentary Statement**

- Hon. Mr. Ekwee D. Ethuro, Speaker of the Senate (Kenya)

This brief session will provide an opportunity to adopt the Parliamentary Statement to the Second High Level Meeting circulated to participants in advance of the meeting. Amendments to the Statement based on the discussion held during the day will be considered at this time.