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## 2017 Asia-Pacific Regional Knowledge Exchange

### Inputs to the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation

On October 3 to 5, 2017 the Asia-Pacific Regional Knowledge Exchange workshop took place in Manila, Philippines. The theme of the workshop was *Policy Coherence for Accelerating Progress Toward the 2030 Agenda*. The first two days of the workshop focused on domestication of the 2030 Agenda into national development planning and budgeting, with day three, supported by the European Commission, through the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC), focusing on mobilisation and effective use of financing for development priorities.

Holding the GPEDC portion of the workshop immediately following the broader regional knowledge exchange ensured the widest range of participants was able to attend and allowed these participants to build on discussions around challenges and opportunities in implementing the 2030 Agenda and link these discussions directly to financing and effectiveness discussions. Additionally, understanding the experience of government officials and other stakeholders as presented during the first two days of the workshop provides valuable insight that will allow the GPEDC to better focus and strengthen its work, particularly related to supporting effectiveness at country level, refining its monitoring framework and engaging the private sector in national development.

#### Overall Key Messages

While the workshop focused broadly on implementation and financing of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), effective development co-operation as a necessary element for achieving national, regional and global development goals was consistently noted.

A recurring message during the event was the need to view policy coherence as more than alignment between and across government departments and agencies. Rather, in the changing global development landscape, policy coherence should be seen through a much broader lens, including alignment between and across all development stakeholders – national and local governments, international organisations, civil society, businesses, foundations, trade unions and others.

The development financing landscape has also evolved, characterised by greater variety in the sources of financing and the types and numbers of partners involved. As such, coherence related to financing for development was also discussed, both in terms of access to financing and its effective use. Effective development co-operation is important to ensure national ownership and mutual transparency and accountability in the use of all sources of development financing.

The GPEDC has a clear role to play in delivering on this new vision for policy coherence, supporting governments and their partners in strengthening effectiveness by fostering vitally important inclusive

partnerships at the global and country levels that allow all actors to work together, sharing knowledge, efforts and resources to accelerate progress, and generating data and evidence on effectiveness commitments, ensuring accountability and driving forward progress. The following key messages from the workshop are linked to specific GPEDC work areas.

#### Enhanced Support to Effective Development Co-operation at Country Level

Ms. Portia Domonatana Dugu, Forum Compact Research Officer for the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat spoke about how domestication of the effective development co-operation agenda and implementation of effectiveness principles are important for achievement of the 2030 Agenda. In general, discussion focused on the principles of national ownership and inclusive partnerships. Regarding national ownership, participants discussed the need for local actors to take the lead, with partners aligning their projects to national plans and relying on local leadership and country systems for successful implementation and sustainable results.

On inclusive partnerships, it was noted that understanding country context, including challenges and opportunities is only possible if engaging all groups. The variety of partnerships and interfaces was also discussed, with equal focus needed on relationships between governments and other stakeholders, as well as between other, non-executive stakeholders (e.g. between civil society and businesses) and a call for partners to promote and engage in dialogue between the full variety of partners.

Overall, three specific components of effective development co-operation as enablers for achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs were identified at the workshop. These are:

1. Establishing cohesive national frameworks to strengthen planning and to increase the impact of all sources of financing for development;
2. Driving a whole of society approach by facilitating multi-stakeholder partnerships, including fostering effective partnerships with businesses;
3. Generating data and evidence to serve as a basis for dialogue and to drive behaviour change and promote accountability.

Under Strategic Output 1 of the 2017-2018 Work Programme, the GPEDC is committed to providing support to effectiveness at country level. As part of its efforts to operationalise this strategic priority, the GPEDC will be undertaking a number of country pilots to demonstrate the impacts of effective development co-operation and multi-stakeholder partnerships on achievement of national development priorities. These identified components will inform the design of the pilots and will help to organise the planned compendium of good practices.

#### Unlocking the potential of effectiveness and updated monitoring for 2030

The GPEDC's biennial monitoring exercise is its main instrument to support the follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda and financing for development commitments, specifically informing reporting on SDG indicators 17.15.1, 17.16.1 and 5.c.1. Mr. Yodhim Dela Rosa, Regional Coordinator for the Reality of Aid Asia-Pacific also spoke about the importance of GPEDC monitoring for generating data that can drive policy decisions and inform dialogue to hold stakeholders accountable.

With this in mind, the GPEDC monitoring framework and process is currently being refined to improve the quality and usefulness of current indicators and to adapt the scope of the monitoring framework to respond to the changing global context. Key takeaways from the workshop that will inform this upcoming

work are: (1) there is a need to find a way to better measure the full variety and extent of multi-stakeholder engagement; and (2) the GPEDC monitoring process could be further strengthened by increased involvement from a wider variety of stakeholders.

#### Scaling up private sector engagement through development co-operation

Private sector financing for development was a focus area for the workshop. A key message in this area was that there is a need for institutional frameworks that support the interests of both the private sector and the government. This is the “shared value concept.” Another key message related to the need to be honest about the risks of increased private sector engagement, for example, increased prices when the private sector delivers social services. The GPEDC, under Strategic Output 4 of the 2017-2018 Work Programme, is committed to leveraging private sector engagement through effective development co-operation. Coming from the workshop, there is clear role for the GPEDC to go beyond this, using its ability to bring stakeholder together and generate evidence to stakeholders accountable to ensuring that private sector actors adhere to international best business practices.