Background Paper and Proposal on
Strengthening Global Partnership Initiative (GPI) Engagement

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Prepared by the Joint Support Team, based on a paper by the
Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (Global Partnership) Working Group on
Knowledge-Sharing for Increased Development Effectiveness

1. Purpose

The outcome of the 2016 Global Partnership Initiative (GPI) Acceleration workshop in Barcelona brought to light the need to further clarify GPIs' role in reference to the Global Partnership, and to better capitalise on GPIs' store of on-the-ground implementation experience for increasing the global effectiveness of development co-operation. In addition, at its 13th and 14th meetings (2017, Washington and Dhaka respectively), the Global Partnership's Steering Committee underscored the need to increase systematic engagement with GPIs to ensure their contribution to the Partnership's mission of maximising the impact of all forms of development co-operation in support of achieving Agenda 2030.

As such, this proposal has been prepared by the Global Partnership's UNDP-OECD Joint Support Team (JST) for consideration by the Global Partnership Steering Committee. It details possible next steps for increasing the engagement of Global Partnership Initiatives with the core work of the Global Partnership, based on a paper prepared by the Working Group on Knowledge-Sharing for Increased Development Effectiveness. The Working Group paper recommended mechanisms to capitalise on Global Partnership Initiatives' comparative advantages in sharing knowledge and supporting implementation of development effectiveness principles at the country level; and to support the creation of more space for GPIs in the institutional architecture of the Global Partnership.

The Working Group agreed that its paper should be considered as the basis for a JST proposal to the Steering Committee on how to strengthen systematic engagement with the GPIs. This proposal thus considers the Working Group's recommendations, and proposes feasible next steps, based on available funding and JST human resource capacity (in their role as a co-ordinator of the GPI community of practice). The proposal has incorporated feedback from GPIs through a two-pronged approach: (i) by building GPIs' insights around strengthening engagement with the Global Partnership shared during the GPI Acceleration Workshop held in Barcelona in June, 2016; and through discussion of the proposal at the 2018 GPI Engagement Workshop (19-20 March, Bonn).

This proposal will be presented to the Steering Committee during its 15th meeting in Washington (21-22 April, 2018) for discussion and endorsement.

2. Background

Global Partnership Initiatives are voluntary initiatives led by different types of development actors (i.e. national governments, international organisations, CSOs, the private sector, etc.) under the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation umbrella. The 27 currently active GPIs are diverse, working on areas from results and accountability to conflict and fragility. As the 'think tanks' of the Global Partnership, GPIs bring together vibrant, substantive communities on issues either closely linked to the Partnership or contributing to development effectiveness in specific areas. In many cases, GPIs also act as engines for implementation, helping to directly operationalise the development effectiveness principles and commitments agreed through the

Busan Partnership Agreement (2011), the Mexico High Level Meeting Communiqué (2014) and the Nairobi Outcome Document (2016).

GPIs directly contribute to two of the Global Partnership's core functions: they offer catalytic support to implementation of the Busan commitments at the country level, and they are a mechanism for exchanging knowledge and lessons learned on implementation of the development effectiveness principles. As such, GPIs contribute to the Global Partnership's vision by directly implementing commitments and by generating evidence, policy-relevant lessons and innovative solutions that can feed mutual accountability and learning into the Global Partnership's core DNA. In addition, GPIs generate evidence on SDG implementation, which offer crucial country-level and conceptual inputs for global level discussions in the Global Partnership and other international fora.

As such, both prior to and post the Second High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership, Global Partnership stakeholders called for stronger engagement of GPIs in order to support implementation of the Busan principles at the country level and greater knowledge-sharing around development effectiveness. As such, in its 13th and 14th meetings (2017, Washington and Dhaka respectively), the Steering Committee underscored the need to increase the Global Partnership's systematic engagement with GPIs and to better capitalise on the lessons they are generating from on-the-ground implementation efforts.

3. Proposal for Strengthening Engagement with the GPIs

The below proposals include recommendations from that are considered by the JST as feasible to implement, given available funding, and without proposing major changes to the agreed 2017-2018 programme of work. The proposals are also based on an assessment of available human resources, due to the need for the JST to co-ordinate many of these activities in the short-term. This proposal has incorporated feedback from GPIs by building on their own insights around strengthening engagement with the Global Partnership from a GPI Acceleration Workshop held in Barcelona in June, 2016; through discussion of this proposal at the GPI Engagement Workshop (19-20 March, Bonn); and through a round of online consultation with all GPIs.

(i)   Clarifying the role of GPIs in reference to the Global Partnership.

The outcome of the 2016 GPI Acceleration workshop, as well as communication received by the JST in the course of conducting the Global Partnership's 2018 call for inputs[1] and the 2018 Strengthening GPI Engagement Workshop in Bonn, brought to light the need to further clarify the role of GPIs in reference to the Global Partnership, especially given their voluntary nature. Many GPIs noted that they need further clarity on their initiatives' relationship to the Global Partnership,

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[1] The GPI call for inputs is an annual exercise co-ordinated by the JST which allows GPIs to provide information on their progress, events, results and activities, and to allow for collection of evidence-based efforts to drive implementation of the development effectiveness principles. The results from this call for inputs are featured on the Global Partnership website and blog, and are showcased at Steering Committee meetings and other Global Partnership events. The 2018 call for inputs is also part of an ongoing effort by the Global Partnership to better use the evidence generated by GPIs to inform peer learning for increased development impact.

including opportunities for engagement in the substantive work of the Partnership; the envisaged scope of their engagement with the Partnership; and opportunities for knowledge-sharing.

As such, the Global Partnership could review and update the guidelines for becoming or discontinuing a GPI, focusing on underscoring these aspects, and in light of the Partnership's renewed mandate as outlined in the Nairobi Outcome Document. This document will be consulted with GPIs and should at a minimum include:

- Application instructions to become a GPI, including an explanation of the opportunities for knowledge-sharing and incentives for a formal relationship with the Global Partnership.
- Voluntary guidelines for GPI management, including Co-Chairsmanship by a partner country representative.
- Parameters for discontinuing a GPI or being considered 'inactive', which is not outlined in the current guidelines.

It is also important to note that, at the Strengthening GPI Engagement workshop in Bonn, GPI representatives felt strongly that direct representation of GPIs on the Steering Committee should be considered. However, this matter would need to be further discussed with the Steering Committee and Co-Chairs at a later date, given that per established practice, changes to the Global Partnership's governance arrangements should be endorsed by the entire Global Partnership community during High-Level Meetings.

(ii) Encouraging GPIs to practically support implementation of the 2017-2018 work programme, ensuring that GPIs inform the work of the Global Partnership as a whole.

Feedback from GPIs has underscored that, given their key role in implementing the effective development co-operation principles and sharing knowledge for increased development impact, GPIs could be better integrated into implementation of the substantive work programme of the Global Partnership. This could help to ensure that complementary evidence generated by the GPIs feeds into the ongoing work of the Partnership, and can help to reinforce its multi-stakeholder nature. In this vein, leads of the Global Partnership's four Working Groups may wish to review the current list of GPIs to consider whether strategic invitations to relevant GPIs could be made to join or inform their Working Group. Working Group leads may also consider quarterly updates to relevant GPIs on the work under their strategic outputs to ensure synergies between GPIs and the broader work of the Global Partnership.

The Strengthening GPI Engagement Workshop in Bonn (March 2018) also underscored the desire of GPIs to be involved in decisions around the Global Partnership's substantive areas of focus, in order to better contribute to its implementation and synergise their work. Going forward, the Steering Committee may wish to involve GPIs in the formulation of the next Global Partnership work programme. After the 2019-2020 programme of work has been endorsed, Global Partnership Initiatives could also be encouraged to communicate how they will contribute to one of more of its strategic priorities.

In addition, Global Partnership Initiatives could be encouraged to contribute to and support execution of the forthcoming Global Advocacy and Outreach Strategy (GAOS), which was requested by the Steering Committee at its 14th meeting in October 2017 (Dhaka). This strategy will outline how the Global Partnership and its constituencies can advocate and outreach to help achieve

objectives set out in the 2017-2018 programme of work. It proposes a plan of action for Global Partnership stakeholders' engagement, including in international development fora, to promote increased political momentum for effective development co-operation.

Participants at the Barcelona workshop also highlighted that GPIs could be more regularly featured in international and regional dialogues organised by the Global Partnership (e.g. the Busan Global Partnership Forum, regional platforms' meetings and activities, monitoring workshops, etc.). Global Partnership Initiatives could be given an opportunity to contribute to the GAOS including (i) through inclusion of activities organised by GPIs and (ii) engagement of GPIs in activities organised under the Global Partnership umbrella.

(iii) Improving communication between GPIs and the wider Global Partnership community.

The Barcelona workshop (2016), the Bonn workshop (2018) and the 2018 call for inputs from GPIs all highlighted the need to strengthen the GPI community of practice to ensure that GPIs are able to publicize their activities; feed their work into the ongoing substantive work of the Global Partnership; and find opportunities for collaboration with other GPIs and with the Global Partnership itself. It was also noted that GPIs have the potential to help translate global commitments into country-level action and vice-versa, however they struggle to avoid overlap with other initiatives and forge genuine multi-stakeholder partnerships. As such, there is an urgent need to improve communication both between GPIs, and between GPIs and the Global Partnership as a whole.

Accordingly, the following recommendations could be taken into account when seeking to strengthen communication among GPIs and with the Global Partnership itself:

- During its last meeting in Dhaka (October 2017), the Steering Committee underscored their desire for further engagement with the GPIs. In this vein, when appropriate, GPIs could be invited to relevant Global Partnership meetings, including Steering Committee meetings, regional meetings, etc., to explore synergies between their initiative and the Partnership's ongoing substantive work.

- In advance of Steering Committee meetings, the agendas could be shared with GPIs in order to encourage written comments from GPIs as relevant.

- GPI events could be included in the Global Partnership's online event calendar.

- Production of a quarterly GPI newsletter to highlight ongoing work and support exploration of synergies could be considered.

- A monthly 'featured GPI' has already been introduced on the Global Partnership website, and efforts to source blogs from GPIs have already been accelerated by the JST.

In addition, given that several GPIs have discontinued their work since HLM2, a focus on clarifying the added value of becoming a GPI through relevant advocacy efforts or knowledge products would be useful to engage new GPIs and grow the community of practice on effective development co-operation.

(iv)   Forging a GPI community of practice and strengthening knowledge-sharing
GPIs can share lessons-learned from their on-the-ground experience and help the Global Partnership make fuller use of knowledge generated to support increased development impact. The importance of distilling GPIs' experiences into lessons that can be effectively shared and inform policy dialogue and decision-making was underscored at the 2016 Barcelona workshop, and has been continually expressed as one of the GPIs' key added values to the work of the Global Partnership.

As such, under the auspices of the Knowledge-Sharing Working Group, in 2018 the annual voluntary call for inputs from GPIs has already been revised. This annual exercise collects feedback from GPIs on their progress, activities and lessons learned and helps to identify results from country and regional-level efforts to implement the effective development co-operation principles. In advance of the 2018 exercise, the process was refined to focus on how GPIs are concretely contributing to the implementation of the Nairobi Outcome Document, and how they are / plan to interact with other GPIs working in similar. As such**,** more targeted and relevant information on GPIs' activities is now available sectors (see Annex 1 for a synthesis of the 2018 call for inputs), however, the Joint Support Team could intensify their efforts to distil GPIs' experiences into lessons that can be effectively shared and inform policy dialogue and decision-making.

This information could also be shared through the forthcoming Knowledge-Sharing Platform (KSP). The KSP will be a one-stop knowledge portal for information, training, peer learning and networking around successes, bottlenecks and innovation in effective development co-operation. The KSP will be an avenue for promoting dialogue, peer learning and networking among all practitioners of development co-operation in order to increase its effectiveness; and will act as a 'network of networks', bringing together organisations, networks and platforms working to increase the effectiveness of development co-operation, to capitalise on all available knowledge in the effective development co-operation space.

To this end, the KSP could provide a solid entry point on which to build up the networking and peer-learning capabilities of GPIs and to strengthen a GPI community of practice. The forthcoming Knowledge-Sharing Platform platform could also be an enabler for knowledge-sharing among GPIs, allowing for better communications between the initiatives, the Global Partnership and key stakeholders. Facilitative functions to allow for collaboration within and between GPIs could be built into the architecture of the proposed platform.

4. Synthesis of Recommendations

(i)   **Clarify the role of GPIs in reference to the Global Partnership.**

- Review and update the guidelines for becoming or discontinuing a GPI, highlighting opportunities for engagement in the substantive work of the Partnership; the envisaged scope of GPIs' engagement with the Partnership; and opportunities for knowledge-sharing, as well as further information on how to discontinue an inactive GPI.

(ii)   Encourage GPIs to practically support implementation of the 2017-2018 work programme, ensuring that GPIs inform the work of the Global Partnership as a whole.

- Working Groups may wish to review the [current list of GPIs](#) to consider whether strategic invitations to relevant GPIs could be made to join or inform their Working Group. Working Group leads may also consider quarterly e-mail updates to relevant GPIs on the work under their strategic output to ensure synergies between GPIs and the broader work of the Global Partnership.

- Global Partnership Initiatives could be encouraged to contribute to and support execution of the forthcoming Global Advocacy and Outreach Strategy (GAOS), including (i) through inclusion of activities organised by GPIs and (ii) engagement of GPIs in activities organised under the Global Partnership umbrella.

- The Steering Committee may wish to involve GPIs in the formulation of the next work programme. After development of the 2019-2020 programme of work, Global Partnership Initiatives could be encouraged to communicate how they will contribute to one of more of its strategic priorities.

(iii)   Improving communication between GPIs and the wider Global Partnership community.

- When appropriate, GPIs could be invited to relevant Global Partnership meetings, including Steering Committee meetings and regional workshops, to explore synergies between their initiative and the Partnership's ongoing substantive work.

- In advance of Steering Committee meetings, the agendas could be shared with GPIs in order to encourage written comments from GPIs as relevant.

- GPI events could be included in the Global Partnership's online [event calendar.](#)

- A quarterly GPI newsletter could be produced to highlight ongoing work and support exploration of synergies.

- Production of knowledge or advocacy products clarifying the added value of becoming a GPI would be useful to engage new GPIs and grow the community of practice on effective development co-operation.

- A monthly 'featured GPI' has already been introduced on the [Global Partnership website](#), and efforts to source blogs from GPIs have already been accelerated by the JST.

(v)   Forging a GPI community of practice and strengthening knowledge-sharing

- The Joint Support Team could intensify their efforts to distil GPIs' experiences into lessons that can be effectively shared and inform policy dialogue and decision-making, especially through the use of findings from the annual call for inputs.

- The forthcoming Knowledge-Sharing Platform could be an enabler for knowledge-sharing among GPIs, allowing for better communications between the initiatives, the Global Partnership and key stakeholders. Facilitative functions to allow for collaboration within and between GPIs could be built into the architecture of the proposed platform.