

Global Partnership Event: Reinvigorating Effectiveness for the 2030 Agenda
Paris, 11-12 September 2018

Background Note

Session II: Today's drivers of success for a renewed approach to effectiveness

12 September 2018, 09:20-10:40

Session Objective

The aim of this session is to explore underlying drivers for more effective partnerships in order to fast track progress toward the SDGs. The UN Financing for Development Forum in April 2018 emphasised the importance of effective and high-quality partnerships. It was recognised that development co-operation must be 'smart': flowing to where it is needed most, leveraging private capital, and addressing issues of risk. This indicates that effectiveness is regaining momentum in the political space. While it is not clear what the underlying drivers of increased effectiveness efforts are, context specificity and tailored approaches merit greater attention. To this end, the roundtable will seek to identify key drivers of success for reinvigorated and tailored effectiveness efforts. Discussion will centre on key effective cooperation issues that are of particular importance for the international development community in delivering development impact in changing development contexts.

Session Background

The need to work together effectively is not new. Five years into the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness called to order the various development co-operation efforts underway by reaffirming the need to uphold commitments to partner effectively. Since the Paris Declaration in 2005, this commitment to deliver development co-operation effectively was reaffirmed on several occasions, including in Busan (2011) and in Nairobi (2016).

As the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were being crafted, there was a call to move from ‘billions to trillions’ to deliver on the ambitious scope of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Increased resources for development are indeed crucial, yet it is also essential to ensure effective use of all resources to maximise impact. Decades of experience show that development co-operation is most effective when it is led by developing countries and tailored to country-specific needs and priorities. National ownership of development efforts by developing countries is indispensable. Partnerships must be grounded in country-specific priorities and policies, and the development and oversight of monitoring to evaluate development efforts must be led by developing countries to create a legitimate basis for mutual accountability.

Partnerships were essential during the MDG-era, and remain a critical and catalysing component of the collective effort to achieve the SDGs. This is emphasised by the annual review of progress towards SDG17 at the UN High-Level Political Forum. Working together, through inclusive, effective, transparent and accountable partnerships that deliver tailored solutions, is essential to realising long-lasting development results and at the heart of the Global Partnership’s mission. Today’s development context is defined by the comprehensive and integrated 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and increased diversity – across development actors, instruments and contexts. In response to this increasingly complex development landscape, the time is ripe to refocus international attention on delivering effectively through mutually identified drivers of success.

Guiding Questions

Discussion will be guided by the following questions:

- What does the changing development context mean for ensuring development co-operation is effective, delivering results on the ground efficiently?
- What are the bottlenecks to achieving more effective partnerships?
- What are the key drivers of success for more effective partnership, including tailoring responses to diverse and specific contexts?
- What is needed to re-demonstrate the critical nature of effectiveness as a top priority in order to fast track progress towards the SDGs?