

2019 Senior-Level Meeting: Session Concept Notes



SESSION 1. Effective Development Co-operation to Achieve the SDGs: Concrete Examples of What Works

Objective

The objective of this session is to showcase how effective development co-operation has helped to fast track implementation of the SDGs, including those under review at the 2019 HLPF.

Background

Taking up key messages of the High-Level Opening, session 1 will elaborate further on the strategic value and importance of the principles for development effectiveness that were agreed in 2011 by more than 160 countries and 50+ organizations in the Busan Partnership Agreement for the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The session will spell-out the underlying narrative of the SLM and prepare the ground for the following thematic sessions. Session 1 will demonstrate with exemplary case stories how the implementation of the internationally acknowledged principles for development effectiveness impacts the lives of people and planet. The Session will argue that, even as we strive to fill the funding gaps for delivering the SDGs and to develop and agree robust global methodologies for measuring progress on their achievement, by strengthening effectiveness through better partnerships accompanied by policy reforms, our cooperation will achieve greater, better and faster progress towards the SDGs.

The session shall send a clear political signal to point at the relevance of the effectiveness agenda to accelerating progress towards the SDGs. To convey this message, the session will build on relevant country experiences of a variety of stakeholders in international development cooperation as well as on recent prominent studies (EU, OECD). This highlights both: the relevance of the effectiveness principles for implementing the 2030 Agenda and the need for another “big push” in the application of the internationally acknowledged principles.

Session 1 will reflect on key implementation principles of the 2030 Agenda such as leave no-one behind, accountability, integrated approach, shared responsibility, and universality. It will demonstrate clear links between these implementation principles and effective development cooperation in partner countries. With reference to the HLPF focus of 2019, specific examples from Goal 4 (quality education), Goal 8 (economic growth and decent work) and SDG 13 (combat climate change) will illustrate the strategic relevance of the effectiveness principles in support of the 2030 Agenda. All this will be linked to Goal 17 as the common denominator for all contributions of the Global Partnership.

Guiding questions

- **Same but different?** What is the added value and specific contribution of the effectiveness principles for achieving the SDGs?

- **Anecdotes or evidence?** How can we prove the leveraging potential of effective development cooperation? What do we know about the transformative impact of ownership, results focus, transparency and inclusive partnerships on sustainable development? Where do we see gaps and challenges?
- **Which strategy?** How can the effectiveness principles be further entrenched / linked to other international processes (FfD, Climate Change Finance, G7/G20) in support of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs?

SESSION 2. Implementation of the Effectiveness Principles: Practical lessons from Stakeholders and Country Evidence

Objective

Drawing on evidence generated by the 2018 monitoring round, as well as the activities undertaken under the *Enhanced support to effective development co-operation at country level* workstream, the objective of this session is to provide guidance and renewed impetus for efforts towards enhancing the implementation – by all partners – of the effectiveness principles at country level. Discussions will showcase good practices, highlight persistent challenges and help to identify the direction and priority areas for the Global Partnership’s future country level work.

Background

The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation plays a unique role in generating and sharing evidence to drive implementation of the four internationally agreed effectiveness principles. At country level, data generated through the Global Partnership monitoring exercise is intended to strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships and drive change by highlighting where progress is being made and where challenges persist. The exercise brings together stakeholders around concrete evidence to strengthen the effectiveness and impact of their joint work.

Country-generated data collected through the monitoring exercise also provides evidence for three SDG targets: respecting countries’ policy space and leadership (SDG 17.15); multi-stakeholder partnerships for development (SDG 17.16); and gender equality and women’s empowerment (SDG 5c). As such, Global Partnership data informs dialogue at the annual United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), including by generating evidence for countries’ Voluntary National Reviews.

In 2018, a record 86 partner countries and more than 100 development partners, as well as hundreds of civil society organisations, private sector representatives, foundations, trade unions and local governments, participated in the monitoring exercise. The results of the 2018 monitoring round show mixed results in implementing the effectiveness principles. At the same time, evidence confirms that development co-operation is evolving and changing significantly, raising new questions about how to best implement the effectiveness principles in the context of new delivery modalities, stakeholders and partners.

In addition to its flagship monitoring exercise, the Global Partnership has supported nine pilot countries in taking action to address their specific effectiveness challenges. Despite varying country contexts, results are shedding light on common challenges and tried solutions. Building on the outcomes of the country pilots, as well as other complementary evidence, the Global Partnership will

produce a Global Compendium of Good Practices to provide guidance to countries and their diverse development partners on how to further strengthen the implementation of effectiveness principles.

In this session, the results of both the monitoring and country-level implementation work will inform senior-level dialogue on how to further drive this agenda forward. It will showcase examples of how countries have made progress in working with their partners and the impact these stronger partnerships have had. It will also showcase examples of what has happened when commitments have not been met with action.

This dialogue will aim to highlight why continued commitment to country-level implementation of the effectiveness principles remains relevant in the rapidly evolving landscape, as well as how implementation can best be taken forward and what roles different stakeholders have, guiding a future plan of action.

SESSION 3. Adapting Effectiveness to Different Development Contexts

SESSION 3a. Effective Development Co-operation in Fragile Contexts

Objective

Drawing on the findings of the 2018 Global Partnership Monitoring Round, this breakout session will discuss key bottlenecks and share lessons on upholding internationally-agreed effectiveness principles in fragile contexts, and introduce the tailored approach to monitoring effectiveness in fragile contexts that will be rolled out in the next Global Partnership Monitoring Round. Bringing concrete examples from country-level, this session will explore how governments, development partners and national development actors in fragile contexts are working to embed effectiveness into partnerships.

Background

Fragility poses a significant threat to global aspirations of achieving the 2030 Agenda. It is estimated that 24% of the world's population live in fragile contexts (UN DESA World Populations Prospects 2017), and that by 2030, fragile contexts will be home to 80% of the world's poorest (OECD 2018 States of Fragility). Preventing conflict and sustaining peace is fundamental to reducing poverty and achieving shared prosperity – and vice versa. Recognising the need to reach populations at risk of being left behind and realise SDG 16 (peaceful, inclusive societies, justice, effective institutions), the international community has begun to scale-up targeted efforts in fragile contexts.

Ensuring that these scaled international efforts are effective, and reinforce mutual accountability of all partners, is essential to achieving development results. Yet while effective development cooperation is critical to maximising resources, it is more complex in fragile contexts and the challenges faced are arguably more amplified than in other contexts. The plethora of challenges that impede effective development co-operation within these contexts – such as lack of trust between stakeholders, limited engagement with civil society, pervasive fragmentation, weak coherence among humanitarian, development and peace initiatives, data gaps, and complexities around country

ownership – necessitate nuanced and context-sensitive approaches that can mitigate bottlenecks and drive action to address challenges.

Implementing workable solutions that lead to effective partnerships for development requires context-specific approaches. As such, it can be useful to learn what others are doing in different countries to address common effectiveness challenges and consider how these lessons could be built on and scaled up. Good practices that are consistent with national ownership and leadership, reinforce mutual accountability of all partners, and promote coherence across humanitarian, development and peace efforts, help drive change toward stronger national systems and more effective development practices in fragile contexts.

In addition to sharing good practices, and to support scaled international efforts in fragile contexts, better data are urgently needed to identify bottlenecks, track progress and lead to concrete action that maximises the potential of development co-operation. Consideration is also needed to identify how governments in fragile contexts can best lead the monitoring exercise and ensure the existence of all required data with development partners. Since June 2018, an open working group consisting of key Global Partnership members has developed a tailored approach to better capturing incremental progress toward effective development co-operation in fragile contexts. The SLM provides an opportunity to share this monitoring approach with the international community and to discuss good practices from the field.

Guiding questions

- What specific challenges have you encountered at country level, in upholding development effectiveness principles, and what actions have you taken at country level to address bottlenecks?
- What has worked well – in fostering greater adherence to the development effectiveness principles – and what factors would you say account for success? How might stakeholders in other fragile contexts adopt this good practice?
- The Global Partnership has developed a tailored approach to monitoring effective development co-operation in fragile contexts that will track incremental progress toward effectiveness commitments. How do you think this will support addressing challenges and improving efforts? How do you plan to use this data to drive change at country level? And how can this approach best support your country level monitoring system to track development effectiveness?

SESSION 3b. Effectiveness in South-South Co-operation

Objective

To promote development effectiveness in South-South Co-operation (SSC) by: (i) highlighting the different ways Southern providers ensure the effectiveness of their co-operation activities; and (ii) examining how monitoring the effectiveness of SSC contributes to achievement of development goals. The aim is to increase dialogue around the effectiveness of SSC, including to inform the finalisation of an adapted monitoring approach.

Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) acknowledge the increased importance of SSC for eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development. In order for SSC resources to have a maximum impact, it is vital that they are used effectively. This sentiment was echoed in paragraph 11 of the Outcome Document of the Second High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40), which recognises the need to enhance the development effectiveness of South-South and Triangular co-operation.

The session will touch on the ongoing work, spearheaded by the Government of Mexico, to develop an approach to assess the effectiveness of SSC. Building on existing effectiveness frameworks, this work looks specifically at how SSC activities are focused on delivering development results; how SSC activities involve the increasingly diverse set of development stakeholders working at country-level; and how SSC activities are transparent, undertaken in a way that allows citizens in both partner countries to hold decision makers accountable for how these resources are used.

This breakout session will bring together a variety of relevant stakeholders to discuss and analyse the different strategies and tools used to monitor and assess effectiveness in of SSC, in pursuit of the 2030 Agenda, driving future action in this area.

SESSION 3c. Whole-of-Society Approaches Towards Development Effectiveness: Enabling Inclusion

Background

The development effectiveness agenda laid an important groundwork for the Sustainable Development Agenda by recognising Civil Society is a development actor in its own right.¹ This important recognition in turn necessitates that the developmental process be inclusive of civil society, so that greater and better sustainable development impact can be unlocked. However, inclusive development can only happen if supported by sufficient policy space for development effectiveness which enables inclusion of all development actors, and in particular civil society, as a prerequisite.

CSOs documented that currently more than eighty percent of the world's population - 6 billion people living in 111 countries - face a situation where conditions for civil society engagement are deteriorating.² CSOs' role as equal development actors continues to be hindered across the globe due to legal and regulatory policies, operational restrictions, quality of spaces for partnerships available, and worse, human rights violations.³ Recently, more than 135 CSO leaders from around the world launched an urgent Action for the international community to take concrete steps to protect and promote civil society enabling conditions and space as an essential foundation for Agenda 2030.

¹ Accra Agenda for Action (2008)

²Populations face conditions where civil society space is closing (23 countries), or where civil society is highly repressed (35 countries), or where civil society faces substantial legal and political obstacles in fulfilling their roles (53 countries). CIVICUS Monitor 2018, <https://monitor.civicus.org/>.

³CPDE Country Synthesis Report 2017 (forthcoming).

Peer reviews from the OECD-DAC along with an ongoing DAC study of how DAC members work with CSOs show the need for greater policy clarity from donors and coherence between their commitments to provide effective CSO support and their funding modalities. CSOs are demonstrating progress in addressing their own effectiveness and accountability,⁴ yet concerns remain regarding challenges such as community connectedness and demonstration of results. Findings from the GPEDC Workstream 1 country pilots show that ongoing challenges of coordination and reporting gaps amongst CSOs and development partners hinder inclusion and impede country-level coordination and ownership. Responsibility for effective development is shared across all development actors; a multi-stakeholder approach is key in the pursuit of delivering on the SDGs.

At the Nairobi High Level Meeting, there were strong commitments toward inclusive development partnerships. Stakeholders committed to “reverse the trend of shrinking civic space wherever it is taking place”, as well as to “support civil society to play its full role as an independent development actor in its own right, and to ensure its own operations are as effective as possible”. CSOs committed to adhere to the Istanbul Principles, such as to ensure country-level ownership of their initiatives and transparency in their operations.

The Third Monitoring Round (3MR) confirmed that considerable progress is needed to ensure conducive local conditions to implement necessary policy reforms in the context of a growing accountability deficit. A whole-of-society approach is key in the pursuit of the broad sustainable development agenda. It is therefore particularly important to address enabling environments for civil society and CSO development effectiveness, highlighting positive experiences where governments and civil society have been able to work in partnership towards the achievement of the public interest, and lessons from GPEDC Global Partnership Initiatives and beyond.

The session will emphasise multi-stakeholder perspective in which enabling environments for CSOs are seen as a shared responsibility across stakeholders. It will reflect on the need for more progress in advancing CSO development effectiveness and enabling environment as understood in the four-part Indicator 2 framework: space for multi-stakeholder dialogue; donor support and engagement with CSOs; legal and regulatory frameworks in partner countries; and CSO development effectiveness and accountability.

Objective

To address these issues and present ways to improve the enabling environment for civil society towards the achievement of the SDGs the session will:

- Draw on evidence from of WS 1, WS 2, 3MR, and other sources highlighting challenges and good practice⁵, focusing in particular on trends in this evidence relating to an enabling environment for civil society and CSO development effectiveness, and ways of effectively working with civil society;

⁴CPDE (2016). *Istanbul Five Years After: Evidencing Civil Society Development Effectiveness and Accountability*, <https://issuu.com/linhnguyen031/docs/istanbul-5>.

⁵ACT Alliance report *The Implications of Shrinking Space for the SDGs*, CPDE Country Synthesis Report, OECD-DAC Study on How DAC Memberswork with Civil Society, GPI Collaboration (Results and Accountability, Task Team on CSO Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment (Task Team), CPDE), Task Team Guidance and Good Practice on CSO Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment, lessons from (Task Team) co-created country level pilot in Kenya, preliminary findings from Task Team study on CSO engagement in country-level SDG processes.

- Draw lessons and showcase positive examples on how to address challenges, generate collective action on promoting a positive enabling environment for civil society and CSO development effectiveness at all levels, and thereby uphold accountability for effective development co-operation;
- Convey clear messaging that where civil society is included and involved in development policy and coordination processes, impact is better and that a fully enabled environment for civil society and CSO development effectiveness is an essential condition for the achievement of the SDGs, to be included in the SLM Co-Chair Statement/Summary and the High Level Political Forum;
- Garner multi-stakeholder support to have civil society enabling environment and CSO development effectiveness as a positive condition for achieving inclusive partnerships and the SDGs as part of the subsequent GPEDC work programme.

Guiding questions

- What are the main interventions that have facilitated improvements in CSO enabling environments and CSO development effectiveness toward greater engagement civil society? How have CSOs, governments and donors engaged with each other to sustain this?
- What interventions have been undertaken that were less successful? And what were the causes of this relative failure?
- Are there particular interventions, or types of development cooperation, where engaging CSOs and others is decisive (i.e. in fragile contexts, where state actors are simply not present, for instance)? What can learned from these?

SESSION 3d. Effective Triangular Co-operation

Background

The global development landscape has changed, and new actors and new needs have emerged. Multi-stakeholder approaches, including South-South and triangular cooperation, are key tools for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and achieving the 2030 Agenda. They harness a rich and diverse set of actors, knowledge, experiences and resources and broaden the availability of cooperation opportunities to address the demands and specific challenges of countries at different levels of development.

As a rising modality, triangular co-operation can support the broader reform and effectiveness of the global development architecture by creating strong, horizontal partnerships for development, mobilising additional in-kind resources and funding, and disseminating best practices, experiences and instruments across all stakeholders. Effective triangular co-operation not only delivers development results for all 17 SDGs, but also fosters partnerships that transcend current divides and promote innovative mechanisms of development cooperation – complementary to traditional frameworks and contributing to the provision of global public goods. As such, the aim of this break-out session is to discuss ways of further enhancing the effectiveness of triangular co-operation and using the Voluntary Guidelines to anchor triangular co-operation in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Since its launch in 2016, the Global Partnership Initiative on Effective Triangular Cooperation (GPI on effective TrC) has played a key role in advancing effective triangular co-operation as the leading

platform for the exchange and dissemination of effective triangular co-operation cases, lessons learned, guidelines and operational tools. Its efforts have been consolidated in the Voluntary Guidelines for Effective Triangular Co-operation document and in the report on Triangular Co-operation in the Era of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, both of which were launched at the Second High-Level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) in March 2019. Notably, the reference to the GPI on effective TrC and “the voluntary effort to document good practices” in the final BAPA+40 Outcome Document provided a clear mandate to take this initiative forward.

As triangular co-operation continues to evolve to respond to the requirements of the 2030 Agenda, development partners may wish to adopt and operationalize the Voluntary Guidelines and explore better Triangular Cooperation reporting to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of triangular co-operation. Against this backdrop, this break-out session will take stock of and build on the important contribution to effective triangular co-operation from high-level multilateral meetings, most recently in BAPA+40, the 2019 G20 Development Working Group, and the 2018 Global South-South Development Expo.

Objective

Specifically, the event will provide an opportunity to:

1. Examine how effective triangular co-operation can be scaled up to further contribute to the 2030 Agenda.
2. Exchange experiences from multi-stakeholder trilateral partnerships with a specific focus on inclusiveness and ownership of all partners. Discuss the future role of the GPI as a platform for exchange, particularly following mandate from BAPA+40.
3. Exchange insights and strategies to best operationalize the Voluntary Guidelines for Effective Triangular Cooperation in programming.

SESSION 4. Principles for Effective Private Sector Engagement through Development Co-operation: A Collective Commitment

Objective

This session will serve as the launchpad for the “Kampala Principles” and to demonstrate the collective commitment of all partners – private sector, development partners, partner countries, and civil society and trade unions, as well as business associations – to improve partnerships through better guidance and practical toolkits, based on the Kampala Principles’ five pillars. This collective commitment to take collaborative, concrete actions to apply the principles to all private sector partnerships and the achievement of the SDGs at the country level.

Background

The scope and ambition of the transformative 2030 Agenda goes well beyond what the public sector can achieve alone. It requires a collective effort to step-up not only diverse and creative forms of resource mobilisation, but also innovative partnerships and solutions to achieve development impact.

Key to an effective and innovative multi-sector response, at scale, is the mutual trust among governments, businesses and citizens and targeted support of the private sector – purpose-driven multinationals and local SMEs operating in the value chains of responsible business.

Following case studies in four countries (Bangladesh, Egypt, El Salvador and Uganda) and extensive and inclusive consultations at the national and global level led by a multi-stakeholder Working Group of the Global Partnership, senior executives were mobilized in an international Business Leaders Caucus (BLC) to advise on engaging the private sector in effective development and the establishment of a set of principles to guide collective work into the future.

This unique multi-stakeholder approach was fundamental in shaping the principles and will be mirrored in this session with frank, interactive exchanges in which decision-makers discuss developing trust, mutuality and purpose-driven progress. Current examples of how private sector engagement in development cooperation is contributing to the achievement of the SDGs will be featured, as well as forward-looking scenarios on how adherence to the principles can further improve the effectiveness of private sector engagement. Of particular interest is SDG 8 and how effective engagement of the private sector will pro-mote job creation and decent work for youth and women. The principles are also vital for private sector partnerships to deliver on other SDGs under review at the 2019 HLPF, on education, reducing inequality and climate action, and on SDG 17 itself.

Guiding questions

- **Conversation 1: Building Trust / Leave No One Behind.** What is the motivation for the private sector participation in development co-operation? What challenges were faced and how were they overcome? Who benefitted and why did it work?
- **Conversation 2: Accountability / Managing Risks.** How does the private sector consider the SDGs when contemplating, planning and engaging in a development project or program?
- **Conversation 3: Innovative Models / Country Ownership.** How do we move forward with the concrete implementation and scaling up of private sector engagement at the country level?

SESSION 5. Effective Partnerships for Sustainable Development: Exploring Challenges and Potential for the Future

Objective

This session provides the opportunity for a forward-looking reflection on how to transform development co-operation in today's radically changed context. This reflection is timely, particularly in an increasingly challenging global environment and growing concerns that we are not 'on track' to achieve the 2030 Agenda development - in particular for those left furthest behind. In light of new modalities and innovative ways of partnering what are priorities and policy areas where development effectiveness needs to be more central? What guidance can development effectiveness provide for 'localising' the sustainable development goals for all partners, including sub-national and regional governments, foundations, parliamentarians and civil society and make it more relevant to citizens?

Background

Given the rapidly approaching 2030 deadline, 2019 constitutes a pivotal moment for the international community to prioritize its promises of the **2030 Agenda towards “leaving no one behind”**. For the first time since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, Heads of State and Government will attend the SDG Summit in September 2019, to review progress of the SDGs.

Since 2015, much has been learned on how to work better together on the ground to deliver the global aspirations of the 2030 Agenda. At the same time, the multilateral system and development landscape have experienced radical changes since then, with new global threats calling for urgent responses by the international community. Delivering on the 2030 Agenda will require bringing in better and more diverse partnerships in order to move from a ‘whole-of-government’ to a ‘whole-of-society’ approach. At the heart of this transition is the quest to ensure the growing number of partners, traditional and non-traditional providers, public and private, local, national, regional and international, work together in cost effective and impactful ways, with a common responsibility and challenge to leave no one behind.