

## Summary of MAG Advice and Recommendations

### Report to the July GPEDC Steering Committee, New York, July 14 -15, 2016

#### Areas for Potential Action by the Steering Committee

- 1. Advance a GPEDC theory of change** Consider launching a Steering Committee process (i.e. a small SC working group) that could advance the work of the MAG towards a GPEDC theory of change and determine its implications for a revised mandate. Consider a short paragraph in the Nairobi Outcome Document reflecting the overall approach of a GPEDC theory of change to be adopted in Nairobi. MAG members if called upon can support these efforts.
- 2. Explore synergies with SDG country reviews** Mandate the JST to facilitate a study on the practical implications and ways forward in creating synergies between the GPEDC revised Monitoring Framework and the SDG review process at country level.
- 3. Approve principles and parameters for a revised Monitoring Framework** Consider adopting / revising the MAG proposed principles and parameters to guide future work on indicators for a revised Monitoring Framework post-Nairobi. These principles can be informed by further reflections by regional and stakeholder meetings following the Second Monitoring Round. Consider a summary of these guiding principles as a short paragraph in the Nairobi Outcome Document to mandate future work on the Monitoring Framework.
- 4. Consider emerging areas for consideration for the revised Monitoring Framework** Integrate some or all of the emerging areas proposed by the MAG into agendas of various preparatory fora for the Nairobi High Level Meeting, to inform the revised Monitoring Framework, consistent with global and country processes to achieve the SDGs.

The report to the July Steering Committee highlights four key elements of the MAG advice, which the MAG believes will help shape the preparations for the Second High Level Meeting (HLM2) in November. The following is a summary of this advice, which should be read with the rationale advanced in each section of the accompanying report. A full report will be available by September.

#### **1. Advancing a GPEDC theory of change**

The MAG recommends that,

- a) Given the need to develop a generally-accepted GPEDC Theory of Change, as an outcome of this Steering Committee meeting, a SC working group be delegated to develop an agreed ToC, based on the MAG's work and further reflections by Steering Committee members. If called upon, members of the MAG would be willing to be part of this process.
- b) To further enable this process, the MAG offers a revised version of its implied theory of change (See Exhibit One), taking into account the outcomes of its consultation with GPEDC stakeholders and further MAG deliberations at its June 2016 meeting. This theory of change is derived from the MAG's focus on a relevant and useful monitoring framework.

The MAG Report sets out some important considerations in developing a GPEDC Theory of Change in relation to the broader context and in operationalizing a Theory of Change.

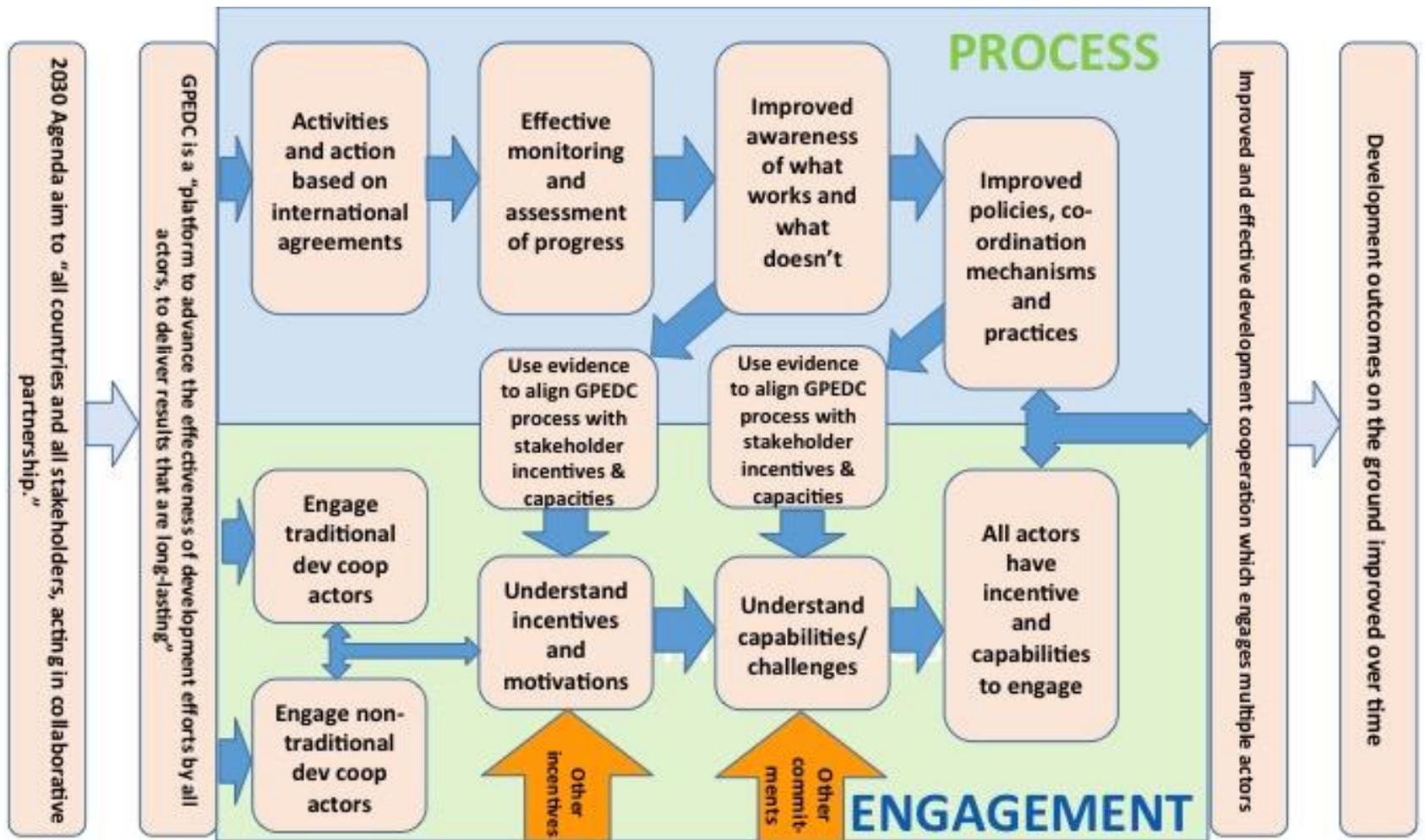


Exhibit One  
MAG Revised Theory of Change

## **2. Developing GPEDC synergies with country /global processes for reviewing the SDGs**

The MAG provides the following observations and advice on creating synergies with the follow-up and review processes for the SDGs:

- a) Convergence at country level can deepen political engagement with the GPEDC Framework.
- b) The GPEDC adds value through a holistic framework for assessing progress for effective development cooperation, which is implemented biannually at the country level.
- c) An effective GPEDC contribution of data and analysis for indicator 17.16.1 is not distinct from its efforts to strengthen the relevance and methodologies of its Monitoring Framework.
- d) The MAG encourages actors, particularly at the country level, to build on the country-driven experience of the GPEDC rounds of monitoring in developing an inclusive SDG review process.
- e) The MAG encourages resources be made available to permit the JST to facilitate a study of current planning processes for SDG country reviews (as submitted to the July 2016 HLPF) with a view to understanding the issues in the practical integration of the GPEDC Monitoring Framework.

## **3. Clarifying principles and parameters to guide a post-HLM2 Monitoring Framework**

The MAG recommends that

- a) The finalization of the Monitoring Framework be completed by the JST in early 2017, guided by the agreements reached at the Nairobi HLM and by an agreed set of guiding principles and parameters (See Exhibit Two).
- b) The revisions to the Monitoring Framework be guided by principles and modalities that emphasize a framework that is a) Holistic, inclusive and country driven, while sufficiently attentive to the behaviour of global actors; b) Derived from commitments on the part of GPEDC stakeholders; c) Focused primarily on public development cooperation; and d) Incentivizes and influences behaviour and institutional change for more effective development cooperation. The quality of the outcomes from monitoring will reflect the quality of participation and contributions at the country level by all stakeholders. There are trade-offs between simplicity in indicators and methodologies, and contributing meaningful data/assessment. The MAG opts for the latter, recognizing that there are resource implications for this option. Evidence-based dialogue among stakeholders to promote change will be motivated by the availability of meaningful and accurate data, alongside considered assessment of progress. The promotion of such dialogue is a core purpose of monitoring.

#### **4. Opening discussion on emerging areas for a relevant and useful Monitoring Framework**

The MAG has identified a number of emerging areas and approaches, which in its view require more focused attention in developing a revised Monitoring Framework. They are relevant and useful in the context of development cooperation and *Agenda 2030*.

##### **a) Adapting the Framework to reflect approaches by middle income providers / recipients**

The MAG provides the following advice and some modest measures to advance this aspect of the Monitoring Framework:

- a) For the major middle-income providers, the GPEDC remains a political issue, and until its resolution, the GPEDC monitoring framework is not the issue.
- b) For other middle income providers / recipients for whom the GPEDC is a relevant platform in which to participate, the MAG suggests adjustments to the Framework that recognize their dual role as providers and recipients, including a closer examination of the role of technical cooperation in their assistance. The latter is also relevant for traditional providers.
- c) Greater transparency is essential for a better understanding of avenues for assessing effectiveness of middle-income provider assistance.
- d) Development actors should consider support for appropriate avenues for developing country partners to engage with middle-income providers to discuss features that they value in middle-income country assistance, and their implications for assessing effectiveness.

##### **b) Enhancing provider Headquarter (HQ) level engagement in the monitoring process**

The MAG,

- a) Reiterates its concern that the Monitoring Framework be a balanced framework that calls upon all actors committed to the Global Partnership, including national and global providers, to fully participate in the monitoring round.
- b) Acknowledges provider challenges in engaging the current country-led framework and looks to providers to pro-actively address these challenges.
- c) Recommends further discussions with providers and other GPEDC stakeholders to identify key areas of provider institutional policies and practices that are seen to be critical for effective development cooperation, which can inform a provider-specific set of global indicators or modules.

**c) Consideration of alternatives for indicator three on the private sector, including blended finance as possible entry point**

The MAG proposes that,

- a) The Global Partnership mandate the JST to explore options for indicator three, post-Nairobi, including revisions to the current indicator focus on public/private dialogue (PPD), but also consider blended finance as an alternative entry point, in the context of GPEDC's focus on development cooperation.
- b) The MAG will continue to refine its proposal for indicator three based on private/public sector dialogue, integrating suggestions made in the recent MAG indicators consultations.

**d) Climate finance and the scope of the monitoring framework**

The MAG proposes that,

- a) Climate finance is a relevant area for applying the development effectiveness principles.
- b) The GPEDC monitoring framework is most relevant for climate finance that is clearly a public financial resource, as profiled by the provider and recipient. However, more work is needed to clarify an approach and the relevance of current and proposed revisions of the Monitoring Framework to climate finance in international cooperation.

**e) An indicator for multi-stakeholder initiatives**

The MAG is proposing that,

- a) Existing indicators be examined to see to what degree the Global Partnership can assess to what extent its own processes have been characterized by full multi-stakeholder engagement.
- b) Integrate a multi-stakeholder indicator in a future phase of the Monitoring Framework.

**f) An indicator relating to a holistic, 'whole of government,' policy approach to implementing effective development cooperation for the SDGs**

The MAG,

- a) Points to the importance of a holistic framework for sustainable development, which is derived from the comprehensive and universal Agenda 2030, which should also be present in the GPEDC Monitoring Framework.
- b) Proposes that consideration be given to a sub-indicator for indicator seven (mutual accountability), which tries to measure the breadth of the agenda in mechanisms for mutual accountability at the country level, and correspondingly which actors are invited to the table.