

Reinvigorating Effectiveness for the 2030 Agenda

11-12 September 2018, Paris

190+ participants from over 80 countries met in Paris for two days to inject fresh thinking on how to maximise effectiveness as a tool to drive sustainable development; to realise the ambition of the 2030 Agenda and deliver on the promise of leaving no one behind.

Participants reiterated that the [effectiveness principles](#) remain relevant as a framework to drive sustainable development. In his keynote address, Alex Thier, Executive Director of the Overseas Development Institute, asserted, “the effectiveness agenda is more important than ever”. The importance of [country ownership](#) was underscored repeatedly as a cornerstone of effective partnerships for development. The need to apply [accountability and transparency](#) to new forms of partnership echoed regularly throughout the discussions. [Inclusive partnerships](#) were heralded as not only morally right, but the only path to sustainable development. And, [focus on results](#) was the topic of much debate in light of the current political climate, and the need to balance demonstrating short-term results with the imperative to remain focussed on long-term impact and addressing systemic development challenges.

The event made clear that immense strides have been taken to advance effectiveness. Representatives from over 50 partner countries presented clear examples on how they are forging ahead with effectiveness at country level, instilling effectiveness principles into national policies and practices. To cite just a handful of examples, Rwanda shared how they use the Global Partnership monitoring exercise to strengthen national co-ordination mechanisms and hold inclusive dialogue on development co-operation. Cambodia demonstrated how they have institutionalised global monitoring indicators into national systems to capture and track all development resources in country. Costa Rica spoke to a new national development strategy that will provide a framework for effective development partnerships. These and other effectiveness successes and lessons will be shared in the Global Partnership’s compendium of good practices and knowledge-sharing platform to facilitate mutual learning and propel new solutions to tackle development challenges.

Interventions featured practical examples of how development partners are ingraining effectiveness into the DNA of their work. Global Partnership monitoring data was highlighted throughout discussions as a vital source of evidence, and a critical input for DAC Peer Reviews and the OECD Development Co-operation Report. Other examples included the Asian Development Bank, who shared how Global Partnership indicators have been integrated into their corporate results framework. Canada underscored that development partner’s commitment to effectiveness remains strong, as was demonstrated at a [recent meeting of the G7](#). Sweden also explained how they draw on Global Partnership monitoring results to self-evaluate.

At the same time, some felt that political momentum around effectiveness has waned and it is yet to be taken up as the vehicle to drive long-lasting results for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Some participants expressed that bigger challenges are afoot given the current political climate. Others disagreed that effectiveness had lost momentum, pointing to the many positive examples that show strong engagement on effectiveness issues, suggesting that momentum has shifted from the political sphere to technical implementation. However, participants agreed that if we are to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, effectiveness urgently needs to be translated and applied across the new and emerging modalities employed to implement the 2030 Agenda. This point highlights the importance of stakeholders convening for this event, and sets the trajectory forward to the Global Partnership's Senior Level Meeting in July 2019.

To ensure continued relevance, adaptability is vital. There is a diverse array of contexts, modalities, and types of partnerships to which the application of effectiveness must remain nimble. One of the ways in which partnerships have changed since the adoption of the Paris Declaration in 2005 is how development activities are financed. The [international community recognises](#) that achieving the SDGs will require the mobilisation and effective use of a wide variety of resources. Financing modalities beyond traditional approaches, including South-South Co-operation and private sector engagement, continue to gain significance. This confirms the relevance of the Global Partnership's work to develop guidelines on [effective private sector engagement](#) and its support to work that aims to learn from different modalities of development co-operation.

Increased efforts to analyse, manage and, in particular, share risk through effective partnerships are essential. This is universally applicable, and particularly important if we are to achieve the promise of leaving no one behind. For example, a disproportionate amount of people living in extreme poverty reside in fragile and conflict-affected situations and are highly vulnerable to shocks. In this regard, the Global Partnership's [work to adapt its monitoring](#) to be better tailored to fragile and conflict affected situations recognises that delivering effectively and forging strong partnerships in these contexts is imperative. In all contexts, however, more dialogue among stakeholders is needed on risk.

Finally, we all have a responsibility to communicate better. At national level, we need to engage citizens, and better communicate that the short-term notion of 'value for money' should not discount the long-term, sustainable returns on investment when upholding effectiveness principles. We also need to better showcase when incremental progress is made and the important role that these small steps play in achieving overall progress. Parliamentarians and civil society have indispensable roles in co-shaping this conversation. This needs to lead to action and better communication on accountability and transparency; going beyond making information publically available to active engagement, understanding and contribution to shaping the desired results of development co-operation. At global level, we all need to ensure that we strongly advocate for the relevance and necessity of effectiveness for achieving the 2030 Agenda, in relevant fora including; BAPA +40 and SDG follow-up and review processes, including the UN High-Level Political Forum and the Financing for Development Forum where the Global Partnership contributes source data.

The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation is the vehicle to advance effectiveness for the SDGs. During the event, many participants emphasised that the greatest strength of the Global Partnership is its ability to bring all actors together on equal footing – 'under one tent'. The Global Partnership will remain

open and continue to be a place for unbounded dialogue, exchange and learning from peers. The Global Partnership's biennial monitoring exercise provides fresh evidence to track and accelerate implementation of political commitments, to spur dialogue between countries and their development partners on successes and challenges, and drive behaviour change. All are encouraged to participate in the current 2018 monitoring round. Global Partnership monitoring connects local realities with global dialogue. For the Global Partnership to thrive, it needs to account for both 'the forest and the trees'. This means a dual focus: effectiveness on a larger scale to accelerate progress toward the SDGs, and also a much deeper granularity of effectiveness work that accounts for context-specificity.

This event set the course for the Global Partnership's upcoming Senior Level Meeting in July 2019, which will take place in the margins of the UN High-Level Political Forum. At its Senior Level Meeting, the Global Partnership will put a spotlight on the crucial role of effectiveness, using the latest country-level evidence to enable informed action towards 2030, and it will strengthen and expand its voluntary network by introducing new context-sensitive tools to improve effectiveness. In doing so, it will seek to galvanise governments, civil society and other actors to initiate the 'gear change' needed to accelerate SDG implementation.