

13th Steering Committee Meeting of the Global Partnership

Summary

Washington, D.C., United States

23 - 24 April 2017

CONTACTS

Joint Support Team

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For more information on this Steering Committee meeting, please visit:

<http://effectivecooperation.org/event/13th-steering-committee-meeting-of-the-global-partnership/>

DECISIONS TAKEN

The Steering Committee, in its meeting on 23-24 April 2017 in Washington D.C., USA, endorsed the Global Partnership's Work Programme 2017-18, with minor language amendments. As next steps to implement the Work Programme, the Steering Committee agreed to organise working sessions to lead the implementation of individual strategic priorities, with individual Committee members taking responsibility for leading and coordinating engagement in such sessions, and reporting progress made to the Steering Committee meetings. Co-Chairs and the Steering Committee committed to step up political engagement and outreach, including at the United Nations and with emerging economies. The Steering Committee endorsed a roadmap for the refinement of the monitoring framework, and confirmed its readiness to engage in more detailed discussion on technical indicator updates and expansion of the scope of monitoring as follow-up to the meeting. The Steering Committee also agreed to discuss the issue of a 4th non-executive co-chair once non-executive members presented a joint proposal at the next Steering Committee meeting, in Q4 of 2017 in Bangladesh in line with the decision of the Nairobi Outcome Document. Steering Committee members recognised that the Global Partnership Work Programme requires full and front-loaded funding. They indicated that they would explore ways to contribute financial and in-kind support.

SPECIFIC DISCUSSIONS

AGREEING ON THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2017 AND 2018

Bangladesh's Finance Minister, H.E. Mr. Abul Maal A. Muhith, and German Parliamentary State Secretary, H.E. Mr. Thomas Silberhorn, both noted the need to engage the private sector and key emerging economies in the Global Partnership, and to achieve impact at country level. State Secretary Silberhorn also emphasised the need to position the Global Partnership vis-à-vis relevant UN processes and to inform policy on the transformative processes regarding development cooperation: from aid to development effectiveness. Uganda's Minister of Finance, H.E. Mr. Matia Kasaija, stressed the importance of implementing effectiveness principles to achieve long-lasting development results at country level.

The Steering Committee endorsed six strategic priorities and pledged to take responsibility in implementing the Work Programme – the Global Partnership's action plan to achieve the ambitions agreed at HLM2 in Nairobi. Steering Committee members reiterated the importance of continued support from political leadership to deliver on all strategic priorities. They also discussed the importance of leaving no one behind; a youth and gender focus; emphasis on a critical role of national development co-operation policies; and particular attention to varying country contexts, including fragile and conflict-affected states for the Work Programme.

Actions

Joint Support Team

- Revise Work Programme formulations around rephrasing 'unlocking bottlenecks'¹ and replacing 'PPPs' with 'private sector engagement'
- Call for interest in working sessions on strategic priorities
- Co-Chairs to inform Global Partnership Initiatives (GPIs) of outcome of the meeting

DRIVING POLITICAL MOMENTUM

Steering Committee members agreed it was important to: increase political leadership and engagement of all stakeholders – public, private and civil society – around development effectiveness principles; demonstrate the benefits of effectiveness through their day-to-day engagements by better demonstrating results and using monitoring evidence; engage at technical and political level in wider multilateral processes; include development effectiveness in SDG follow-up and review; and increase the public visibility of the Global Partnership.

¹ It is proposed to use the term "Unlocking the potential of effectiveness and updated monitoring for 2030" instead of "Unlocking bottlenecks to effectiveness and updated monitoring for 2030"

Members shared concrete suggestions to deepen political engagement:

- Structured use of existing multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms and Global Partnership Initiatives;
- Mainstreaming development effectiveness in stakeholders' ongoing policy work, as is the case, for example, with the new European Consensus on Development;
- Coherent messaging to inform agendas, debates and outcomes of global and regional events, including the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), the Forum on Financing for Development follow-up, the DCF, the G20, and Agenda 2063;
- Targeted dialogue on specific issues at regional level, including to engage Southern partners, effective public institutions, connecting donor headquarters and their country implementation units/agencies, etc.;
- Ensuring high level missions include a focus on development effectiveness and link up with Global Partnership country work where possible; and
- Linking up institutional public communication efforts, including digital communication and social media, explicitly with the Global Partnership.

The Steering Committee heard CPDE's proposal for a 4th non-executive co-chair. As the proposal was not made by all non-executive Steering Committee members, the Committee invited the non-executive Steering Committee members to prepare a joint proposal in line with the decision of the Nairobi Outcome Document, ahead of the next Steering Committee meeting.

Actions

Steering Committee

- Explore ways to integrate effectiveness issues directly in their daily business
- Invite Co-Chairs to relevant high-level events
- Members participating in the 2017 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) to advocate for inclusion of lessons on effective development co-operation in their VNRs and presentations in the 2017 HLPF Ministerial Segment
- Co-chairs to approach the President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council to request a session on the effectiveness of development cooperation at the HLPF
- Non-executive SC members prepare a joint proposal for the 4th non-executive Co-Chair
- Inject development effectiveness in their digital and traditional public communications

Joint Support Team

- Provide communications products to support Steering Committee members' outreach and advocacy efforts on a needs basis

ENHANCED SUPPORT TO EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION AT COUNTRY LEVEL

The Steering Committee agreed the Global Partnership should seek to increase its impact at the country level as its core business, and committed to the relevant proposals set out in the Work Programme.

Steering Committee members agreed to help strengthen country-led multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms, making them more inclusive, action-oriented, and responsive to demand. Duplication of existing structures should be avoided. Such platforms should: advance the implementation of national development co-operation policies, including to promote use of country systems and addressing aid fragmentation; agree on country results frameworks; and help to articulate practical solutions that address pressing questions of the "how-aspects" of: SDG implementation; financing sustainable development; or private sector engagement.

The European Union proposed to pursue country pilots to promote multi-stakeholder support to nationally-led efforts to improve development effectiveness, including the usefulness of undertaking a mapping exercise of existing country efforts to inform a country pilot approach .

Actions

Steering Committee

- Work with Co-Chairs and SC members to advocate for country-level multi-stakeholder dialogues;
- Identify pilot countries for strengthening country-level platforms. Bangladesh and Mexico expressed their interest in being part of this pilot exercise.

Joint Support Team

- Prepare a background document/concept note for a country pilot approach, including scoping/scanning of existing country efforts.

UNLOCKING BOTTLENECKS AND REFINING MONITORING FOR 2030

The Steering Committee endorsed the roadmap to update the monitoring framework with its three-track approach, namely expanding its scope, updating existing indicators, and making the process inclusive, cost effective and action-oriented ([link](#)). Members were keen to increase the use of monitoring results for evaluation and accountability purposes, and up the number and capacity of countries participating in future monitoring rounds. The Committee also wanted to capture the diversity of actors in the updated framework, while also ensuring that the process is as inclusive and cost-effective as possible. Members were keen to ensure synergies with SDG and AAAA follow-up and review, reflect where there was a need to address unfinished business (without inadvertently becoming backward-looking), and, where possible, use past work from the aid effectiveness process to help fill analytical gaps.

The JST outlined ongoing dialogues and the roadmap whereby broad consultations would take place in October 2017 on all three tracks and a stock-take on progress at the next Steering Committee meeting. The Steering Committee highlighted the importance of increased use of monitoring results to identify hurdles, the need for broad Steering Committee efforts to increase numbers engaged in the monitoring exercise (both countries and stakeholders), and a desire to use more complementary, secondary data, also to capture the diversity of development actors.

Actions

Steering Committee

- Working with the JST, consider further opportunities to take stock of and use 2016 monitoring evidence at country level.

Joint Support Team

- Circulate a detailed technical concept note on updating the monitoring framework
- Engage constituencies and experts in further technical work to update the monitoring framework.

SHARING KNOWLEDGE TO SCALE-UP DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS

The Steering Committee agreed it was critical that the Partnership help actors to share knowledge and innovative development solutions. This requires Steering Committee members to work together, align their initiatives and products, and fund the creation of a knowledge and innovation platform. This would capture, share, and utilize knowledge and evidence produced at country level, by GPIs, and by regional platforms, and to engage stakeholders outside the Global Partnership. Various Steering Committee members were keen to participate and to work to ensure the platform engaged stakeholders within and beyond the Global Partnership. The Committee agreed the knowledge platform should link to other platforms.

Actions

Steering Committee

- Through working sessions, advance the implementation of the proposed activities contained in the Work Programme, identifying additional action where necessary

SCALING UP PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT THROUGH DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION

Members endorsed and fully support the proposal to examine how the private sector can be more effectively engaged through development co-operation to help generate development results, in particular for the poorest, to reach the SDGs; how to enhance accountability of public-private collaboration; and how donors can adapt their development co-operation instruments and policies. The Committee supported the proposal for the Global Partnership to serve as a multi-stakeholder learning platform with the private sector, to foster common understanding and collaboration. The Committee agreed the Global Partnership should look beyond Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), build on existing efforts, norms and standards, and take a sufficiently broad view of how it defined the private sector, with a focus on engagement of domestic private sector actors at the country level.

Steering Committee members highlighted the challenges in identifying good practices of harnessing the private sector for mutual benefit, especially in countries and sectors where the private sector is traditionally reluctant to invest. The private sector representative reiterated the importance of ensuring the Global Partnership's proposition was unique and realistic. Steering Committee members agreed the caucus of private sector and foundations representatives should be diverse. Some Committee members indicated readiness to engage in related working sessions.

Actions

Steering Committee

- Through dedicated working sessions, develop and implement a plan of activities
- Support private sector outreach to form a caucus to further advise the Committee in implementing this work stream.

LEARNING FROM DIFFERENT MODALITIES OF DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION

Steering Committee members agreed that this work stream is a way to engage positively with emerging economies. Steering Committee members recognised the need for complementarity with strategic priority 3, on sharing knowledge and innovation. Members agreed that this work stream is fit to pursue the establishment of new dialogue and learning with new partners. There was also agreement to engage proactively with emerging economies, especially India, China and ASEAN countries. Ministerial visits should incorporate discussion drawn from Global Partnership work.

MATCHING AMBITIONS WITH RESOURCES

The Steering Committee discussed the resourcing needs to implement the 2017-2018 Work Programme. The Committee agreed that all strategic outputs were interrelated, and would only be delivered if the 2017-18 budget was fully funded. The JST flagged the importance of having firm commitments soon, in order to deliver work effectively over the entire biennium. The cost of delivering for the biennium is USD 6.1 million for UNDP and EUR 3.1 million for OECD – amounts which do not exceed previous expenditures. The Steering Committee requested JST to prepare a stand-alone budget document with more information, including the resources gap. Bangladesh, Canada, the European Commission and Germany announced financial commitments.

[Note from the JST: Upon the expression of interest for contribution to the JST resource requirements, governments and organisations interested in funding the JST are introduced to the respective standard funding procedures of both organisations, carried out in close collaboration with corporate services of both UNDP and OECD, observing each organisation's standard budgeting practice.]

Actions

Steering Committee

- Explore providing funding for delivery of the Work Programme, engaging with the JST, and reporting back to the next Steering Committee meeting on progress made.

Joint Support Team

- Provide a stand-alone budget document including the resources gap to implement the activities
- Provide an update on resource mobilisation ahead of the next Steering Committee meeting
- Provide financial information on the previous biennium to interested members (EU and Japan)