

Global Partnership Work Programme 2020-2022

Working document on Action Area 2.7: Effective multilateral support

The document is circulated to members who expressed interest in this work for their feedback on the proposed activities, and to seek their interest in contributing to the work. The activities proposed may be further refined as partners reflect their interests and inputs and will continue to evolve accordingly.

1. Notes from breakout session on Action Area 2.7 (Global Partnership virtual workshop, 17 March).

The group was welcomed to a ‘brainstorming’ session on effective multilateral support, as parties interested in the action area begin to emerge. The moderator proposed three broad parameters for the discussion:

- i. *What is an effective multilateral system? And how can the effectiveness principles help us define that?*
- ii. *How can bilateral partners support it effectively?*
- iii. *What should this action area not do?*

The discussion focused on the first two elements.

What is an effective multilateral system? And how can the effectiveness principles help us define that?

- Discussions began with a recognition of the need to engage donors and those who support the system – does the multilateral system meet current needs.
- We should take stock of previous exercises – in the case of MDBs for instance, various calls by stakeholders to behave more like a system and work together. This is even more the case regarding the UN system.
- Many donors have already made efforts to do more multilaterally, and less bilaterally – we can learn from these efforts, and in particular approaches at country level.
- Where bilaterals continue to adopt the policy of contributing to the multilateral system while also providing ODA bilaterally there is significant scope for multilateralism to flourish through mutually self-reinforcing pluralistic approaches and instruments. *Measuring these channels will also be important.*
- Survey work could be very rich in terms of understanding where partners see the multilateral system adding value: presence? Competence? As a space for dialogue? And notably, the role of risk and de-risking.
- Focus should remain on how to support the system support our collective development efforts and deliver on the 2030 Agenda.
- **Possible activities:** *Survey work of bilateral donors needs and expectations of the multilateral system; case studies on the value addition of multilateralism, notably in terms of facilitating dialogue and de-risking; working papers on effectiveness and topical issues (UNDS funding compact; the QCPR; 75th anniversary).*

How can partners support it effectively?

- Turning to the theme of how we support the system we want, the discussion quickly circled back to relevant data.
- As noted above, a focus on the SDGs has to be central to this effort; MDB work around the Managing Development Results Group could be very relevant, looking at individual SDGs, but also transversal issues.
- Identifying good practices in terms of ‘champions’ of multilateralism can help frame the issue in a positive way.
- ‘Crowd-sourcing’ good practices from different types of partners will allow interesting and relevant approaches to supporting multilateralism to come to us.
- The issue of the UN’s new Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UN-SDCF) also emerged as a tool, and basis, for better coordinating the UN system at country level, but also for coordinating partners in a way aligned with partner-country priorities.
- ***Possible activities:*** *Overview of accountability mechanisms and current efforts toward an effective multilateral system; identifying and recognizing multilateral ‘champions’; Assessing multilateralism’s contributions to the SDGs (see work of the Managing Development Results Group).*

What should this action area not do?

- It should not replicate the work of the multilateral systems various review and governance mechanisms.
- It should not replicate the work of MOPAN (although there may be space to bring an effectiveness perspective to the MOPAN methodology).
- It should try, like the effectiveness principles more broadly, to bring a partner-country voice to development cooperation efforts.

2. Provisional results-based 'budget' – updated June 2020

<p>Expected Accomplishment 1</p> <p>A substantive multi-stakeholder contribution to the global discourse on an effective multilateral system</p>	<p>Indicators (numbers to be inserted)</p> <p>Relevant literature produced, disseminated to key stakeholders</p> <p>Viable advocacy partnerships forged with key elements of the multilateral system, including the OECD, EOSG, and core donors, and active proponents of multilateralism</p> <p>Engagement with different types of stakeholders, including global-level non-state actors</p>			
<p>Supporting activities</p>	<p>Outputs</p>	<p>Indicative Budget</p>	<p>Timing, Q3 2020 – Q2 2022</p>	<p>Interested parties/roles</p>
<p>i) Case studies and review on the value addition of multilateralism, and partner expectations (including in terms of facilitating dialogue and de-risking). Components will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - donor perspectives - Partner country perspectives - IO (RC?) perspectives - Non-state perspectives - Alignment of existing multilateral governance mechanisms with effectiveness principles <p><i>Immediate next step: Desk review of similar analytical undertakings.</i></p>	<p>Report on case studies and findings</p>		<p>Aligned with 5th LDC conference? Or 76th GA</p>	<p>Bangladesh Sweden (existing survey work of COs) IADB (possible contribution on multilateral de-risking instruments) IFAD (possible contribution on regional perspectives) UNDP (with DCO, for survey work with RRs/ RCs)</p>
<p>ii) working papers on multilateral effectiveness and topical issues (UNDS funding compact; the QCPR; 75th anniversary).</p>	<p>Multi-stakeholder series of papers on relevant topics, including relevant Global Partnership monitoring data, tailored to UN calendar</p>		<p>Q3 2020 (for QCPR), and beyond?</p>	<p>DHF (leading on paper/s on inclusive global processes and partnerships)</p>

				UNDP (coordinating partner engagement) Switzerland (to update on scope for preparatory meetings as a QCPR co-moderator)
iii) Assessing multilateralism's contributions to the SDGs, and how partners' support alignment (see work of the Managing Development Results Group, and MOPAN assessments). <i>Immediate next steps: connect with Bernie Woods/ADB, chair of MDR Group, to enquire about openings/needed work.</i>	Joint analytical work with the MDR Group; possible reflection of effectiveness principles/partner country perspectives in existing assessments (e.g. MOPAN framework)			UNDP (leading on outreach to ADB) MOPAN partner?
Expected Accomplishment 2 A substantive multi-stakeholder contribution on how partners can and do effectively support multilateralism	Indicators (numbers to be inserted) Reference to findings and recommendations in donor reviews of their multilateral undertakings Media coverage of award / 'champions' Contribution provided to Global Partnership monitoring reform			
Supporting activities	Outputs	Indicative Budget		
i) Overview of governance and accountability mechanisms and current initiatives toward an effective multilateral system as driven by bilateral donors and participants (e.g. DAC Peer Reviews, OECD Multilateral Development Finance Report, forthcoming) <i>Immediate next step: Desk review of existing analytical work.</i>	TBD			
ii) Identifying and recognizing 'champions' among those partners that support multilateralism; those driving efforts to work multilaterally and create new policy space for new approaches.	Establishment of an award for multilateral 'champions' on annual/biennial basis			UNDP (to connect to EOSG and DCO) Identify media partner

<p><i>Immediate next steps: Engage EOSG/75th anniversary team, as well as UNDP leadership, DCO and others, present initial thinking around an award for champions/custodians/guardians of multilateralism, taking a cue from the effectiveness principles.</i></p>				
<p>iii) Contribute reflections and proposals on how the effectiveness of bilateral support to and through multilateral can be measured and monitored, feeding into work under Strategic Priority 3, <i>'Leveraging monitoring into action'</i></p>	<p>Contribution to the Global Partnership monitoring reform on how to measure and monitor bilateral support to and through multilateral system</p>			<p>Sweden Switzerland (as current co-chair engaged in monitoring reform) Bangladesh (as current co-chair)</p>