



Africa's Political Priorities and Position Towards Effective Development Cooperation Summit (3rd High Level Meeting-HLM)

Background

Since its inception in 2012, Africa through AUDA/NEPAD has created mechanisms, structures and processes for effective coordination and facilitation of the Continent's voice in the GPEDC's effectiveness agenda. Under the development effectiveness ecosystem, African countries have participated in all the HLMs as one bloc.

The forthcoming 3rd High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership (HLM3) to be held in Geneva Switzerland will take place at the midpoint of Agenda 2030 implementation and the commencement of the Second Ten Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063. This is therefore a moment of great opportunity for Africa to engage in a global collective effort of recovery from challenges of thus far and recreate a future that hold promise and potential for the world.

Africa's priorities, experiences and recommendations on how the development community can work together to promote development cooperation and strengthen the effectiveness of partnerships should inform the future of GPEDC.

Africa has reflected on the direction of reforms necessary to make GPEDC more user-friendly, impactful, and result-oriented in the current context of multiple crises. The following are some of the critical areas of concern that require the attention of all stakeholders:

Africa's Development Effectiveness Priorities for HLM 3

Africa's post-COVID-19 Recovery

The current multiple global crises continue to severely strain African economies, undermining all the social and economic sectors thus jeopardizing long-term development goals, including reducing earnings and increasing poverty and food insecurity. The forthcoming High-level summit presents an opportunity for the GPEDC to take appropriate measures necessary to help economies rebound and keep the transformation agenda on track. In this regard, a comprehensive approach is needed to help the continent recover and bring back its transformative agenda. Africa thus seeks to engage its development partners in a post-covid recovery framework that targets all sectors of the economy as a priority. The continent particularly seeks development partners to strengthen

its response capacity to future pandemics through targeted training, innovation, and digitalization. Africa seeks from its partners the development of relevant health infrastructure and increased provision and access to technology for vaccine production.

Domestic Resource Mobilization and Management

African governments are already taking measures to expand fiscal space, by reallocating budget resources to critical social and productive economic sectors. The present multiple global crises provide an opportunity to enact crucial measures to better manage and mobilize resources. Africa will continue to focus on increasing its productivity through value addition in extractive industries and strengthen its human resource base to respond to the current development challenges. We will strengthen our investment in human resource planning to support the development of critical skills for core growth sector and strategic deployment of critical skills in a manner that enhances productivity across the continent

Africa governments will invest in tax reform system that will seal the tax loopholes and eliminate some exemptions and concessions, particularly for global corporates. Africa will take measures to prevent tax-base erosion and profit shifting by companies from one jurisdiction to another. In this regard, Africa further take steps to improve enforcement and collections through increased investment in revenue authorities and audit functions.

Development Partners are urged to invest in Africa's efforts through elimination of tax havens in their jurisdiction and provision of technical expertise and technological exchange in support of tax reform and human resource development.

Conflict/Terrorism and Fragility

Violent conflict disruption social life, erodes democratic practice and continues to be a driver of devastating food crises, intense poverty and rising numbers of internally displaced people. Fatalities due to non-state violence are also a concern on the continent.

While effective development co-operation is fundamental in all contexts to achieve lasting development results, it is particularly crucial in fragile situations. Creating a climate of mutual accountability, between the international community and governments, as well as ensuring coherent and coordinated humanitarian development and peace efforts, is an integral part of development effectiveness in fragile contexts. Aid for shorter-term humanitarian action has risen to outweigh development financing, though investment in long-term development has proven effective and saves money.

For Africa, it is important that her development partners move beyond a narrow focus on conflict to consider the other complex risks and root causes of fragility, such as economic and social instability and ecological vulnerabilities. Investments in fragile

contexts must also include support towards national strategies and programs at the country level to accelerate structural transformation

Development and peace actors should respond in a comprehensive way by addressing risks across dimensions of conflict and fragility and not just those solely associated with security. Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus provides the framework for international and local actors to work together towards shared goals and resilience building in conflict and fragile settings.

Innovative Development Financing

The current Official Development Assistance (ODA) levels are far from sufficient to help the continent emerge from the current multiple crisis and finance agenda 2063. Governments in Africa have initiated multiple efforts to find innovative ways to raise additional and alternative sources of development finance to support their national development plans. The increased role for the private sector in development combined with technological progress and innovations in financial engineering provide an opportunity for African governments to mobilize resources from the state, private sector and citizens. In this regard development partners need to simplify procedures, as well as consider other delivery modalities for innovative sources of development finance such as direct budget or sectoral support. Furthermore, there is a need to establish objective and easy-to-understand criteria for access to various sources of innovative finance, as well as to simplify procedures to ensure that smaller and poorer countries of Africa have the capacities to access these resources. Africa calls for regulatory reforms to facilitate access and availability, provision of access to innovative finance information and deepening capacity for public sector investment programs in areas such as PPPs for development impact.

Aid Effectiveness Agenda – The Unfinished business

Much remains to be done to fulfill the commitments made in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Action Agenda, despite their continued relevance to the evolving effective development co-operation agenda. This is especially so, with particular reference to the relevant policy commitments and targets identified in the monitoring framework that were initiated in Paris and Accra. At the second High-Level Meeting held in Nairobi 2016, we committed to develop time-bound action plans in relation to these commitments. Africa acknowledges this bold step and calls for the establishment of a high-level working group to develop a roadmap and time-bound action plan for immediate adoption at the third GPEDC Steering Committee seating after the High-Level Meeting.

Climate Finance

Africa calls for the increase of its capabilities to address adaptation to climate change more effectively, through support to national climate change adaptation programmes. More financial resources are needed in the area of adaptation to climate change which should include a special fund for Africa. Africa calls on development partners to mobilize and provide additional financial resources to Africa for climate-friendly technologies to address both the urgent adaptation and mitigation needs of Africa and other developing countries. On the other hand, Africa will enhance its capacity to participate in the market-based mechanisms to address climate change through strengthening its institutional capacity needs and building a critical mass of experts within Africa in the areas of carbon trade and international climate change negotiation skills.

Leave no One Behind

Africa recognizes that development co-operation must leave no-one behind to be effective. We shall work closely with all our partners to reach the the poorest of the poor, combat discrimination and rising inequalities within and amongst countries and also focus on the root causes on vulnerability and deprivation. Leaving no one behind requires the transformation of deeply rooted systems – economic, social and political, governance structures and business models at all levels, from local to global. Africa's commitment to leave no one behind entails increasing prosperity, and raising public revenue, driving down the cost of access to goods and services, and promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, including through the digital economy for Women, children and youth. Dialogue and partnership between government, the business sector, workers' representatives and other Civil Society Organizations can make this possible. We therefore acknowledge the importance of collaboration to create an enabling environment for the formal and informal development actors in our countries. This is to be complemented by trust-building measures and steps taken by development partners towards their own effectiveness in their development interventions.

Africa's Position on Annex

Global Monitoring

Welcome the work already done and the proposal submitted by the partner countries through consultations with the African technical working group

1. That Africa is to pursue country institutionalization approach of the monitoring process to address the gaps presented by the voluntary nature of the current monitoring framework

2. Monitoring should be anchored in country policy processes/cycles
3. Countries and development partners are to allocate budget and resources towards the monitoring and the dialogue process to strengthen the institutionalization process
4. There must be a global political commitment, especially of development partners to participate in the monitoring in between HLMs even though countries can commence the exercise at different times in order to secure the global nature of monitoring. Countries thus must be locked in within a three-year cycle.
5. GPEDC must commit to digitization of the monitoring infrastructure and instruments
6. There should be no renegotiations on the unfinished business agenda – Focus should be on fast tracking implementation
 - a. **Transparency:** Use of country systems as default option and definition of Country systems to remain as previously agreed on. The definition of country systems means partner country systems and cannot imply provider's system.
 - b. **Data and Statistical Systems:** Need for deepening digital investments for tracking and reporting on Development Effectiveness. Strengthen National Statistical systems for data collection for effective monitoring
 - c. **Tied Aid:** A call for more untying of Aid. For already negotiated projects, need to improve **transparency and accountability** of existing Tied Aid, **ensure local content** in staffing and procurement which ensures technology transfer and sustainable development.
7. The elements to be included in the Development Partners profiles need to be fully agreed on.
8. Global accountability is not properly addressed with the burden left to JST and SC

Governance

New Delivery Model

A new delivery model should embody reforms necessary to make GPEDC more user-friendly to all stakeholders. It should have a clearly defined and well-resourced delivery model and programs for all stakeholders and at national, regional and global level. For Africa this means that the new model must seek the realization of GPEDC's intended impact which is behavior change at the national and local level.

Behavior changes at the national level by development partners require both political mobilization and policy reforms to empower field offices to take necessary steps to increase country ownership by governments. It is therefore critical that the effectiveness agenda is given the highest political consideration by our partners to guarantee the political support for the reforms. It is also critical that the delivery model outlines the

resource needs beyond the current Joint Support Team funding. Development partners and other stakeholders of GPEDC should explore modalities of funding to mobilize resources for Global, regional and national initiatives.

The governance model should not only be embedded in the member states but also in regional organisations that have been mandated to oversee the implementation of the partnership at the regional level. In this regard, the governance structure and the delivery model must also reflect regional parties to the GPEDC. The delivery model must also seek regional approach in its implementation.

Issues for the New Delivery Model

- There should be **Balance** between reviewing progress in implementing commitments and addressing emerging development Effectiveness challenges – The primacy of country level Development Effectiveness challenges must be emphasized in the context of development Effectiveness. The new delivery model should be flexible and informed by issues arising from country level implementation
- **New Emerging issues:** Africa supports the space created for emerging issues a framework should be designed for processing and alignment with GPEDC ecosystem to facilitate policy coherence.
- **Global light, country focused:** Strongly support country heavy and global light; the new model should play a role in ensuring broader country level accountability. Resource distribution should follow the structural framework.
- Africa recognizes the important role of **regional platforms** in political mobilization, capacity building and, knowledge exchange and peer to peer learning
- Support to **capacity development:** Need to identify the capacity that is required to decentralize work to support the monitoring of implementation to country level institutions

Regional Dimension in the GPEDC Delivery Model and Ecosystem

Regional organizations have the Political mandate and convening power to drive continental and regional priority setting, promoting knowledge sharing and peer learning as well as policy coherence and harmonization at national, Regional and continental levels. They are also crucial in the implementation of broader policy coherence issues. They have the potential of bringing the regional development effectiveness indicators in line with the regional development agenda for example the agenda 2063. At the same time, they are effective structures for maintaining and

strengthening political momentum for the implementation of the GPEDC programs and initiatives at the regional level. This is particularly in the following areas

- Supporting the monitoring of Indicators for development at the regional level, cross cutting indicators and broader policy coherence issues.
- Decentralize the JST work to support the monitoring of progress towards GPEDC implementation at the regional level.
- Organize, support and enable regional caucuses in support of the effectiveness agenda

Ways of Working

High Level Meetings

- ***Participation/representation:*** should be up to each country and stakeholder to decide who represents it at the highest level (*preference should be given to those that deal with development cooperation at the national level*)
- ***Chairmanship:*** Each constituency to Elect one of their own as a chair, who should then be the ambassadors of the platform. There should an outlined process but the process should be constituency led
- ***The Co - chair*** should be maintained at the current level of 4
- ***Linkages to other processes:*** GPEDC needs to maintain Close linkages to the FfD process – UN system is credible and legitimate.
- ***HLM periodicity:*** High level meetings should held after 4 years following from global monitoring progress report. GPEDC should be open to other possibilities including SLM for mobilisation for action after 2 years

Functioning and Composition of the Steering Committee

- ***Internal rotation / alternation:*** Africa needs to be permanently represented, ideally as one of the co-chairs and 3 SC members
- SC needs to either be elected or nominated by broader constituency to have ‘ambassador’ function. This process should be outlined but be constituency led.
- ***Steering Committee:*** should serve as an advisory group and not a decision-making organ
- ***Use of expert and constituency knowledge:*** SC should be open to enable inputs from / consultations with developing country forums and initiatives (APDev, Open Forum, CABRI, etc.), parliamentarian and CSO forums
- The SC composition should be inclusive and reflective of both the **member states and regional representation**. This form of representation is not only ideal

but also reflects in other regional representation such as the European Union Commission and its member state.

The Joint Support Team

The composition of the JST should reflect the face of the GPEDC. Current composition reflects multilateral institutions and development partners composition without regional or country experiences. In providing effective support it is critical that Support provided in the context of the new delivery model reflects the functionality of other elements of the ecosystem. GPEDC should consider decentralisation some of the functions and financial resources to regional platforms that are best placed to play certain roles. This should reduce the pressure on the two current institutions.

Accountability for shared principles and commitments

- ***Focus on commitments and progress at country level:*** It is upon countries to ensure adherence to nationally owned and led agreements for partnership and accountability at the country level
- Indicator 4 to include Development Partners accountability and Development Partners to commit to provide data through partner countries systems to enable comprehensive data for monitoring.
- ***Engagement of emerging donors:*** The recognition of South Co-operation is important, Busan agreements reflects understanding at country level; it is the South - South actors' responsibility, by country and collectively, to engage with emerging donors, and less so through global forums such as GPEDC.

Supporting knowledge sharing and implementation of commitments at country level

- ***Country focus:*** collection and evaluation of information should be led at country level, through development partner progress assessment frameworks, Ministries of Finance/Planning's aid tracking systems and national statistical offices
- ***Regional platforms and continental forums:*** should facilitate knowledge sharing / exchange and peer learning