

CONCEPT NOTE: Spotlight Session 13

Spotlight Session 13: Country Experiences from Action Dialogues on how to improve the effectiveness of development cooperation

Wednesday, 14 December 2022, 10:00hrs to 11:00hrs (CET)

Background

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires scaling up effective co-operation and partnerships across public, private, international and national stakeholders. In this context, the four principles for effective development co-operation – country ownership, inclusive partnerships, focus on results, and transparency and mutual accountability, are of critical importance.

An Action Dialogue is a multi-stakeholder dialogue at the country level, which aims to build a shared understanding and agree on concrete steps to strengthen effectiveness of co-operation and partnerships. It is a dialogue (or a series of dialogues) led by a partner country government as a means to engage with all relevant stakeholders and partners to reflect on the challenges and opportunities for improving effectiveness of development co-operation and partnerships and what collective actions are needed, in a country's own development and partnership context.

Action Dialogues support partner countries and development actors to agree on concrete steps and generate political buy-in for joint actions to strengthen the effectiveness of co-operation and partnerships, by drawing on commitments based on the four effectiveness principles to guide how stakeholders better can partner together in support of nationally expressed development priorities, building on evidence from the Global Partnership monitoring rounds (where available).

Action Dialogues can stimulate reflections on:

- Understanding national priorities and the state of effective development co-operation at the country level, based on evidence-based assessments of the challenges of the evolving development co-operation and partnership landscape (e.g., new partners, with a much larger extent of private sector and civil society engagement, new/aggravated challenges in times of COVID-19, challenging development financing contexts and national development goals, etc.)
- Key opportunities for leveraging the effectiveness principles to drive development co-operation efforts and cultivate stronger and more inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships.
- Opportunities and actions needed to increase the effectiveness of co-operation and partnerships to deliver sustainable development impact, including against the backdrop of climate change, pollution and loss of biodiversity.
- Identify key issues that require multi-stakeholder collaboration.
- In the longer term, the outcomes of Action Dialogues are intended to promote policy, system, and behavioural changes, as an integral part of the cycle to advance the effectiveness of development co-operation.

Purpose of the Spotlight Session

The session aims to share countries' experiences on Action Dialogues, reflecting on the key outcomes and focusing on how inclusive and multi-stakeholder dialogues can help to enhance effectiveness in development co-operation at country level, and the implementation of the outcomes of country dialogues into the reality of development cooperation.

CONCEPT NOTE: Spotlight Session 13

Currently, 14 countries have held their Action Dialogue on Effective Development Co-operation. These are: Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Lao PDR, Liberia, Indonesia, Peru, Rwanda, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Paraguay and Bangladesh. In this context, the purpose of the session is to provide a space to share their best practices and lessons learned from implementing their Action Dialogues for Effective Development Co-operation.

Objectives of the session

- Present an overview of the Action Dialogues held in 2021-2022.
- Share countries' experiences on Action Dialogues, reflecting on the key outcomes of those dialogues, focusing on how they can help to enhance effectiveness in development co-operation at country level, and how they have been translated into practical work of Government and development partners.
- Discuss the relevance of Action Dialogues to better coordinate partnerships and collective efforts to effectively address common development challenges and accelerate progress in advancing SDG's actions contextualized to the country's development priorities.
- Share best practices and lessons learned with a view to stimulate partner countries to implement their Action Dialogue in the way forward.
- Discuss examples of development cooperation that followed the implementation modalities of the action dialogue outcomes.
- Elaborate on the relevance of conducting inclusive and multi-stakeholder dialogues in the context of the new monitoring exercise with a focus on the Reflection, Dialogue and Action phase of the new monitoring framework.

Expected outcomes

- Generate momentum to stimulate an increased implementation of Action Dialogues going forward.
- Gain knowledge with regards to opportunities presented by Action Dialogues to advance on substantive issues, including through South-South and Triangular Cooperation, Private Sector and Civil Society engagement, Leaving No One Behind, Partnerships Building, Financing for development, and other critical components to enhance the effectiveness of development co-operation.
- Raise awareness around the new monitoring exercise, with a focus on the Reflection, Dialogue and Action phase.

Sources of evidence

- Experiences from countries that have implemented their Action Dialogue in 2021-2022 and outcomes of such country dialogues.
- Country reports and outcome documents stemmed from the implementation of [Action Dialogues](#) during 2021-2022.
- [GPEDC Special Report 2022](#) 'Rebuilding Trust through Effective Development Co-operation'

CONCEPT NOTE: Spotlight Session 13

Format

A hybrid 60-minute Panel constituted by representatives of 4 partner countries that have held an Action Dialogue between 2021-2022, and a representative of civil society, including a 15-minute segment for interventions from the floor. Panel interventions are to be based on presentations by each representative designed to share their experiences, best practices and lessons learned from having implemented an inclusive, multi-stakeholder and country-led Action Dialogue. Focus will be on deliberating on how action dialogues can serve to advance on multi-stakeholder partnerships and more effective development cooperation.

Annex: Guiding questions to be considered for the panel discussion:

- A. Could you elaborate on the Action Dialogues that recently took place in your countries and on the outcomes of those multi-stakeholder discussions?
- B. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs have highlighted the need for a significant transformation in how governments and development actors work together. Furthermore, in a context of post-pandemic recovery, the climate emergency and pronounced socioeconomic shocks, there is a pressing need for multi-stakeholder partnerships that are based on trust to regain traction on the 2030 Agenda progress. In this context, in which way did your Action Dialogue help to take forward some of the most pressing issues in development in a multi-stakeholder forum? Were there concrete instances of joint efforts, advocacy, programmes and/or projects?
- C. How did the action dialogue contribute to steering development co-operation activities and development coordination mechanisms towards contributing to national development priorities, and how their contributions are measured against national, sectoral and/or sub-national development plans and priorities?
- D. How did your action dialogue contribute to build inclusive and effective partnerships engaging actors beyond Government and the Development Partner community, such as local governments, parliaments, CSOs, private sector, trade unions, academia, foundations, or others? How will inclusivity be taken forward when working together in effective multi-stakeholder partnerships?
- E. What are the benefits and lessons learned of a multi-stakeholder action dialogue that you would like to highlight? Would you like to share some of your next steps in taking forward the results of your action dialogue, highlighting some examples of how your dialogue translated into concrete actions? And/or how the action dialogue reflected, analysed or followed-up on the results of the GPEDC Monitoring Exercise of your country (*if that was the case*)?

Session Focal Points:

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