To: Ministers and Heads of organisations endorsing the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (all)

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to inform you that the government of Mexico has offered to host the first ever full meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation in the first half of 2014. This meeting will provide an excellent opportunity for us all to come together to review progress and identify further opportunities to improve our development co-operation. We are committed to working with Mexico to organise a dynamic and engaging meeting that delivers real action to make development co-operation on the ground more effective and provides a valuable contribution to the emerging post-2015 development agenda.

Last month, the Global Partnership’s Steering Committee held its third meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. We are grateful to our hosts, the African Union, for their warm hospitality. The meeting affirmed that effective development cooperation is a high priority on the African continent, and a high level event organized by the AU highlighted the importance of domestic resource mobilization for Africa and the wide range of work being done in this area. In addition to the AU, we also enjoyed the participation of several other observers including representatives of the Arab donor Coordination Group, Brazil, China, South Africa, Turkey and foundations.

The Steering Committee endorsed the broad elements of the political vision and agenda for the first full meeting: reviewing progress on our commitments on effective development cooperation, including inclusive development; and advancing discussions on several specific themes that relate to a framework for development cooperation and ending aid dependency in a post-2015 world: partnering for effective taxation and domestic resource mobilization; promoting effective knowledge-sharing for development; and enhancing the role of business in development. Going forward, we will each champion one of these elements. We will be organizing side events on domestic resource mobilization at the UN General Assembly in September; and on knowledge-sharing at the World Bank/IMF annual meetings in October and will explore opportunities for further preparatory events, which we hope you will endeavour to participate in and/or watch online.

In addition, the Steering Committee welcomed the proposal by Mexico – a middle-income country that is both a provider and recipient of development co-operation – to strengthen the focus on development co-operation in and with middle income countries, and South-South and triangular co-operation, in the agenda for next year’s meeting.
We also discussed the evidence we will need in order to examine how far we have come in implementing the commitments made in Busan. A central piece of this evidence will be the global monitoring exercise that is now underway in over 45 countries. While voluntary, we urge those countries that have not yet done so to consider participating, and we seek the active co-operation of all development partners – whether from the OECD or Gulf, emerging economies, foundations or civil society organisations – to support this exercise. We heard the call for more time to submit data, and have agreed that the deadline for submission will now be 31 October 2013. Please contact monitoring@effectivecooperation.org for further information.

Moving forward, we agreed on the need for wider consultations on the substantive areas described above between now and October, when we plan to hold our next Steering Committee meeting. We were impressed by the number of opportunities for consultation that Steering Committee members outlined during our meeting, and the links that are being built with a number of the building blocks and the UN Development Cooperation Forum. We welcome these developments, and look forward to hearing back from members on these meetings, and have asked the support team to make a simple form/survey available to assist with collating feedback. In addition, we will endeavour to enable online consultation over this period, for those who are unable to make face-to-face meetings and to minimise our carbon footprint. The partnership’s online community space can facilitate these consultations, and we have attached a brief note on how it can be used. This phase will allow us to prepare a final agenda and organize even further consultation and outreach. A summary of the Addis Ababa meeting will be circulated shortly.

Nevertheless, there will be a great deal more to come as we approach this first major meeting. This will require resources for the Partnership’s support team, which currently faces a major funding gap. We would urge those in a position to do so to provide resources to support this work. The report attached offers an overview of achievements supported over the last year, and details resource needs by both organisations for the next 18 months.

We count on the support of all of you to help deliver a successful first meeting that sustains momentum for improving the effectiveness of our development cooperation as we approach 2015. In particular, we urge you to continue sharing your views with us and with the relevant members of the Steering Committee as we approach this critical milestone.

Yours sincerely,

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