



**Global  
Partnership**  
for Effective Development  
Co-operation

# What contributions will the GPEDC make to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

Global Partnership Steering Committee meeting  
29 February – 1 March 2015, Lilongwe, Malawi

This document is designed to help guide the work of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation over its next cycle leading up to the second High-Level Meeting. It explores how the GPEDC can help realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SDGs, and commitments encapsulated in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda related to international development cooperation, and will be regularly updated as the work and agenda of the Global Partnership move forward.

This document is shared with Steering Committee members [for information and discussion](#).

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## Background

This paper explores how the GPEDC can help realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SDGs, and commitments encapsulated in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda related to international development cooperation. It builds on the discussion held in the 8th meeting of the GPEDC Steering Committee in Mexico (3-4 September 2015) as well as the 2015 Busan Global Partnership Forum in Seoul hosted by the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs (23-24 November 2015). It will inform a discussion among Steering Committee members at their 9th meeting in Malawi (29 February – 1 March 2016) to agree on concrete GPEDC contributions. Deliberations in Malawi will also be informed by a revised GPEDC political roadmap to prepare engagement at the Second High-level Meeting of the GPEDC (HLM-2), a discussion paper on the future GPEDC mandate and a summary of discussions at the Monitoring Advisory Group related to the future of the GPEDC Monitoring Framework, which should be read in conjunction with this document.

### Part I: Structure of the paper

Part II will provide the overall context by recalling the ambition of the 2030 Agenda and its implications for development cooperation. Part III will briefly outline global arrangements for follow-up, review and implementation and situate, within this context, ongoing efforts of the GPEDC. Part IV will identify areas where the GPEDC has a comparative advantage to support implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda. It suggests strategic priorities for the focus of GPEDC work going forward, cognizant of potential synergies and areas of overlap with the work of other bodies or functions. Part V concludes with specific practical suggestions to strategically position the GPEDC and make further progress on existing contributions and efforts to initiate new ones.

### Part II: The new sustainable development agenda and effective development cooperation<sup>1</sup>

All countries and all stakeholders have committed to implementing the 2030 agenda for sustainable development and the SDGs. The universal nature of the global agenda offers an unprecedented opportunity to eliminate poverty and address inequality, social exclusion, lack of economic growth and environmental challenges. It is a people-centred plan of action that addresses all three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental.

A dynamic and reinvigorated global partnership for sustainable development, supported by the concrete policies and actions outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is needed to mobilize the financial and other resources – domestic and external–needed to deliver on this ambitious plan. Related commitments are reflected in the means of implementation spread across the SDGs and need to be mobilized from the broadest possible selection of sources.

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<sup>1</sup> Effective development co-operation, as a term, goes beyond ODA and captures aid and development effectiveness issues related to all types of development co-operation – financial and non-financial, public and private. It relates directly to the development cooperation effectiveness principles included in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in OP 58.

International development cooperation is increasingly important, especially if conceived in its full depth and breadth as a multi-faceted system of public and private actors, combining financial resources, capacity building, knowledge and technology transfer and policy and normative guidance.

Domestic resources mobilisation remains the most sustainable form of financing to achieve the SDGs. ODA is one important part of the answer to deliver on the SDGs and will remain critical to reaching the poorest and the most vulnerable. At the same time other forms of development cooperation – including South-South Cooperation and private, philanthropic and blended finance – are growing in importance, while remittances, knowledge and expertise, trade and other forms of financing for development are crucial as well.

The 2030 Agenda emphasizes enhanced development cooperation as key to eradicating poverty in all its dimensions. Together with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), it reaffirms and reinforces at least four objectives for effective development cooperation, positioning it firmly as a critical success factor for SDG implementation:

- ***A common ambition to maximize the quality, impact, and effectiveness of development cooperation, and the effective use of development finance:*** The AAAA renewed and further reinforced a call to implement development cooperation effectiveness principles at country level – including through the GPEDC. Ensuring effective use of policies and resources needed to implement the SDGs will strengthen their development impact and help make the case for their mobilization.<sup>2</sup>
- ***New ways of actively working together among all relevant actors in line with their capabilities, strengths and needs:*** Multi-stakeholder partnerships, involving the increasingly diverse group of development cooperation actors are a vital tool for effective SDG implementation, especially in developing countries. International development cooperation has a role to play in promoting inclusive partnerships and supporting an enabling environment, where actors complement each other's efforts, and helping to mitigate the risk of high transaction costs in partnerships through a more harmonized process of working together.<sup>3</sup> Partnerships must support country ownership and be aligned with national policies and priorities to support implementation of the SDGs. This calls for more transparent and accountable actions of all stakeholders in partnerships.
- ***Broad-based country ownership is key to effective development co-operation:*** National ownership and leadership permeate throughout the 2030 Agenda, which is genuinely people-centred, and the AAAA. Governments and their stakeholders were encouraged to prepare SDG needs assessments and mobilize and effectively use domestic resources. Governments also committed to promote country ownership in development cooperation. The 2030 Agenda also sets out a target to respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement development policies.<sup>4</sup>
- ***Sharing of knowledge, best practices and lessons learned to foster effective development co-operation:*** The 2030 Agenda notes the importance of processes

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<sup>2</sup> See SDG Targets 17.1-3, 17.16, and AAA Para 58.

<sup>3</sup> See, for example, SDG Targets 17.16 and 17.17, as well as AAAA Paras 10, 42, 46, 48 – and 58 in particular for development cooperation.

<sup>4</sup> See SDG Target 17.15, 2030 Agenda Para 66, and AAAA Paras 20, 58, 74 and 127, among others.

to facilitate the availability of appropriate knowledge, including overcoming shared challenges and identify new and emerging issues.

- **High-quality, relevant and timely data supports robust monitoring, and review of progress made:** Living up to global promises requires participatory, transparent and integrated follow-up and review of progress, underpinned by timely and accurate information. Enhanced availability of information on development activities can enhance synergies among all actors. This is key to promoting ownership by all stakeholders and accountability to citizens and supporting effective international cooperation in achieving the 2030 Agenda.<sup>5</sup>

### Part III: Global follow-up and review arrangements

Member States have committed to reviewing progress made in implementing the SDGs and their targets. This includes a range of financial and non-financial development cooperation commitments, captured under SDG 17, as well as individual substantive goals.

While modalities are still under discussion, the global arrangements for follow-up and review include the following mechanisms, to which the GPEDC can contribute evidence from implementation efforts:

- A **global indicator framework** will be considered by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2016. Indicators for some relevant targets (including 17.16) remain under discussion.
- The annual **United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)** is at the centre of a network of follow-up and voluntary, state-led and thematic review at global level on SDG implementation. It will be informed by an [SDG Progress Report](#) and it is proposed that the HLPF dedicate one day during each session to SDG 17 and other inputs related to the implementation of the AAAA. The discussion on means of implementation will thereby have strong weight and inform the debate on different substantive goals in the HLPF. The GPEDC should ensure annual inputs from monitoring, implementation and policy dialogue to HLPF preparations.
- A series of forums of the **United Nations Economic and Social Council** will review aspects of Means of Implementation and contribute to discussion at the HLPF:
  - The **Forum for Financing for Development** Follow-up will identify obstacles and challenges to the implementation of the FfD outcomes, and the delivery of the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It will be informed by [a report on progress in achieving SDG 17 and Means of Implementation](#) prepared by an Inter-Agency Task Force. The GPEDC should make specific inputs from monitoring, implementation and policy dialogue to the Forum's annual deliberations and the report on progress by the inter-agency task force.
  - The biennial **Development Cooperation Forum (DCF)** continues to review trends and progress in, and encourage discussion around, the future

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<sup>5</sup> See, for example, SDG Targets 17.18 and 17.19 as well as AAAA Para 125.

of international development cooperation, while promoting greater coherence in development policy and among partners. Within the United Nations system, the DCF has been reaffirmed as designated focal point to carry out a holistic consideration of issues related to international development cooperation, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders. It is informed by a United Nations Secretary-General's report on trends in international development cooperation.

- The **Partnership Forum** will review the role of partnerships in the new agenda. The GPEDC can use the outcomes of this forum to generate action for increasing the effectiveness of partnerships.

#### Part IV:

#### GPEDC contributions to implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda

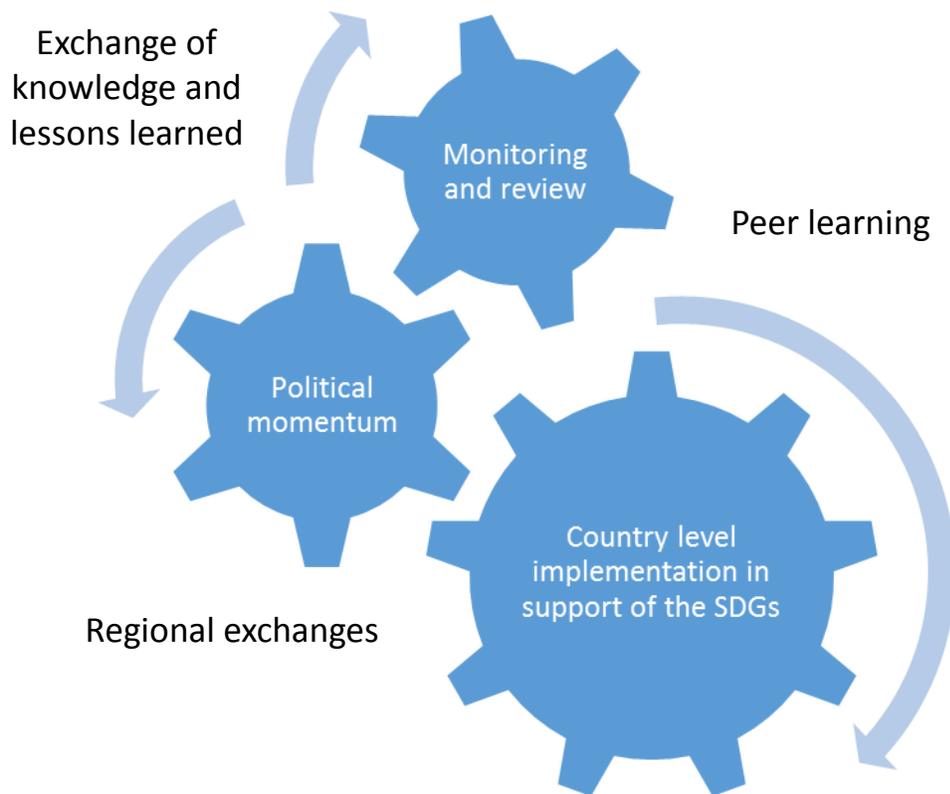
The GPEDC is a global multi-stakeholder partnership that drives greater effectiveness, quality and impact of all types of development cooperation to help all actors realize the 2030 Agenda.

The GPEDC has been set up to ensure accountability for the implementation of effective development cooperation commitments at the political level. It regularly takes stock of implementation of principles of effective development co-operation and provides a unique space for all development cooperation actors to engage in evidence-based discussion on how to improve the effectiveness, quality and impact of development cooperation in support of SDG implementation. Its work is underpinned by the view that real change in the behaviour of development actors is key to achieving sustainable development results, including the SDGs, and helps advance the mobilization of all resources needed to achieve global development priorities.

The focus of work of the GPEDC needs to enable stakeholders to realize the 2030 Agenda. The demands to mobilize and effectively use development cooperation in all its forms are increasing and the GPEDC has a comparative advantage to credibly lead efforts to promote three interrelated objectives to contribute to SDG implementation: monitoring and policy review of effective development cooperation; ensuring political momentum for more effective development cooperation; and support for country-level implementation of effective development cooperation. All three objectives should be reinforcing and underpinned by knowledge exchange and learning through GPIs and other relevant partners. (See graphic next page).

Achieving HLM-2 in November 2016 will set the stage for the realization of these medium-term objectives. It will: (i) take stock of implementation of principles of effective development co-operation; (ii) identify and help scale up initiatives and innovative approaches to development; (iii) serve as learning space; and (iv) aim to position the GPEDC as a centre of excellence for development effectiveness, providing a significant contribution to the implementation of the SDGs and the AAAA.

GPEDC co-Chairs, the Steering Committee and the JST can support the three core competencies in numerous ways. Any effort should be part of a coherent, overall strategy that should be informed by the following proposals and further discussion among Steering Committee members in Malawi:



## 1) MONITORING AND POLICY REVIEW OF EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION

The GPEDC will continue to produce unique evidence on the implementation of the principles of effective development co-operation and in promoting effective partnerships for development. At the same time, it will facilitate inclusive, open discussion on how to broaden monitoring and review of effective development cooperation in all its dimensions to better cater to the challenges and needs of the broader range of development cooperation actors. HLM-2 provides an opportunity to agree on a way forward in updating the future monitoring framework of GPEDC to contribute to SDG implementation, as well as launch or advance work to provide complimentary evidence and assessment of effectiveness.

### *SPECIFIC NEXT STEPS*

- **Provide distinct, independent information to global follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda on implementation of SDG 17 and the AAAA.**
  - Produce evidence, drawing on the monitoring exercise and qualitative information from country-level implementation including from GPIs, of progress, challenges and good practices in the areas of: making development cooperation more effective (SDG Targets 17.1-3, 17.16 and AAAA para 58); supporting country ownership of

development (SDG Target 17.15, AAA Para 58, 740; contribution of multi-stakeholder partnerships (SDG Target 17.16, 17.17); and availability and quality of data on development cooperation (SDG Target 17.18). Depending on the scope of the future monitoring, it may be considered to adjust the monitoring cycles to ensure timely data that can maximize contribution to the review of progress on SDGs and means of implementation, by informing HLPF, FFD Follow-up Forum and DCF preparations. Qualitative information from national and regional level will need to be channeled into these inputs as well. It could be considered to issue a regular report with findings, related to priority areas at the heart of GPEDC mandate.

- Inform analytical work in run up to annual FFD Follow-up Forum and HLPF on SDG indicator 17.16 (TBC) and/or other SDG indicators related to means of implementation, where complementary evidence will be useful.<sup>6</sup>
  - Provide monitoring findings to Secretary-General's report of DCF on global trends in development cooperation and other relevant SG's reports.
  - Share experiences from GPEDC monitoring with broader SDG monitoring efforts (methodology, challenges, adherence to global principles etc.) and with developing countries to strengthen country-led accountability, planning and dialogue tools in development co-operation.
- **Refine substantive focus and roll-out of GPEDC monitoring and review efforts**
    - Building on outcome of analysis performed by the Monitoring Advisory Group (i.e. Track 3 in their work plan), and based on broad-based *ex-ante* consultation, support the endorsement of revised monitoring framework<sup>7</sup> in preparation of and during HLM-2.
    - Identify ways to continuously enhance the evidence base on the effectiveness of development co-operation.
    - Seek enhanced streamlining of monitoring roll-out with national SDG reporting and DCF Mutual Accountability Survey.

## **2) SUSTAINING POLITICAL MOMENTUM FOR MORE EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION**

The GPEDC will support stakeholders at all levels to translate global principles of effective development co-operation and related commitments into tangible development results. Through its existing structures, the GPEDC will continue to regularly engage all stakeholders at high level to demonstrate progress, reaffirm commitments and identify roadblocks and new opportunities. Closely linked to the monitoring and country-level implementation work, sustaining political momentum among all stakeholders at highest level will be critical to ensuring progress on effectiveness issues. This includes informed and inclusive policy support and dialogue on how to assist a broader range of players in translating the principles of effective development co-operation into action for various forms of cooperation (e.g. ODA, SSC, private cooperation) and for promoting effective partnerships between

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<sup>6</sup> This is subject to the outcome of deliberations by the Monitoring Advisory Group. Focus could be placed, for example, on the quality and impact of finance to sectoral SDGs.

<sup>7</sup> A revised set of indicators and their associated measurement methodology may be worked out after the HLM 2 providing the endorsement for the overall revised monitoring framework's scope and approach.

actors. It also requires effective communication, advocacy and knowledge sharing, as well as substantive and organizational support to produce decisions and follow-up actions.

### **SPECIFIC NEXT STEPS**

- **Help Agree on an agenda for HLM-2 that helps rally support at highest level**
- **Support and intensify evidence-based dialogue on the implementation of principles of effective development co-operation of all development actors**
  - Garner views among different GPEDC stakeholder of how to operationalize principles of effective development co-operation to feed into the HLM2 discussion and outcome.
  - Encourage dialogue between development partners at country, regional, and global level on progress and challenges in implementing principles of effective development co-operation.
  - Encourage parliamentarian organizations, the range of global stakeholder associations, independent researchers and other non-governmental stakeholders to attend High-level Meetings and preparations and inform high quality technical policy dialogue.
  - Encourage regional platforms and organizations affiliated with GPEDC to mainstream findings from country-level implementation and experience into their policy dialogue on effective development co-operation.
- **Mainstream principles of effective development co-operation into FFD follow-up, DCF and HLPF discussions**
  - Encourage scheduling of GPEDC High Level Meetings to maximize contribution to 2030 Agenda review, and particularly the HLPF meetings at level of Heads of State and Government every four years. This might including the option of holding the HLM every four years; as well as scheduling intermediate “global meetings” at lower level to advance contributions on specific topics, and could build on annual Global Partnership workshop in Korea.
  - Encourage reference to quality, impact and effectiveness of development cooperation – including reference to principles of effective development co-operation - in statements and outcomes of HLPF, FFD Forum, DCF, and Partnerships Forum.
  - Distil key lessons from GPEDC’s country level work, including from the GPIs, to inform FFD Forum, HLPF, DCF and Partnerships Forum, including through their relevant reports.
- **Facilitate an open discussion on the future mandate and working arrangements**
  - Finalize the discussion paper on GPEDC mandate and working arrangements.
  - Consult among all stakeholders, spearheaded by Co-Chairs and SC members in time for 10<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting and HLM-2.

- Agree on future mandate and working arrangements, to be considered at the 10th Steering Committee meeting (July 2015) and through the Outcome Document process, and to be endorsed at the HLM-2.
- **Continue to strengthen the relationship with the UN Development Cooperation Forum**
  - Sharing and strengthening analysis and participation
    - Make available any preliminary findings of GPEDC monitoring and complementary qualitative evidence to UNDESA for inclusion in the UN Secretary General's report on trends in international development cooperation (due in April 2016).
    - Encourage greater alignment of GPEDC monitoring and DCF Mutual Accountability Survey by synchronizing or joining roll-out and dialogue around data collected.
    - Regularly share updates on knowledge products in planning stage.
    - Coordination and mutual engagement in events.
    - Exchanges among Secretariats.

### 3) SUPPORT COUNTRY-LEVEL IMPLEMENTATION

The GPEDC can provide targeted support to country-level implementation, including through policy advice, knowledge sharing support for country-level implementation and to help countries with setting up or strengthening multi-stakeholder dialogue. These efforts can draw on the work of the GPs and other member-led efforts. This should be needs based and focus on specific actions which will accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It is well placed to share knowledge and lessons on successful and unsuccessful practice and innovative approaches within and between groups of stakeholders. This can support broader adoption and scaling up of good practice in making development co-operation more effective. HLM-2 is an important opportunity to showcase current best practice/innovation in country-level implementation through Global Partnership Initiatives (GPIs) and other initiatives at all levels.

#### *SPECIFIC NEXT STEPS*

- **Use GPEDC monitoring results to support country-level dialogue and implementation between partners.**
  - Work with countries to strengthen mechanisms/set up a process for drawing on the monitoring results to advance implementation and more informed policy dialogue on the ground.
- **Pilot GPEDC support to multi-stakeholder dialogue on development cooperation at country level.**

- **Facilitate mutual learning among countries and stakeholders through a strengthened mechanism for knowledge sharing<sup>8</sup> as well as regional meetings supported by regional bodies and organisations.**
  - Consult independent sources of evidence on country level progress, including regional and international monitoring and accountability mechanisms and reports.
  - Support countries sharing stories of progress, results, country cases studies and evidence on successful and unsuccessful practices.
  - Create mechanisms for knowledge to be shared in a more “organic” way, where all GPEDC stakeholders are actively engaged as “producers” and “consumers” of knowledge.
  
- **Leverage impact of GPIs**
  - Expand incentives for GPI stakeholders to increase alignment of activities with broader GPEDC activities and to share knowledge and report on progress.
  - Enhance efforts to generate new and relevant GPIs and streamline existing GPIs
  - Create stronger links with country-level actors engaged in GPIs in order to increase their relevance and effectiveness.

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<sup>8</sup> This is currently being prepared by the Working Group on Knowledge Hub for consideration by the Steering Committee.