

# The GPEDC Working Group on Country-Level Implementation of Development Effectiveness Principles

Preliminary discussion and the next steps

## Background

The Steering Committee meeting in Mexico (3-4 September 2015) identified GPEDC's country focused, multi-stakeholder approach as a key strength in accelerating country-level progress against the principles of effective development cooperation (EDC) and contribution towards the SDG agenda promoting actions and accountability for maximizing development impacts.

The GPEDC Working Group on Country-Level Implementation of EDC Principles is set out to review and provide recommendations on how the GPEDC can better support progress of development effectiveness principles at country-level and strengthen in-country multi-stakeholder platforms in support of SDGs implementation.

The working group on country level implementation established in December 2015 is led by the European Commission and consists of the following members:

<b>Entity</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>
AWEPA	Jeff Balch	Director of Research and Evaluation	The Association of European Parliamentarians with Africa
CPDE Co-Chair	Jorge Balbis	Executive Secretary	Asociación Latinoamericana de Organizaciones de Promoción al Desarrollo (ALOP)
EU	Katarina Tafvelin	Policy Officer	European Commission
IPU	Alessandro Motter	Senior Advisor, Economic and Social Affairs	Inter-Parliamentary Union
ITUC/TUAC	Matt Simonds	Liaison Officer	Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC)
Madagascar	Isaora Romalahy	Head of the Aid Coordination Permanent Secretariat	Office of the Prime Minister
Samoa	Noumea Simi	Assistant CEO	Ministry of Finance
UCLG / FOGAR	Renske Steenbergen	Project Manager	VNG International

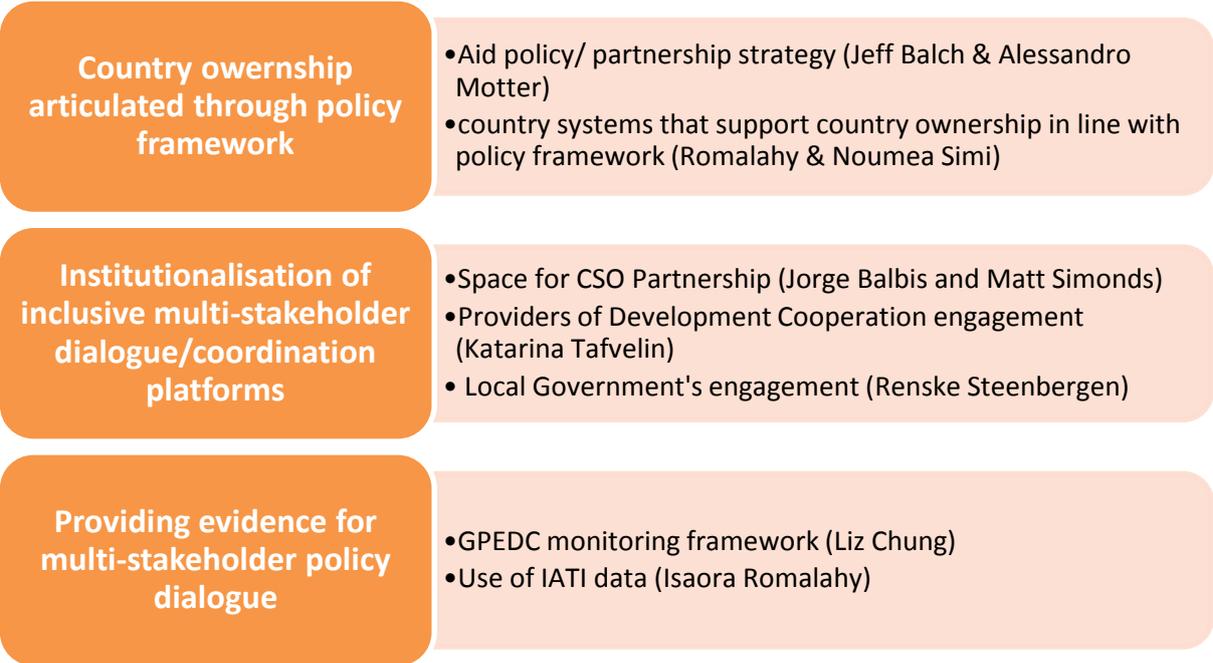
Support is provided by Global Policy Advisor, Yuko Suzuki Naab and Policy Consultant, Liz Chung from the Joint Support Team.

## State of Play and Way Forward

The work of the group is still in its initial phase. A written exchange of ideas has taken place around the members' experiences from how the on-going monitoring process works in practice at country level from a participant's perspective. The contributions have been circulated in the group and a phone meeting has taken place to discuss the focus areas, methods of work and way forward.

# Overview of GPEDC’s key enablers of EDC progress at the country-level for acceleration of EDC principles and support towards the implementation of the SDGs

The contributions from members highlighted the salient issues which are considered as key enablers that can accelerate implementation of EDC principles. The enablers are categorised as below: The working group will further review core issues so as to identify how these enablers can be strengthened and supported in the context of the 2030 agenda and what specific tools and mechanisms of the GPEDC can support these enablers.



Following is the summary of the contribution from members along the lines of these enablers.

## 1. Country ownership articulated through policy framework

The aid policy/partnership policy ensures development cooperation efforts and commitments are aligned to country’s vision priorities and activities. Existence of an aid or partnership policy that defines a country's development co-operation priorities is essential to the effort of deepening the GPEDC at the country level, as it is a process where all partners are supposed to come together. It also serves as a key policy framework that allows channelling development assistance flows through government budget, as well as coordinate and monitor off-budget flows. A number of countries have been advancing implementation of EDC principles through development of aid policies and partnership strategies. Many of these countries even went further to localise Global Partnership EDC principles in their own country context including Benin (National Development Assistance Policy), Burkina Faso (National Action Plan for Effective Development cooperation), Bangladesh (Joint Cooperation Strategy), Cambodia (Development Cooperation and Partnership Strategy), Ghana (Aid policy), Malawi (Development Cooperation Strategy), Mozambique (international Cooperation Policy), Rwanda (Aid Policy) and Uganda (National Development Plan on Partnership Policy). In addition, the agenda for strengthening country systems and mechanisms and country capacities for managing development cooperation is driven by country ownership. Rwanda implemented Division of Labour to reduce transaction costs, Ghana has developed the

Government of Ghana – Development Partners Compact to manage development flows in the context of lower middle income country status. The working group will look closely at this whole process, identifying gaps, recommending improvements, as well as ways to support uptake in more countries.

From the providers of development cooperation perspective, the EU Joint Programming initiative provides good example of ensuring coherence at policy level through developing a country partnership policy. 55 partner countries, spread across all regions, have been identified as potential candidates for Joint Programming. The majority of these countries are either in the least developed (50%) or lower-middle income group (33%); 50% are classified as fragile states. EU delegations recognise the process to produce positive effects towards development effectiveness. In many cases it is also perceived as promoting intra-EU transparency and cooperation. Joint Programming has improved division of labour and coherence and facilitated coordinated policy dialogue, notably at sector level. Some EU donors use the Joint Strategies as their bilateral programming documents.

## 2. Institutionalisation of multi-stakeholder dialogue/coordination platforms

An ambitious and transformative development agenda requires inclusive multi-stakeholder approach through inclusive dialogue to engage wider range of stakeholders in support of collaboration and coordination of development interventions. More developing country governments are recognizing the usefulness of the dialogue platform created to support the policy dialogue on effective development cooperation and have taken further steps to broaden the participation of non-executive actors such as private sector and CSOs. Other governments have instituted specific dialogue mechanisms to engage specific stakeholder constituencies. The broad based and inclusive dialogue and partnership platform that GPEDC triggered in its monitoring process have been institutionalised through country ownership and it can be further strengthened to serve as key dialogue and coordination platform in support of partnership for SDGs. The inclusiveness is not only limited to CSOs and Private Sector, but may also include foundations, academia, parliamentarians, and trade unions and actors of other types of development finance modalities.

The United Cities and Local Governments is currently gathering results of a global survey on the way in which local government (associations) are being included in the definition, implementation and monitoring of national development strategies. The insights from the online survey and the additional research that UCLG is carrying out in the first semester of 2016 will be taken into account by the working group.



### **3. Providing evidence for dialogue towards progress and change**

In efforts to drive behavioral changes at the country-level, more and more developing countries are making use of evidence created through monitoring exercise as well as aid flows captured through Aid Information Management Systems (AIMS) or the IATI standard in order to better manage development finance and the planning and budgeting process. GPEDC's unique monitoring framework provides evidence for tracking progress against the EDC principles. However, its greater added value lies in creating a space that brings all stakeholders together through the monitoring process which involves data collection, consultation and validation, providing a ground to forge and strengthen partnerships for development. It encourages countries to use the evidence to leverage more effective development cooperation practices that promote country ownership, focus on results, inclusive partnership that in turn increases mutual accountability through transparency. Based on the demand for supporting capacities for country level stakeholders to better make use of the country-level monitoring data, UNDP as part of the OECD/UNDP Joint Support Team will further support producing country profile/pages as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Progress Report. The GPEDC 2<sup>nd</sup> monitoring results analysed within the specific country context can inform the country level dialogue among partners to identify bottlenecks and opportunities for making progress jointly. GPEDC can support use of such data through its monitoring framework and its collaboration with regional platforms is expected to support the analysis at regional level.

AIMS and aid data not only reinforces the government's capacity to plan and allocate budget in a more effective way but also allows stakeholders to use the information published for increased transparency and accountability. The IATI Annual Report 2015 quoted Mohammed Mejbahuddin (Bangladesh): "The key to the sustainability of IATI lies in recipient countries' willingness to use the data in their day-to-day aid management. There is no greater incentive for donors to publish high-quality IATI data than seeing their data being used in public reports, coordination and planning". The group will consider how GPEDC may support increased use of IATI data at country-level. At this point publishers to IATI have delivered significant improvements in the quality of development cooperation data being made available, but this rich source of information still remains to be used in the day-to-day aid management and coordination. The IATI Annual Report 2015 will serve as our reference guide.

#### **Possible approach and next steps**

The group will review further the identified enablers of EDC country implementation, how best to strengthen them to accelerate progress on effective developing cooperation for maximizing development results as well as existing country frameworks and mechanisms to expand its capacities to support the means of implementation of the SDGs.

The group has taken note of the Outcome Report from the 2015 Busan Global Partnership Forum held in Seoul 23-24 November 2015 and will consider the recommendations that are relevant for country-level implementation in its work. The Forum echoed the critical importance of dialogue among stakeholders and a put a number of proposals forward which the group will deliberate further, such as how GPEDC best can support country ownership, how donors can be encouraged to strengthen the

knowledge and capacity of in-country staff to allow them to constructively engage in the monitoring process, and how working groups can be established around development effectiveness matters and Agenda 2030 implementation.

Our work will build upon the global scanning of country practices gathered by UNDP for the Joint Support Team. This material assembles a set of good practices/experiences that can be used as an overview of the progress in different countries and source of inspiration with regard to working methods. The country briefs have been provided by UNDP's global network of practitioners. This inventory, together with its useful table overview related to the four different Busan principles, will be complemented by the working group with information gathered from the other partners in the GPEDC network.

The group will also explore how the new digital and social media tools available can be used to enhance the dialogue between stakeholders. How we connect and communicate is changing fast because of mobile technology, networked connectivity and data available. Examples of how digital media channels are used for sharing updates on projects and activities at country-level will be gathered.

With regard to working methods, the group will continue to meet in conference calls settings. It will furthermore design an online survey and perform one-to-one phone interviews in order to gather additional viewpoints from the country-level actors.

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