

3 June 2013

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

Dear Colleagues,

In November 2011, the international community came together in Busan to endorse the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation to guide our development cooperation going forward. We also made a number of commitments to each other, some on a voluntary basis and differentiated depending on our characteristics and capacities, to bolster our cooperation efforts.

It is now one and a half years since Busan, which means the time has come to look back and ask ourselves how we have done. We should not do so in a judging or restrictive manner, subjecting ourselves to score-cards or checklists for the sake of it. Instead, we need to champion those members of the Partnership that have made leaps and bounds and those that have achieved lesser leaps but progress nonetheless, inspiring and helping the rest of us to follow suit. And we also must remind ourselves of remaining challenges, being open about failures in order to learn from them and grow as a community, rather than compare and contrast.

We are therefore writing to you to ask you to get involved now in this process to “look back”, and begin identifying for yourselves where you and others have made major progress since Busan and where major challenges remain.

We have, to help us in our task, the Monitoring Framework – a selection of ten indicators and targets – that builds on previous data collection work at the country level, but also brings in new elements and data from other sources. Draft guidance for the Framework was published in March, and we trust that you have read and fed-back on it so that your views are taken on board. But the critical action now is to begin using the guidance to gather data and other relevant qualitative information and case-studies. Qualitative information and case-studies will be particularly welcome from those that have not previously been involved in these processes but would like more recognition for their contributions to development.

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Together we can prepare for the first ministerial-level meeting of the Global Partnership, halfway between the Busan High-Level Forum and 2015, to both look back and ahead. We look forward to hearing and sharing your findings.

Yours faithfully,

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Global Partnership Monitoring Framework

Why, what and how?

Where does the monitoring framework come from?

The Busan Partnership agreement called for the establishment of an inclusive Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation to maintain and strengthen political support for more effective development co-operation. It also called for agreement on a selective and relevant set of indicators and targets to support global monitoring and accountability. A consultative multi-stakeholder process led to the approval of the Global Partnership monitoring framework in June 2012.

What is the point of monitoring Busan commitments globally?

Past experience shows that a sound evidence base is vital for sustaining political momentum and driving progress. Monitoring information will be compiled periodically into a global progress report ahead of ministerial-level meetings of the Global Partnership. Ministers from countries at all stages of development, together with leaders from international organisations, private sector and civil society, will review progress in implementing mutually agreed commitments. This way global monitoring provides a key source of evidence to inform political dialogue and accountability within the Global Partnership.

Regular stock-takes help to identify challenges and boost efforts further where needed. Reviewing progress also provides an entry point for sharing experiences and knowledge between various stakeholders and co-operation modalities.

The most important aim is mutual learning and strengthened partnerships. The monitoring report will not provide score-cards that rank countries and organisations, but rather aims to facilitate a broader dialogue on effective development co-operation.

What is being monitored?

Focus is on behaviour change in development co-operation. The framework consists of ten indicators and targets that have been identified as particularly important to delivering on the four core Busan principles of country ownership, results, inclusiveness and transparency and accountability.

The indicators focus on strengthening developing country institutions, increasing transparency and predictability of co-operation, enhancing gender equality and accountability as well as supporting greater involvement of civil society, parliaments and private sector in development efforts.

The monitoring framework and indicators build on lessons learnt in supporting accountability among development co-operation partners. They seek to capture the changing development landscape, moving from measuring aid effectiveness to covering a broader range of partnerships for development.ⁱ

Why should we participate?

Taking part in the monitoring process is a simple, voluntary activity that builds on country leadership. All countries and organisations that endorse the Busan Partnership agreement are welcome to participate.ⁱⁱ

By contributing to this global evidence base, everyone can benefit from tracking progress, sharing lessons and finding solutions for the way forward. Reviewing progress through an internationally agreed framework can serve to boost dialogue at all levels – global, regional and national – and help ensure that all co-operation partners match words with actions.

Feedback from developing countries suggests that they have found the existence of global indicators and targets to be a helpful reference point for negotiating more detailed and relevant country-level accountability frameworks.

How is the monitoring carried out?

Data is collected at both the country and global levels according to what the indicators measure. Five indicators draw on information sources at the recipient country level with the objective of grounding data collection in existing national monitoring and accountability frameworks. The remaining five indicators draw on global information sources.

Over 30 developing nations have already indicated their interest to participate in the Global Partnership monitoring framework, with their respective governments prepared to lead in gathering the information in collaboration with relevant partners.

Development partners play an important role in supporting this process and contributing their respective information where relevant. Providers of development co-operation are expected to provide to the government information on three indicatorsⁱⁱⁱ. Civil society, parliamentarians and other stakeholders can play an important supportive role in the country-level consultations and ensuing dialogue.^{iv}

All indicators will be constructed, analysed and compiled into a progress report under the co-ordination of the joint support team. Complementary evidence and analyses will be drawn on where relevant and available to enrich the analysis.

Where to get more information?

- Global Partnership webpage monitoring section: <http://effectivecooperation.org/about-monitoringframework.html>
- Draft guide to the monitoring framework: <http://effectivecooperation.org/files/2013%20busan%20global%20monitoring%20guidance.pdf>
- List of monitoring indicators and targets: <http://effectivecooperation.org/files/about-trackingprogress/INDICATORS.pdf>
- Global Partnership community site including list of countries so far participating in Global Partnership monitoring (user credentials required): <https://undp.unteamworks.org/node/271119>

To confirm participation in the Global Partnership monitoring framework, for more information on the methodology, process and deadlines for data collection and to access the community site, please contact monitoring@effectivecooperation.org.

ⁱ Five indicators originate from the Paris Declaration monitoring framework: use of country systems, aid on budget, predictability, aid untying and mutual accountability. New indicators include a focus on results, creating an enabling environment for CSOs, the role of the private sector, making information more transparent and available, and gender equality and women's empowerment.

ⁱⁱ In keeping with the spirit of the Busan Partnership agreement, participation in global monitoring efforts is voluntary and is not a prerequisite for participation in broader political dialogue and activities under the auspices of the Global Partnership. The voluntary nature of the Busan Partnership agreement, particularly in relation to south-south providers, is highlighted in §2 of the agreement: "The principles, commitments and actions agreed in the outcome document in Busan shall be the reference for south-south providers on a voluntary basis."

ⁱⁱⁱ Predictability, aid on budget and use of country systems.

^{iv} In addition, there are indicators in the global framework to measure the enabling environment for CSOs and participation of private sector.