

Side Events

How can Foundations Better Collaborate with Governments? From Evidence to Action

1 December 2016, 12.00-13.00

Objective:

- **Share evidence** on collaboration with foundations and foster dialogue between foundations and governments
- **Raise awareness of governments** on the specificities of foundations as a stakeholder, and of the importance to take their perspectives and incentives into account in the development effectiveness agenda, as reflected in the Nairobi Outcome Document
- **Encourage governments to reach out to their domestic philanthropic sector** to optimise its contribution and help leverage finance for development

Participants:

Panellists:

Mario Pezzini, Director of the Development Centre and Special Advisor to the OECD Secretary General on Development, OECD

Noel González, Coordinator of Multilateral & Regional Fora & Mechanisms of International Development Co-operation, AMEXCID

Pakzan Dastoor, Manager, Advisory Research & Due Diligence, Dasra

Arif Neki, Advisor, UN Strategic Partnerships & Coordinator SDG Philanthropy Platform, Kenya

Caroline Sikasa, Senior Programme Manager, Housing Finance Foundation

Moderator:

Bathylle Missika, Senior Counsellor to the Director (acting), and Head of the Partnerships and Networks Unit, OECD Development Centre

Key issues discussed:

The Communiqué of the Global Partnership's First High Level Meeting, in April 2014 in Mexico, 'welcomed' the [Guidelines for Effective Philanthropic Engagement](#), aimed at facilitating dialogue, information sharing and collaboration between governments and private foundations. It also 'encouraged' the OECD Network of Foundations Working for Development (netFWD) to ensure 'their implementation and follow up'. Since the First High Level Meeting, the Guidelines have been successfully implemented in Mexico, and three additional pilots are underway (India, Kenya and Myanmar). At the side event, the case study dedicated to Mexico was available in English and Spanish, as well as a cross-country analysis that compares findings from all four countries.

Representatives from India, Kenya and Mexico identified several challenges that foundations and governments face, such as the difference of language or the lack of data and data sharing. The difference of language or definitions can easily lead to misunderstandings and create mistrust. For instance, some Indian foundations may consider that three years is a long-term commitment, while the government would expect them to stay engaged for at least ten years and, as a result, view them as unreliable partners, rapidly shifting priorities. The experience of Housing Finance Foundation in Kenya shows that signing an MoU with a ministry, in that case the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, can help get a common understanding of problems. Data on philanthropy's financial contribution to development are scarce and

rarely allow for comparability. In addition, foundations and governments still mostly share data and information through informal channels of communication, i.e. personal contacts, because of the lack of institutionalised relationships.

One way forward to address these issues is to set up dialogue platforms, such as the Kenya Philanthropy Forum, which has opened a space of foundations and the government to discuss topics including an enabling environment for philanthropy to thrive or fiscal incentives. For instance, in India, a CSR act mandating companies to direct 2% of profit to CSR and philanthropic activities strongly contributed to multiply foundations' financial support to national development by six in a few years only, growing from 1.6 billion USD to 10 billion USD.

Main conclusions and next steps:

The OECD is committed to bringing foundations and governments closer together to promote sustainable development, including the SDGs. Foundations bring considerable expertise, resources, know-how and passion to development. This is why the Development Centre and netFWD will continue implementing the Guidelines for Effective Philanthropic Engagement as a Global Partnership Initiative.