Suggestions to Draft SLM Concept Note

Submitted by the European Commission

A. The SLM can be made more directly relevant to the content and focus of the HLPF. At the moment the concept note refers only to SDG 16 and 17. This can be strengthened by demonstrating the relevance of Effectiveness to achieving faster and more sustainable impact across the SDGs. This means gathering and bringing to the HLPF evidence that progress on SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 13 (climate action) and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) has been better in those countries and contexts where development cooperation effectiveness mechanisms and processes have been and are in place.

B. In relation to the first objective:

It would be very useful for the paper to inform the SC what are the key achievements since Nairobi that will be displayed. For a new work-plan to be approved at the SLM it will be necessary to have a substantive discussion around its main elements and direction at the April 2019 SC.

C. In relation to the second objective:

It will be important that the compendium of good practices and the knowledge-sharing platform provide evidence – as described in A above – on how Effectiveness brings better progress and outcomes in relation to the specific SDG areas under discussion at the HLPF. The “new solutions to tackle some of the most difficult implementation challenges” will need to be relevant to the areas of education, decent work, economic growth, inequality, peace and justice and climate action.

D. In relation to the third objective:

The extent of the adjustments to the Global Monitoring system to strengthen relevance for fragile contexts has not yet been determined. This should be included as a new instrument to be highlighted at the SLM after the SC has discussed and approved the proposals for the OWG output and process. (A paper is meant to be tabled at the SC meeting, but this does not appear yet on the agenda).

The priority for the work on PSE could be to demonstrate, from the country case studies and the review of PS programmes, that where effectiveness mechanisms, processes and principles are used that the impact on SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities) and even SDG 13 (climate action) is better. The result of the work, in our understanding, is specific guidance and should be presented as such.

Considering that Triangular Cooperation will feature in the BAPA process, we think that it would be better to see the outcome of that process, before determining whether an engagement, and what type of engagement, would be appropriate on this issue.
E. In relation to the fourth objective

It would be useful to have a more developed concept of next frontier effectiveness issues, that would help identify the nature of the **pressing concerns and opportunities** and the next critical areas - and in particular why addressing them is a priority, relative to focusing on achieving progress on the issues that already have been identified.

F. In general terms the concept paper could be significantly improved through the use of simpler and more clearly descriptive and grandiose language. The concepts, issues and ideas should be described straightforwardly and preferably with practical examples. This will help ensure an informed and coherent SC discussion on the SLM.