

17th Steering Committee Meeting

Summary

Towards the 2019 Global Partnership Senior-Level Meeting

26-27 March 2019
Kampala, Uganda

Objectives

1. Advance substantive and logistical preparations for the 2019 Senior-Level Meeting, and resource mobilisation for SLM and JST
2. Discuss and agree on the SLM narrative based on deliverables of the GPEDC Programme of Work, in particular from preliminary findings of the 2018 Monitoring Round
3. Discuss and agree on the Proposed Monitoring Approach for Fragile and Conflict Affected Situations
4. Discuss and agree on Private Sector Engagement Principles and drafting of related Guidelines

2017-2018 Work Programme:

Strategic Output 1	Strategic Output 2	Strategic Output 3	Strategic Output 4	Strategic Output 5	Strategic Output 6
					
Supporting effective co-operation at the country level	Monitoring the commitments of all partners	Sharing knowledge of successes and innovative solutions	Scaling up engagement of the private sector through co-operation	Learning from different kinds of partnerships	Strengthening political momentum for effective co-operation

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For background documents and presentations from this meeting, please visit:

<http://effectivecooperation.org/event/17th-steering-committee-of-the-global-partnership/>

OVERVIEW

Members expressed dedication and clear expectations for the upcoming Senior-Level Meeting (SLM) to be held on 13-14 July, in New York and underlined the contribution, which the GPEDC can make to deliver more effectively on the 2030 Agenda. Members also agreed on the urgency to further intensify and mainstream this discourse in view of growing diversity of modalities and actors in the development co-operation landscape and status of SDG implementation.

Preparations for the 2019 Senior-Level Meeting are now in full swing

Steering Committee members:

- **Reconfirmed the shared objectives of the Senior-Level Meeting (SLM):** elevating the role of effectiveness in achieving the 2030 Agenda; expanding the effectiveness network through context-specific approaches; and identifying emerging effectiveness issues.
- **Agreed that the SLM should send a strong political message on how to make progress on sustainable development,** highlighting effectiveness as crucial to achievement of the 2030 Agenda, alongside the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the financing framework. Members welcomed progress made in implementing the GPEDC work programme and recognised that the evidence emerging from its implementation will contribute to enhance effective development cooperation and provide the substantive backbone of the upcoming SLM.
- **Endorsed the draft SLM programme,** as presented by the Core Group, with minor substantive adaptations, underscoring the need to demonstrate how effectiveness helps to achieve the SDGs under review at the 2019 United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), and provide tangible contributions to its Ministerial Segment. Members noted that this requires additional efforts to ensure that the outcomes of the SLM will inform the HLPF, and, in extension, therefore SDG follow-up and review. In this regard, members also called for the findings of the Global Partnership monitoring results to feature more prominently across the 2019 HLPF programme.
- **Advanced SLM preparations in practice,** where members expressed strong interest in **leading or participating in the preparation of SLM sessions;** agreed on a process for preparing the **Co-Chairs' Statement;** took steps to ensure balanced multi-stakeholder **participation** in the SLM; addressed continued **resource requirements;** agreed on next steps for **outreach and advocacy** by all members as 'champions of effectiveness'; and advanced discussions on governance arrangements, including Co-Chair and member rotation.

Inclusive leadership reinvigorates political momentum ahead of the SLM

- **Members endorsed the creation of a permanent, fourth Co-Chair, representing all non-executive constituencies,** building on a piloting phase agreed at the last committee meeting in November 2018 and recognised the value of this role. Mr. Vitalice Meja of CPDE, with the concurrence of the members of non-executive constituencies, will continue in this role as the first representative up until the next rotation. This setup is globally unique, allowing non-state actors to shape the work of the Global Partnership in a truly collaborative way and on an equal footing.
- **Governmental Co-Chairs updated on replacement scenarios, with Switzerland confirmed as new Co-Chair representing providers of development co-operation, taking over from Germany, and others still finalising arrangements.** Uganda updated on discussions within the AU-NEPAD Development Effectiveness Advisory Group to identify a potential Co-Chair successor representing partner countries, and signalled that a proposal, including on filling two vacant African Steering Committee seats, is expected soon (ahead of the SLM). Bangladesh is exploring options for replacing their seat as the provider-recipient Co-Chair, offering to stay on for a year to initiate a staggered replacement process, in case no replacement is secured in time for the SLM. Several Steering Committee members also communicated their interest in staying on the Committee after the SLM, and several announced successor arrangements, suggesting a good balance between continued and new membership.

Ensuring an evidence-based and inclusive SLM: inputs from the GPEDC's programme of work

- **The 2018 Monitoring Round is the 'red thread' for the SLM narrative. With record participation, it presents a solid foundation for evidence-based dialogue.** Emerging results from 86 partner counties (up from 81 in 2016) and engagement of over 100 bilateral and multilateral development partners, reflecting approx. 67b US\$ in total, point to some interesting new story-lines for partners and providers – with overall progress, for example, on strengthening results frameworks and country systems, for partner countries, and good alignment at strategic levels and a modest increase in the use of country systems, for providers. Worrying trends include reversals around annual predictability and a decline in tracking disbursements for gender equality and women's empowerment.
- **Members welcomed efforts to finalise the pilots on country-level implementation.** The pilots, currently in their final stages, provide critical qualitative information as an important complementary source of evidence for the SLM. Their findings are key inputs for the Global Compendium of Good Practices, following the Global Partnership's 'global light, country focused' approach and showcasing how effectiveness at country level can make a difference.
- **Members endorsed the principles of effective private sector engagement (PSE) through development co-operation,** reiterating the intense, constructive effort among all members and stakeholders engaged in this process since the beginning. The role of the Business Leader Caucus and the PSE Working Group, and the Specialised Policy Dialogue in January 2019 in Paris, were particularly welcomed as drivers for inclusive dialogue and consultation on the draft principles and issue areas. Members noted that agreement of the 'Kampala Principles' are a good example of how the Global Partnership can facilitate consensus among diverse stakeholders around contentious issues. Alongside intensified outreach efforts to the private sector in the run-up to the SLM, next steps post-SLM also include devising practical guidance for members to use and apply the principles at the country level.
- **Members commended promising efforts to adapt the monitoring to different contexts.** Ongoing efforts by Mexico to assess the effectiveness of South-South Co-operation (SSC) and those by the 'Open Working Group' to adapt the monitoring framework for countries in situations of conflict and fragility were praised and are considered promising efforts to adapt and expand the effectiveness network to new, specific policy areas and partners.

Table of action points emerging from meeting

Part	Action points	For whom
1	Express interest in joining session groups (annexed: overview of session leads/groups)	SC members to express interest to JST by 10 April 2019
2	Submit proposals to inform preparations of session 5 on emerging issues and the future work programme, and proposals for external speakers (ongoing to core group)	SC members to share proposals with JST by 17 April 2019
3	SLM preparations: Send invitations, identify high-calibre speakers, secure participation; kick off session preparations; collect expressions of interest for side events (<i>self-organised</i>)	Co-Chairs, Core Group, JST (ongoing)
4	Finalise resource mobilisation to support SLM and institutional JST support	Members (ongoing)
5	Secure replacements of Co-Chairs and Steering Committee members as applicable/necessary ahead of SLM	Inform Co-Chairs & JST swiftly
6	Finalise implementation of agreed priorities in the current work programme and inform SLM session preparations	SC members/JST, including through WGs
7	Lead SLM advocacy, engagement and outreach activities , in line with the communications strategy, in particular at FFD Forum	Co-Chairs, members, JST
8	Provide any feedback on this draft summary	Members, by 24 April

Headline notes, by session

PART I: THE SENIOR-LEVEL MEETING: AGREEING ON STRUCTURE AND NARRATIVE

- **Members endorsed the draft programme**, welcoming its contours and narrative, and appreciating the work undertaken by the Core Group and Joint Support Team to translate the SLM concept note, agreed in New York in November 2018, into a representative draft programme.
- **Members underlined the importance of linking the SLM to the 2019 High-Level Political Forum**, including the need for additional thinking to link the HLPF review of progress on SDGs with development effectiveness and the SLM and to bring the outcomes of the SLM to the HLPF, and, in extension, the SDG follow-up and review at global level. Members also called for a better integration of monitoring results across the SLM programme, to ensure they feature prominently as the main source of GPEDC evidence on the global state of effectiveness.
- **Suggestions to update language and / or content in specific SLM sessions included, among others:**
 - The title of the SLM will be reviewed to avoid confusion with other ‘third’ cornerstones
 - Session 1 (*Effective Development Co-operation to achieve the SDGs – Concrete examples of what works*): Emphasise linkages with the official 2030 process, including the Voluntary National Reviews presented annually at the HLPF.
 - Breakout Session III (*Policy Space for Development Effectiveness*): Define sub-issues to avoid substantive overload and fragmentation during this session. ‘Unfinished business’ and the Global Action Plan were suggested to be considered under Session 2.
 - Breakouts II and IV on *South-South and Triangular Co-operation*: Signal complementarity, while recognising differences and providing adequate space for both discussions.
- **Members agreed that the SLM programme should be substantiated with concept notes**, to be developed by Session Groups, which should be multi-stakeholder in nature. To ensure coherence of the programme and a sharp overall narrative, the SLM Core Group will provide continued overall guidance over the programme development, concept notes and agendas/run-of-shows. For session 1 a special effort is needed to collect more evidence on the impact of applying the principles on SDGs-relevant development outcomes as this is not covered by the programme of work.

PART II: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS PRINCIPLES

- **Monitoring remains the backbone and core product of the GPEDC.** Members welcomed the update on the current monitoring round, with 87 countries and hundreds of development partners, civil society actors and others participating at the time of the meeting. It was noted that some partner countries have embedded the monitoring in their national systems and processes, while in others it is a standalone exercise. Members took the record participation as evidence for strong political momentum and a growing community that is using effectiveness principles to foster better partnerships.
- Reflecting on the 2018 monitoring process, there is a **need for forward-looking reflections on the feasibility, sustainability and relevance of the monitoring process** at the country-level. To this end, linkages with country-level processes and the timeliness of the Global Partnership monitoring exercise should be highlighted in future iterations of the Global Partnership monitoring, in order to ensure its ability to stimulate change at country level and inform SDG follow-up and review at the United Nations and in other fora. Equally, attention is needed to situate the monitoring in the context of country-level accountability and policy change, particularly in light of emerging structural shifts prompted by the whole of government and the whole of society approaches for the SDG implementation. These considerations are to be further discussed with participating countries at the post-monitoring workshop in May.

- **Members welcomed that fresh data will be ready for relevant UN reports and become available for many Voluntary National Reviews scheduled for the 2019 HLPF.** Ensuring linkages with country-level processes and the timely availability of the monitoring findings remain important features in order to inform the SDG and FFD follow-up and review.
- **Members welcomed the staggered release of the monitoring report by chapter in the run up to the SLM, helping also to make better use of findings to foster country-level accountability, policy change and action.** Members highlighted the importance of using the findings for learning and policy-making at country level, and for accountability purposes.
- **Supported by the European Commission, Germany and Bangladesh, members welcomed progress on the nine country level pilots and the knowledge-sharing work stream, providing impetus for action to strengthen country-level effectiveness.** Complementary to the monitoring, this evidence shows how countries and their partners are addressing persisting effectiveness challenges. The results of the pilots, along with submissions received through the Call for Evidence and complementary research conducted by the JST, will inform the development of a Global Compendium of Good Practices, to be launched at the SLM, and the Knowledge-Sharing Platform to be launched in April 2019.
- **Civil Society underscored the need to continue work on the Global Action Plan on unfinished business on aid effectiveness,** suggesting to start with a background paper to identify GPEDC priority areas drawing on the results of the monitoring.

PART III: ADAPTING EFFECTIVENESS TO CONTEXT-SPECIFIC CHALLENGES

- **Monitoring effectiveness in new contexts will help to deepen engagement in different communities, and with different partners.**
- **Welcoming the work of the ‘Open Working Group’, members agreed on the proposal to monitor effectiveness in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, and endorsed next steps.** Members endorsed the substantive direction of the proposed monitoring approach and welcomed the relevance of the 6 action areas. The next steps include moving ahead with the development of measurement approaches and indicator methodologies for the 6 action areas and a review of the monitoring process as part of the comprehensive overall review of the Global Partnership monitoring in preparation for the next monitoring round. Several members flagged that delivering effectively in fragile contexts will be critical to leaving no one behind and realising the ambition of the 2030 Agenda. The confirmation of all 20 G7+ countries in the current monitoring round was particularly welcomed.
- **Mexico’s update on the pilot exercise on monitoring the effectiveness of South-South Co-operation was greatly welcomed, linking closely to the issue of engaging emerging economies in the Global Partnership.** Members appreciated also Mexico’s experience in linking this effort conceptually to SDG reporting and national planning efforts, making it an integral part of the fibre of national M&E efforts. El Salvador noted that Southern partners were reluctant to respond to the monitoring, calling for greater participation of LAC countries in the GPEDC.

PART IV: WORKING WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR THE SDGs AT COUNTRY LEVEL: NEW PARTNERSHIP PRINCIPLES

- **Members endorsed the proposed principles for private sector engagement through development co-operation, the ‘Kampala Principles’,** commending the intensive efforts to foster consensus among all stakeholders and engage the private sector in these debates.
- **Members were confident with the promising, ‘pioneering’ niche the Global Partnership has carved out for itself on Private Sector Engagement (PSE) through development co-operation.** They reiterated that this work stream was driven by strong demand from members for inclusive dialogue on challenges and opportunities in making partnerships with the private sector more effective. Members appreciated the effort to develop a narrative that demonstrates

a clear value added and incentives for all partners to engage, flagging that the narrative may require further adjustments and more detailed guidelines, including to clarify the definition of risk and to introduce a nuanced approach to the business environment, in order to be appealing and helpful to practitioners and the business community.

- **Members welcomed the analytical work and consultative efforts under way to date, and called for forceful outreach to all stakeholders on this work ahead of the SLM.** Members welcomed the analytical work (a review of over 900 projects, four case studies and workshops in Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, El Salvador and Uganda, work on PSE in emerging economies with the BRICS Policy Centre), the deliberations of the vibrant Business Leaders Caucus, a survey to track support for the various issues emerging from the evidence, and the efforts to facilitate inclusive dialogue, including at the Specialised Policy Dialogue at the OECD Private Finance for Sustainable Development Week in Paris in January 2019. They also underlined the importance of developing clear guidance for the implementation of the principles going forward and possibly in preparation for the SLM.
- **The business sector signalled full support for the principles, also from the Business Leader Caucus, as foundation for effective partnerships that are inclusive and benefit those in need while having a clear business case.** The statement of the Business Leaders Caucus is a strong testimony to the ongoing work of the GPEDC and an important basis to get more businesses to buy-in to the principles in the run up to the 2019 SLM.
- **Given the importance of the topic and the wealth of evidence and issues to be tackled, members supported efforts to feature this work prominently at the 2019 HLPF, as well as in the future work programme, working also with other business associations on implementation of the principles at country level.**

PART V: EMERGING EFFECTIVENESS ISSUES

- **Members agreed that the issues raised can inform preparations of Session 5 of the SLM and serve as input for deliberations related to the future programme of work.** Issues of relevance, cross-cutting and specific, built on the deliberations at the last Committee meeting in New York and included: data, gender equality, climate change, civic space, tax exemption on ODA, and working with local governments to implement the 2030 Agenda more effectively.
- **Switzerland raised the need to reflect on how to situate relevant issues and the spirit of leaving no one behind in the development effectiveness debate at a time when all actors are fully engaged in delivering on the 2030 Agenda.** Some also cautioned not to overload the GPEDC agenda and narrative, noting that many issues were already captured in the SLM programme, and a need to focus on the core effectiveness topics that can be expected to remain relevant in future, particularly in the context of delivery against the SDGs.
- **Members were invited to submit short thematic proposals (“Pitches”) on issues of future relevance for the global effectiveness debate. This will serve to inform the preparations of Session 5 and the next work program of the GPEDC.**

PART VI: FINALISING THE SLM PROGRAMME

- **Members agreed on the SLM programme with the suggested amendments reflected.**
- **Substantive preparations for each SLM session will be led by Steering Committee members and interested partners in the GPEDC,** including Global Partnership Initiatives. The terms of reference for Session Leads and members were shared with the Steering Committee ahead of the meeting, in order to provide more information about responsibilities and proposed timeline for engagement.
- **Members made suggestions to lead/co-lead/participate in session groups to prepare specific sessions (see Annex 2).**

- **A number of members also proposed to support other sessions as needed**, provide suggestions for inspirational speakers, and be guided by the Core Group on other efforts needed to ensure coherence and swift preparation of session concept notes.

PART VII: PREPARING THE SLM IN PRACTICE

Scope of the SLM

Members agreed with the proposed outline of the scope in the budget note. While a substantial funding gap remains for SLM travel facilitation of participants from partner countries and some non-executive constituencies; as well as JST institutional support, several pledges were flagged by Steering Committee members. **It was noted that the inclusiveness of the SLM may be impacted should additional resources not be received to facilitate travel of these participants. Priority for travel support should therefore be for participants from LDCs (irrespective of the stakeholder group).**

- **Delegation size was agreed as proposed, with the only amendment being the increase of non-executive stakeholder delegations to ensure appropriate balance, pending resource availability were applicable.** The importance of ensuring SLM participation that mirrors the multi-stakeholder nature of the GPEDC was noted. To this end, the number of delegates per non-executive constituency group will be handled in a flexible way in order to constitute approximately 25 - 30% of SLM participation from non-executive constituency groups.
- **Efforts to piggy-back on HLPF participation should be explored on an ongoing basis.**
- **Members supported the notion of external speakers for deliberation by the Core Group.**

Political outreach and advocacy

- **Steering Committee members reiterated the need for the Committee to act as ‘champions of effectiveness’, to actively advocate and outreach to promote the SLM and its key deliverables.** The Steering Committee agreed that it will use regional, global and constituency-based gatherings to share the SLM narrative and encourage high-level participation.
- On communication activities, the JST outlined key activities in the run-up to and during the SLM, in line with the Communications Strategy shared as a background document for the meeting. Some of the activities and products have a cost component, but many will be undertaken through existing institutional support. The JST reiterated that communications activities for the SLM are not yet funded.
- It was announced that **the GPEDC will also organise a side event on emerging monitoring outcomes during the 2019 Financing for Development Forum (17 April, 1:15-2:30pm in Conference Room 5 of UN Headquarters, New York).** Members were also encouraged to work through their respective missions for encouraging reflection of development effectiveness in ongoing outcome document preparations for the Forum.

SLM Co-Chair Statement

- **The Co-Chairs’ Statement, not a negotiated document, with a penholder within the Co-Chairs’ offices, will be owned and led by Co-Chairs, but follow an inclusive process.** The following steps are proposed: (1) The Co-Chairs will prepare a draft with political messages, informed also by Core Group members; (2) Steering Committee members and other stakeholders will have an opportunity to provide inputs to a first draft (May / June); and (3) Co-chairs will finalise the document at the SLM, based on deliberations at the meeting itself.

Governance arrangements

- **Switzerland was welcomed as new Co-Chair representing the provider constituency**, with many members thanking Germany for their continued and strong leadership since Nairobi. It was agreed that Germany will stay on the Committee as ex-officio member for a transition period of one year.
- **Uganda updated the Committee on the outcome of a discussion with the Development Effectiveness Advisory Group of the African Union**, signalling that the two vacant African

Steering Committee seats will be filled ahead of the SLM and there is strong support for proposing a replacement of Uganda by a West-/Central-African, Francophone or Lusophone country. The Committee noted this update and looks forward to a proposal for a Co-Chair representing recipients of development co-operation.

- **Bangladesh is in dialogue with countries about their replacement**, filling the Chair seat of the dual countries, signalling also the willingness to stay on and start a staggered replacement process if necessary, which was, in principle, supported and agreed by the Committee going forward. A number of Latin American countries are in the process of being contacted to explore opportunities for replacing Bangladesh and the Steering Committee will receive updates as they become available. Bangladesh is ready to continue as Co-Chair for another year, if the situation demands.
- Whereas the possible need for interpretation / translation in the future was recognized, members also mentioned limited resources in this regard.
- **With great enthusiasm, the Committee also endorsed the 4th Non-Executive Co-Chair, representing the six non-executive Steering Committee members, transforming the pilot into a firm seat and making the Global Partnership a truly inclusive global platform, with a unique multi-stakeholder governance structure.** Mr. Vitalice Meja will stay in the seat of the 4th Co-chair up until the next rotation of leadership for this seat, which will be decided by the six non-executive Steering Committee members.

Annex 1:

Meeting Documents

1. [Agenda](#)
2. [List of Participants](#)
3. [Logistical Note](#)
4. [Draft Senior-Level Meeting \(SLM\) Programme](#)
5. [SLM Outreach and Communications Strategy](#)
6. [SLM Budget](#)
7. [Update on Country-Level Implementation \('Evidence Towards Good Effectiveness Practices'\)](#)
8. [Update on the 2018 Monitoring Round](#)
9. [Proposed Monitoring Approach for Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations](#)
10. [Draft Private Sector Engagement Principles](#)

Presentations

1. [Evidence on Enhanced Effectiveness \(Part II\)](#)
2. [Third Global Partnership Monitoring Round Update \(Part II\)](#)
3. [South-South Co-operation Effectiveness \(Part III\)](#)
4. [Tailored Monitoring Approach for Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations \(Part III\)](#)
5. [Principles for Effective Private Sector Engagement \(Part IV\)](#)

Annex 2: Session Leads as per Discussions in the Steering Committee

SESSION	SESSION (CO-)LEAD (BOLD) AND MEMBERS BASED ON EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST TO DATE
Opening:	N/A
Session 1: SDGs	Co-Chairs (Germany and Uganda), European Commission, Switzerland, AU/NEPAD (to offer input related to SDG 16), Japan (to offer input related to G20 outcome), Trade Unions (to offer input related to SDG 8)
Session 2: Implementation/Monitoring:	Co-Chairs (e.g. 4 th NECC and Bangladesh), AU/NEPAD, El Salvador, European Commission
Session 3a: Fragility:	Afghanistan/g7+ , AU/NEPAD
Session 3b: SSC:	Mexico , El Salvador, ITUC
Session 3c: Policy Space:	CPDE , TT CSO ¹ , Canada
Session 3d: TrC:	GPI TrC , including Canada, Japan and Mexico; El Salvador
Session 4: PSE:	Private Sector² and AU/NEPAD , Canada, Germany , ITUC, World Bank, sub-national governments.
Session 5: Emerging issues	Switzerland , Sub-national governments
Closing:	N/A

¹ GPI, expression of interest conveyed by CPDE at the Steering Committee.

² To be represented by a member of the Business Leaders Caucus together with a private sector representative on the Steering Committee seat, i.e. ICC or CIPE.