



# Engaging Parliaments for More Effective Development Co-operation

## At the current rate of delivery, we will not meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

While progress on the SDGs has been made, a lot of work remains to be done. Development co-operation, i.e. various forms of financial and non-financial, public and private aid, and assistance to developing countries, is one of the means of implementation that needs to improve in both quality and quantity for the SDGs to succeed. **The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC)**, in which the IPU participates, recognises parliaments as a key development co-operation partner who can ensure that appropriate legal frameworks are in place, that budgets are directed to achieving SDG targets and that public programmes are effectively implemented.

In the lead up to the GPEDC's first **Senior-Level Meeting (SLM)** at the **UN High-Level Political Forum** in July 2019, parliaments are called upon to promote transparency and accountability of all forms of development co-operation, and to guarantee that development projects and programmes benefit everyone in the society.

## Effective development co-operation is defined by four key principles.

In 2011 at the **Busan High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness**, a multi-stakeholder constellation of key actors, including nearly 160 countries and various international organisations, endorsed the Busan Partnership Principles and agreed to:



Align their co-operation with national priorities and plans, tailored to country-specific situations and needs (**country-ownership**)



Ensure accountability among partners and provide openly available information on development co-operation (**mutual accountability and transparency**)



Foster innovative partnerships with openness, trust and mutual learning that boosts development impact (**inclusive partnerships**)



Ensure investments and efforts have a lasting impact on eradicating poverty and reducing inequality for sustainable development (**focus on results**)

## Effective Development Co-operation and the 2030 Agenda

Complementing the enabling architecture of the **Agenda 2030**:

**The what:** The Sustainable Development Goals - articulating what we want to achieve for planet, people, and prosperity.

**The means:** The Financing for Development process - including the different types of resources needed for the 2030 Agenda

**The how:** The effectiveness principles - working in more empowered, inclusive, and equal partnerships to develop 'whole-of-society' solutions for more sustainable development outcomes.



**Global Partnership**  
for Effective Development  
Co-operation

**The 2030 Agenda needs parliaments to localise the SDGs, and to assist and promote effective delivery of expenditures, laws and programmes for the public.**

Evidence shows that parliamentary oversight of development co-operation remains weak. **As legislative and oversight bodies, parliaments are known to be the most powerful domestic accountability mechanisms in a country.**

To this end, parliamentarians have a responsibility to support and monitor implementation of all 17 SDGs. For instance, parliaments can help develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions, and advocate responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels (SDG 16). To achieve these targets, parliamentarians will need to explore different ways of improving their work processes and systems. Additionally, Agenda 2030 recognises that identifying processes and means of implementation such as development co-operation will be critical to the success of the entire SDG framework (SDG 17). This is further highlighted and reflected in the **2016 Nairobi Parliamentary Statement**.

### ✔ Consult with your GPEDC Representative

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is made up of national parliaments from around the world, consisting of **179 Member Parliaments which in turn represent more than 6.5 billion of the world's 7 billion people**. The IPU also serves as the voice of parliaments on the GPEDC's 25-member Steering Committee – a multi-stakeholder governing body that meets biannually to guide the work of the Global Partnership and ensure that it is carried out transparently, fully consulting each stakeholder group. For inquiries, contact your constituency representative, Mr Martin Chungong, Secretary General of Inter-Parliamentary Union (e-mail Mr Alessandro Motter ([am@ipu.org](mailto:am@ipu.org))).

### ✔ Be informed by the GPEDC monitoring data and evidence

GPEDC monitoring is a voluntary, country-led and multi-stakeholder process that tracks the implementation of the four effectiveness principles, using **10 indicators**. Using this data and evidence, parliaments can find out more about the quality of countries' public financial management systems, availability of transparent information on development co-operation, the extent to which aid remains tied, and whether aid is included in budgets that are subject to parliamentary oversight. The results of the monitoring round feed into the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. Contact [monitoring@effectivecooperation.org](mailto:monitoring@effectivecooperation.org) or visit [the website](#) for more information.

### ✔ Take concrete actions and measures

National development co-operation policies (also known as 'aid policies') are central to the implementation of effective development co-operation commitments at the country level. Use the IPU note on **National Aid Policies: Key Pillars of Mutual Accountability** to assess parliaments' role in the design and oversight of these policies.

### ✔ Use the GPEDC Knowledge-Sharing Platform

Parliamentarians can use the upcoming Knowledge-Sharing Platform – a one-stop digital platform for information, training, peer-learning and networking around successes, bottlenecks and innovations in effective development co-operation and sustainable development. Parliamentarians can share their experiences and lessons learned with other stakeholders, create a profile and follow other parliamentarians, join a group, or host online consultations on topics of their choice.

Available in June at [www.knowledge.effectivecooperation.org](http://www.knowledge.effectivecooperation.org).

## Parliamentarians for Effective Development Co-operation

Parliaments have several opportunities to influence national plans, budgets, and procedures. To this end, parliaments can:



**Advocate together:** Parliamentarians can commit to collectively promote the SDGs by advocating and institutionalising them in all relevant committees and bodies. The **IPU-UNDP self-assessment** toolkit can help in this regard.



**Maintain the momentum in international fora:** As the democratically-elected voice of the people, parliaments represent a collective voice in national and global development discussions, and as such should ensure that they keep the momentum of implementation going in key high-level meetings on development effectiveness.



**Facilitate public participation:** Through organising public consultations and dialogue forums, parliaments can help raise citizens' awareness around development co-operation, and give them opportunities and avenues for expressing their opinions.



**Localise SDGs:** Parliaments should seek to ensure that SDG implementation, from the early formulation of national development plans to the regular monitoring of its implementation, directly involves provincial and local governments and councils.



**Ensure accountability during implementation:** Through setting up oversight commissions, parliaments can ensure accountability of the government, how it exercises power and spends public money.

### Contribute to the 2019 GPEDC Senior-Level Meeting

The GPEDC is holding its **Senior-Level Meeting in July 2019**, taking place in the margins of the United Nations **High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development** in **New York**. This Senior-Level Meeting will showcase tools – from and for the country level – for making development co-operation more effective. The input of parliaments at the SLM is necessary to ensure that local concerns are represented, advocated for and, most importantly, acted upon at the global level. Parliamentarians will be invited to engage in discussions around effectiveness through different platforms and social media.

Contact [info@effectivecooperation.org](mailto:info@effectivecooperation.org) to find out ways to get involved.