

Concept Note

Working Session

Enhanced Support to Effective Development Co-operation at the Country Level

Background

1. Established in 2011, the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation brings together governments, international organizations, civil society and the private sector to ensure that all development resources are used as efficiently as possible. Through its multi-stakeholder platform, the Global Partnership aims to maximise the effectiveness of all forms of co-operation for development, putting into practice four principles: (i) ownership of development priorities by developing countries; (ii) focus on results; (iii) inclusive partnerships; and (iv) transparency and mutual accountability.
2. The Global Partnership's [Nairobi Outcome Document](#) (NOD), adopted in December 2016 at the Global Partnership's Second High-Level Meeting (HLM2), acknowledges the unfinished business of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Action Agenda, and reaffirms the critical importance of the effectiveness agenda in its support to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA). In this context, the Global Partnership promotes mutual accountability for more effective development co-operation through: (i) a country-focused approach that helps developing countries make the best use of development co-operation to realise their national development goals with support of regional platforms; (ii) generating data and evidence on development stakeholders' progress in meeting their commitments to more effective development co-operation; and (iii) inclusive dialogue amongst development stakeholders at local, country, regional and global levels.
3. Actioning these commitments, the [2017-2018 Work Programme of the Global Partnership](#) was endorsed by the Global Partnership Steering Committee at its 13th Meeting, held in Washington, D.C. in April 2017. It is structured around six strategic outputs: (i) enhanced support to effective development co-operation at country level; (ii) unlocking the potential of effectiveness and updated monitoring for 2030; (iii) sharing knowledge to scale-up innovative development solutions; (iv) scale up private sector engagement leveraged through development co-operation; (v) learning from different modalities of development co-operation; and (vi) strengthened high-level political engagement, advocacy, public communication and strategic use of data and evidence.
4. As a next step, the Steering Committee agreed to organise working sessions to lead the implementation of individual strategic priorities, with individual Steering Committee members taking responsibility for leading and coordinating engagement in these sessions and reporting progress made at future Steering Committee meetings. The purpose of this note is to propose the way forward for the working session for strategic output one: enhanced support to effective development co-operation at country level.
5. Under this strategic output, the Global Partnership aims to drive global progress and support countries in strategically managing diverse development co-operation resources, steering effective practices to deliver on national development targets. To this end, the Global Partnership is committed to providing strategic support to countries to establish and strengthen existing mechanisms and country

level multi-stakeholder partnerships to advance the full realisation of the effectiveness principles and commitments at national level and promote regional exchanges of lessons learned. National mechanisms and platforms will be leveraged to engage all actors in ensuring that country-level evidence on effective development co-operation informs multi-stakeholder dialogue at national, regional and global levels to drive political decisions and promote behaviour change.

6. In this vein, in 2017 and 2018, the Global Partnership will provide catalytic support to countries piloting establishment of systematic mechanisms and country-level multi-stakeholder partnerships for making the best use of the various forms of co-operation; establish a compendium of good practices related to the policies and institutional arrangements; and help mobilize Global Partnership Initiatives to strengthen their focus on greater country level focus.

Context

7. To achieve development goals, it is evident that countries need to draw on the different and complementary roles of all actors, forging strong and innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships for development at the country level. Multi-stakeholder partnerships for development are multi-stakeholder initiatives voluntarily undertaken by national and local governments, intergovernmental organizations, parliaments, civil society, trade unions, the business sector, trade unions and others stakeholders, which efforts are contributing to the implementation of development goals. These partnerships are essential for leveraging the resources, knowledge and experiences of a variety of actors to accelerate development progress to strengthen synergies among them to achieve the full potential of their combined impact, as well as in increasing accountability between development stakeholders.
8. A number of countries have already made progress in these areas. Related to policy frameworks, many countries are moving away from more traditional aid management policies towards development co-operation policies that situate development co-operation within the broader context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and financing for development commitments and respond to the evolving development financing landscape, which is now characterised by increasingly diverse financing flows and new development partners. Likewise, some progress has been made in engaging a broader range of actors, including non-executive stakeholders (e.g. civil society organisations, the private sector, foundations, local governments and trade unions), in development processes. However, progress in both these areas has been uneven. According to the Global Partnership's [2016 Progress Report: Making Development Co-operation More Effective](#), while the important role of parliamentarians, local governments, civil society organisations and citizens is increasingly recognised, their engagement remains limited throughout the development co-operation processes. The Global Partnership is determined to reverse the trend of shrinking civil space wherever it is taking place and to build a positive environment for sustainable development, peaceful societies, accountable governance and achievement of the SDGs and Agenda 2030.
9. In addition, many countries are making concerted efforts towards taking a more strategic and holistic approach to maximize the combined impact of various types of resources and partnerships to achieve the desired impact at country level. One way in which this is done is through the establishment of Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs), as called for in the AAAA. UNDP is supporting in several countries the Development Finance Assessment (DFA) to help governments chart out a roadmap towards the INFFs.

Approach

10. The Steering Committee agreed to join forces to take a targeted approach in several pilot countries to demonstrate the impacts of effective development co-operation and multi-stakeholder partnerships on achievement of national development priorities, building on what already exists, including country-

level initiatives supported by Global Partnership Initiatives (GPIs), as well civil society studies and reports and other initiatives related to this work.

11. Pilot countries will be selected based on a number of criteria, elaborated further below. The final number of pilot countries will depend on the availability of resources and the extent of work to be done in selected countries. Depending on the scope of piloting work, the approach may require both financial and in-kind support of partners. Some of the development partners, such as the European Commission, as a Steering Committee member of the Global Partnership, have expressed interest to consider supporting this piloting work at country level. Bangladesh and Mexico have expressed interest in being pilot countries.
12. The pilot approach will build on the outcomes of the time-bound Global Partnership Working Group on Country-Level Implementation of Development Effectiveness Principles in 2016. The Working Group identified [three enablers](#) to accelerate the implementation of development effectiveness principles at country level. These are: (i) country ownership articulated through policy framework; (ii) institutionalisation of the inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue/coordination platforms; and (iii) providing evidence for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue. Pilots will also build on the findings of the 2016 Global Partnership monitoring round, and consider ways in which to take concerted joint action in addressing unfinished aid effectiveness agenda.
13. Taking these recommendations forward, specific steps to implement the Global Partnership's commitment to enhance effectiveness at country level to be taken for each pilot country will be determined through consultation with national governments. In this way, the pilot approach taken in each country will vary depending on specific country needs and challenges.
14. The planned pilot approach will also complement the work of the interlinked work streams on unlocking potential for effectiveness, knowledge sharing and private sector engagement through development co-operation. In this vein, planned activities under working session one will build on discussions and results under working session two: unlocking potential for effectiveness and working session four: private sector engagement through development co-operation and vice versa. The results of these working sessions will feed into working session three on knowledge sharing.
15. A preliminary mapping of country experiences in implementing effective development co-operation principles and efforts to strengthen impacts of all types of resources and partners for sustainable development has been undertaken. This mapping is not an exhaustive list of work currently being undertaken by countries but rather it provides a snapshot of the kinds of work being done. Based on this mapping, it is proposed that the Global Partnership's working session on country level implementation consider the following issues:
 - A need for a context-based, bottom-up approach. Country context varies in terms of the mix and scale of resources and partnerships available and capacity base to access them.
 - Characteristics of multi-stakeholder partnerships may also vary based on the role and contribution that various partners play and make. For example, in middle-income countries, the role of international development partners may focus more on knowledge and institutional capacity strengthening, rather than filling financing gaps.
 - A variety of resources and partners also act differently given varying characteristics and comparative strengths of each of resources in contributing to different result areas.

- The types of partners to be brought in multi-stakeholder partnerships also depends on country specific context. For example, there is a need for partnership architecture to equally support bridging recover, peace building, and development nexus.

16. With these considerations in mind, the following pilot country selection criteria has been identified. Government willingness to participate, gauged through individual outreach once possible pilot countries are selected, will be an overall prerequisite.

Criteria	Notes
Participation and performance in the 2016 Global Partnership monitoring exercise	A variety in the performance during the monitoring exercise shall be examined.
Status of implementation of mechanisms/structures, in particular dialogue platforms and strategic frameworks	This should include at least one country that has no mechanism in place and one country with a strong system in place.
Enabling environment for civil society	Countries with both strong and weak enabling environments for civil society shall be examined, as per Indicator 2 of the Global Partnership monitoring framework.
Country typology	A variety of different country typologies shall be examined.
Region	Regional balance shall be maintained.

Purpose

17. With these considerations in mind, the purpose of the working session is to operationalise the four complementary and mutually reinforcing sub-activities outlined in the Work Programme, under strategic output one. Specifically, the working session will contribute to the following outputs:

- Establish/strengthen existing mechanisms and multi-stakeholder dialogue/partnership platforms.
- Establish/strengthen country level strategic policy frameworks for effectively managing development co-operation.
- Integrate the development effectiveness principles and their monitoring by the Global Partnership into country processes.

18. It is proposed that working sessions build on on-going work already undertaken by working session participants and determine a way forward that builds on this work and reduces duplication. The specific deliverables of the working session will be to:

- Conduct an initial assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of existing mechanisms, multi-stakeholder platforms and development co-operation strategies in selected pilot countries.
- Facilitate the undertaking of a number of country pilots through targeted and demand-driven support for improvement.

- Compile lessons learned and good practices from the country pilots to launch a global compendium of good practices for advancing effectiveness principles at national level.

Participation

19. To reflect the multi-stakeholder nature of the Global Partnership, each working group is expected to reflect contributions from different constituencies – governments and non-executive stakeholders – to generate influential work that forges a common vision and actions for more effective development co-operation through to the end of 2018.

Format

20. The working session will be expected to conduct its business by teleconference and electronic means (e.g. email, Skype). Its members will arrange coordination of meetings, notes, and outputs. Meetings in person can be considered at times when all or most members are at an existing even