

16th Steering Committee Meeting Summary – Draft

United Nations Headquarters, New York
30 November 2018

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/16th-steering-committee-meeting-of-the-global-partnership/>

Overview

Kicking off preparations for the 2019 Senior-Level Meeting with strong confidence in GPEDC:

- Steering Committee members welcomed the progress made in implementing the GPEDC work programme and indicated shared commitment to boost effectiveness for the 2030 Agenda – signalling continued importance of collective actions. They also reiterated the importance of positioning effectiveness as a foundational dimension of the 2030 Agenda.
- The meeting confirmed the shared objectives of the Global Partnership’s 2019 Senior-Level Meeting (SLM) to galvanize governments, civil society and other actors into the ‘gear change’ needed to accelerate SDG implementation at the country and global level. The SLM will convene at Directors-General and Permanent Secretaries level to review progress based on fresh evidence, spark action to realise the SDGs, and shape a new effectiveness narrative to spur the 2030 Agenda implementation.
- This new narrative will be informed by bringing together all relevant actors and evidence, including from GPIs, introducing new tools (the compendium of good practices, the knowledge-sharing platform, principles and guidelines for effective private sector engagement, and tailored approaches to monitoring effectiveness in fragile contexts, as well as of South-South Co-operation) and addressing new frontier effectiveness topics (thematic effectiveness issues, triangular co-operation, and technological innovation were highlighted).
- The meeting gave encouraging signals for continued leadership of the Global Partnership, with positive indications of interest for future co-chairing roles as well as Steering Committee seats.

Innovative chairing arrangement gives GPEDC a boost:

- Civil society is now, for the first time, representing, as a fourth Co-Chair, the six non-executive constituencies of the Committee in a pilot phase, which was agreed to run up until the 2019 SLM. This is globally unique, going beyond the usual multi-stakeholder set-up of other partnerships, and allowing non-state actors to shape the work of the Global Partnership in a truly collaborative way and on an equal footing. This new role contributed to the positive and collegial atmosphere and spirit throughout the meeting.

UN collaboration:

- UNDESA briefed the Global Partnership Steering Committee in detail about how GPEDC can contribute to SDG follow-up and review throughout 2019, in particular entry points to the ECOSOC HLPF and related forums, as well as the 2019 SDG Summit in the margins of UNGA. Hosted at the UN, this Steering Committee meeting demonstrated its intent and opportunities for strengthening the Global Partnership’s working relationships with the UN System.
- Going forward, Global Partnership stakeholders need to strategically consider how to contribute to various UN follow-up and review efforts next year, including:
 1. Financing for Development Forum (15-18 April) and the High-Level Dialogue (HLD) of the General Assembly on Financing for Development (23 September): Global Partnership evidence can inform the review of progress on mobilising resources and delivering on commitments made in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), contribute to the IATF Report and support the 2019 FfD Forum and the HLD under GA to review relevant AAAA commitments, including § 58 on effective development co-operation.

2. HLPF (under the auspices of ECOSOC; 9-18 July, “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”): The GPEDC SLM will demonstrate how the Global Partnership can contribute to the review of progress on the SDGs (Members should take this up in sessions on finance on Friday 12 July and on SDG 17 on Monday 15 July, sessions organised by major groups and partnership events as well as, through Member States, in the General Debate and 51 Voluntary National Reviews, as well as in thematic reviews, for which the ECOSOC President has invited the GPEDC to provide substantive inputs).
3. 2019 SDG Summit (HLPF under the auspices of the GA; 24-25 September, in parallel to GA General Debate, concluding with a political declaration co-facilitated by Sweden and the Bahamas): Conclusions from the GPEDC SLM could help shape high-level political guidance on the global development agenda and draw attention to actions needed to accelerate progress on development effectiveness.
4. Development Co-operation Forum (throughout 2019/20): Building on past efforts, members should continue ensuring synergies on reviewing global trends in development co-operation and sharing evidence on the effectiveness of all types of development co-operation at the DCF.
5. Review of the HLPF (early 2020): This review, under the GA and paired with ECOSOC review, will look at the ability of the Forum to accelerate progress and ensure impact at country level. This is an opportunity to give new mandates to HLPF and consider highlighting the effectiveness dimension prominently.

Table of action points emerging from meeting

Part	Action points	For whom
1	Set up a Core Group for SLM preparations to draft the SLM programme for consultation in February; identify and engage session leads; and present progress at the next Steering Committee meeting	SC members to express interest in Core Group by 18 January 2019
2	Immediate practical preparations: including, circulating an SLM save-the-date, inviting the UN DSG, and securing a venue at UN-HQ in New York	Co-Chairs, JST
3	Respond to the call for resources to support the GPEDC in the SLM and beyond	Members
4	Based on members’ guidance, accelerate implementation of the agreed priorities in the work programme , and deliver high-quality outputs for the 2019 SLM and UN review processes in a timely manner	SC members/JST, including through working groups
5	Start SLM advocacy, engagement & outreach activities , including through meaningful interventions promoting effectiveness in key inter-governmental forums, and notably, BAPA+40 (building on the work of the GPI on Triangular Co-operation and the interests of key southern partners)	Co-Chairs, Members
6	Promote broad multi-stakeholder participation at the PSE Specialised Policy Dialogue (16-17 January 2019, Paris) and engage communities actively in the ongoing PSE survey	Members
7	Agree on dates and preparations for the next Steering Committee meeting to endorse an SLM programme and finalize relevant deliverables from the current work programme	Co-Chairs, Members, with JST support
8	Provide any feedback on this draft summary	Members, within two weeks of circulation

Headline notes, by session

PART I: A SHARED VISION FOR THE SENIOR-LEVEL MEETING

- **The Committee agreed with the SLM objectives** as outlined in the [concept note](#) and supported by written feedback to be reflected in the SLM draft programme.
- Members highlighted that the SLM should **focus on a set of ‘lynchpin’ issues that are key to reaching the SDGs**, within the realm of effective development co-operation (where the GPEDC can demonstrate its ability to solve problems), and informed by the results of the 2018 monitoring round and other country-level evidence, in complementarity to other global processes.
- The SLM should provide appealing **opportunities for senior officials to demonstrate renewed political commitment to effectiveness**, which is foundational to achieving sustainable development, and realising the SDGs; as part of the means of implementation; as a lens for SDG review; and in support of a ‘whole-of-society’ approach through inclusive, multi-stakeholder, partnerships.
- **The Meeting should tell a story that encourages all actors to take action to realise development effectiveness**: one that accounts for context specificity, focusing on those left behind and taking into account the scarcity of resources, incentives for public, private and civil society actors to engage and competing global priorities.
- **Strategic messaging for the SLM will be critical**. Political ‘buzz’ is important and the SLM should use the latest evidence and data for renewed accountability. While the focus is on SDG 17, more emphasis could be placed on effectiveness and its links to the SDGs up for review at the 2019 HLPF (SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13 and 16).
- Germany as Co-Chair presented its vision of the role effectiveness could play going forward – in complementing, as **a third critical element (alongside the Goal Framework [SDGs] and financing framework [FfD]), the architecture of the 2030 Agenda**.
- Members heard that ODA, while nominally increasing, was, in real terms, stagnant, and was being increasingly diverted to humanitarian crises and in-country spending. Against this backdrop, **effectiveness will be an increasingly important tool for justifying ODA to national publics**.
- Other challenges highlighted in terms of framing effectiveness within the 2030 Agenda was the need to highlight the importance of accountability for agreed commitments and linkages between development co-operation and domestic resource mobilisation.
- Committee members noted that effective development co-operation was a complex area of work and that within this context important achievements have already been made. Discussions highlighted the potential of specific themes (such as private sector engagement) in offering a good entry point into the complex topic of effectiveness. It will also be important to **frame the SLM more in terms of effectiveness itself**, and its role in supporting the SDGs, than the GPEDC as such.
- Members welcomed the current record participation in the monitoring round and took it as evidence that there is clear political momentum, and **a clear, broad constituency that believes effectiveness will help their countries achieve the 2030 Agenda**.

PART II: SUBSTANTIVE SLM OBJECTIVES – DELIVERING ON THE CURRENT WORK PROGRAMME

- **Monitoring remains the backbone and core product of the Global Partnership.** Members welcomed the update on the current monitoring round, with 87 countries confirmed at the time of the meeting. Many of them have embedded the monitoring in their national systems and processes. Members took this record participation as evidence for strong political momentum and a growing community that is using effectiveness principles to foster better partnerships for the 2030 Agenda.
- **Linkages with country-level processes and timeliness of Global Partnership monitoring exercises remain important features, that inform SDG follow-up and review in UN and other forums, as well as country-level accountability and policy change.** Members were pleased with the expectation that new data, to be ready in early 2019, will inform in a timely manner the UN SDGs and FfD Reports for 2019, and be available for half of the voluntary national reviews scheduled for the 2019 High-Level Political Forum.
- **Making better use of monitoring findings will be critical.** Members highlighted the importance of using the findings for learning and policy making at country level, and for accountability purposes. In this regard, members broadly welcomed the approach of staggering the release of the monitoring report by chapter in the run up to the SLM to facilitate interpretation of, and action on the data.
- **Supporting data-driven action to strengthen country-level effectiveness remains vital.** Complementary to the monitoring, the evidence the Global Partnership is collecting and sharing on how to strengthen effectiveness through the Country-Level Implementation and Knowledge Sharing workstreams is critical. Nine country pilots are currently being implemented. These will show 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 – which will now be launched at the 2019 SLM – and a Knowledge-Sharing Platform to be launched in early 2019.
- **CPDE also proposed to continue the work on the Global Action Plan** in the run up to and beyond the 2019 SLM, starting with a background paper to identify GPEDC priority areas.
- **Monitoring effectiveness in new contexts will help to deepen engagement in different communities, and with different partners.** The update on the work of the open working group, convened to guide the development of a tailored approach to monitoring effectiveness in fragile and conflict-affected situations was commended, with several members flagging that delivering effectively in fragile contexts will be critical to leaving no one behind and realising the ambition of the 2030 Agenda. Initial recommendations and roadmap to the SLM were welcomed along with the notion that the working group would develop a proposed approach, tailored monitoring approach to be presented at the next Steering Committee meeting. The confirmation of all 20 g7+ countries in the current monitoring round was particularly welcomed. Similarly, Mexico's update on the pilot exercise on monitoring the effectiveness of South-South Co-operation was greatly welcomed, especially Mexico's experience in linking this to SDG reporting and national planning efforts, making it an integral part of the fibre of national M&E efforts.
- **Effectively implementing private sector projects at country level is an SDG enabler, where the Global Partnership has carved out a promising niche.** Members praised the analytical work on private sector engagement (PSE) through development co-operation, which has now concluded: a review of over 900 projects, four case studies and workshops in Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, El Salvador and Uganda. Paired with deliberations of the vibrant business

leaders' caucus and an ongoing survey, the process demonstrated strong demand for inclusive policy dialogue on challenges and opportunities in making partnerships with the private sector work more effectively in practice. Members appreciated the effort to develop a narrative around shared value and to reflect diverse viewpoints in the issue paper and looked forward to engaging in discussing them and shaping the principles and guidelines, starting at the Specialised Policy Dialogue on PSE in January 2019. The business sector signalled full support and would like to see the principles endorsed at the 2019 SDG Summit, in addition to the GPEDC SLM. Members emphasised the importance of unlocking domestic solutions through financial and other types of development co-operation and bundling all efforts to engage the private sector in the consultative phase in the run up to the 2019 SLM. Given the importance of the topic and the wealth of evidence, members supported a stand-alone session on PSE at the 2019 SLM and continuation of this work in the future work programme.

PART III: SUBSTANTIVE SLM OBJECTIVES – FUTURE ‘FRONTIER’ EFFECTIVENESS ISSUES

- **The SLM programme should deepen current strategic priorities** and help shape areas of work for the future work programme. This was underscored, in particular, in the context of private sector engagement, monitoring effectiveness in fragile contexts and the Global Action Plan.
- **There was discussion among members on whether new ‘frontier issues’ should be added**, or if indeed the Global Partnership should double down on what is currently covered to go deeper on the issues that are already addressed in order to not stretch itself beyond capacity. In view of the need to demonstrate the relevance of effectiveness principles for the implementation of the SDGs, some members suggested to **review effectiveness by substantive and thematic issues**. Inclusive partnership to achieve better SDG results, particularly in relation to the link to the 2019 HLPF theme, were also mentioned as deserving greater attention.
- **Other topics** highlighted for consideration in the SLM programme included:
 - Technological innovation and digitalisation
 - Triangular co-operation
 - Civil society enabling environment
 - Gender equality
 - Climate change, and
 - Quality infrastructure.

PART IV: KICKING OFF PREPARATIONS

- **A Core Group will be set up to prepare for the SLM.** Members supported this approach and some (including CPDE) already indicated their interest in participating in the group. Co-Chairs have a leading responsibility in this group. Expressions of interest are welcome by 15 January. Once topics are agreed, session leads will carry preparations forward in an inclusive and open manner.
- **Members should use milestone events and preparations of the HLPF itself strategically to build momentum for the SLM** – GPEDC events like the PSE Dialogue and Country-Level Implementation Workshop and prominent speaking slots in BAPA+40, the FfD Forum and the HLPF will help to secure participation of some highly visible individuals. The JST will continue to prepare event-specific briefs to this end and highlight and publicize relevant interventions.
- **Secure the venue on UN premises.** Members agreed that the meeting should take place at UN Headquarters and the small or medium-sized option (see concept note) would be feasible. Members concluded that UN protocol would not apply to the SLM, e.g. in terms of CSO status, but precautions will have to be taken to ensure access.
- **Resourcing the Global Partnership/JST is critical for a successful SLM and future work programme. Frontloaded funding to the JST is urgently needed to ensure continued institutional support.** In view of the extension of the work programme to mid-2019, members were urged to fill the imminent funding gap for the JST to ensure continued institutional support and substantive preparation of the SLM. Members indicated efforts to ensure cost-effective participation of respective constituencies.
- **Advocacy and outreach activities should start now.** The JST will develop advocacy notes for stakeholder groups and a social media toolkit. Members were invited to also consider media engagement opportunities for their own high-level representatives. In follow up to the meeting with the UN DSG, Ms Mohammed will be invited by Co-Chairs to participate in the SLM.
- **The SLM will conclude with a Co-Chairs' statement.** This document will inform UN follow-up and review processes (including the review of the HLPF itself, planned for 2019-20), and could serve as an important input to the HLPF Ministerial Declaration/SDG Summit outcome document (members heard earlier from UNDESA that member states were still negotiating the final format of an outcome for the Summit).
- **Co-Chairs and SC members will rotate at the SLM, and the 4th NECC pilot will be reviewed at the next SC meeting.** Co-Chairs indicated their ongoing discussions within their constituencies about replacements, while some members again raised the question of staggered Co-Chairs' replacement to ensure institutional memory. Germany and Bangladesh signalled willingness to stay on the Steering Committee after their successors are in place. Co-Chairs welcomed the new 4th NECC arrangement and heard members' interests in seeing the pilot continue until the SLM. They will invite all six non-executive Steering Committee members to assess whether this new role adds value to their work in terms of information sharing and representation at the next meeting.
- **The next SC meeting will take place in March/April.** Co-chairs will inform members shortly whether the meeting will take place in Uganda, in the margins of BAPA+40 (20-22 March 2019) or World Bank Spring Meetings/FfD (12-14 April; 15-18 April).

Annex:

MEETING DOCUMENTS

1. [Agenda](#)
2. [Logistical Note](#)
3. [Document 1a: Shaping the 2019 SLM Together](#)
4. [Document 1b: GPEDC Overview of Funding Requirements](#)
5. [Document 2: Issue Paper on Effective Private Sector Engagement](#)
6. [Document 3a: 'Adapting Global Partnership Monitoring: Tailoring To Fragile And Conflict-Affected Situations'](#)
7. [Document 3b: Global Partnership Monitoring Annexes](#)

PRESENTATIONS

1. [A Shared Vision for the Senior-Level Meeting \(Part I\)](#)
2. [Update on the 2018 Monitoring Round \(Part II\)](#)
3. [Emerging Findings from the Call for Evidence \(Part II\)](#)
4. [Adapting Monitoring to Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations \(Part II\)](#)
5. [Adapting Monitoring to South-South Co-operation \(Part II\)](#)
6. [Update on the Status of Implementation of the Private Sector Engagement Work \(Part II\)](#)
7. [Reviewing the Knowledge-Sharing Platform](#)
8. [Discussion on Senior-Level Meeting Roadmap and Communications \(Part IV\)](#)
9. [Overview of Resourcing Requirements \(Part IV\)](#)