

20th Steering Committee Meeting

Summary Report

9 & 10 December 2020

Virtual meeting

Objectives

- **Session 1:** Update Steering Committee members on the progress of the monitoring reform and outline the Co-Chairs' proposal for next steps to improve the monitoring process and review the indicator framework.
- **Session 2:** Share and reflect on experiences to-date related to work programme implementation, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; 'foundational elements'; synergies across action areas; and linkages to the monitoring reform. Discuss how to support substantive products Action Areas will take to the next HLM.
- **Session 3:** Discuss and launch the 'Action Dialogues 2021' initiative, inviting Steering Committee members and their constituencies to engage in the process.
- **Session 4:** (i) Discuss the Co-chair's proposal for the Global Partnership Review, including political considerations, process, and how the Steering Committee can utilise the review to engage stakeholders; (ii) 'Brainstorm' on a shared vision of political outcomes and deliverables for the next HLM, and the roles Steering Committee members can take to support this.

For background documents and presentations from this meeting, please visit [this page](#).

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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 20th Steering Committee was held virtually over two days, with English - French interpretation available to members. The meeting was chaired by the Partnership's four Co-Chairs and brought together participants representing committee members.

Introduction

Co-Chairs highlighted the on-going importance of maximizing the effectiveness of development co-operation to achieve the 2030 Agenda, not least in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. They noted the added value of the Partnership's multi-stakeholder platform in implementing the 2020-2022 work programme.

H.E. Ms. Elysée Munembwe Tamukumwe, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning of the Democratic Republic of Congo, launched the Action Dialogues for 2021 to strengthen the Global Partnership's evidence-based multi-stakeholder approach to co-operation, to create new political momentum, and build on actions for effectiveness to deliver the SDGs.

Ms. Fatima Yasmin, Permanent Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance representing **H.E. Mr. Mustafa Kamal**, Minister of Finance, Bangladesh, highlighted the importance of showing behaviour change from stakeholders, and the need to capture the voices of diverse constituencies of development actors.

H.E. Mr. Thomas Gass, Ambassador, Assistant Director General, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, spoke of the need to demonstrate the role of development effectiveness and multi-stakeholder partnerships to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Mr. Vitalice Meja, Executive Director of Reality of Aid Africa, and the non-executive Co-chair of the Global Partnership, called for open and frank discussion of the Co-chairs' proposals, and the need for the Partnership to align itself with the SDGs, using the review of the Partnership to ensure this.



Key outcomes and messages from Sessions

The Steering Committee has:

- Welcomed the update on the progress of the monitoring reform and **agreed with the Co-chairs' proposal for next steps on the reform** concerning both the monitoring process and the indicator framework.
- Launched the **Action Dialogues 2021** to foster political engagement and gather evidence on effective development co-operation at the country level,
- Started the **GPEDC Review** process as an opportunity to engage stakeholders in the run up to HLM3, by agreeing on the way forward to review the implementation of the GPEDC mandate and its ways of working.
- Initiated a discussion on the **vision for HLM3**, at 'half time' to 2030, noting the need to ensure that different ongoing work – on monitoring, action areas, the GPEDC review, etc. – inform the Committee's planning efforts of a high-level event with political appeal.

Co-chairs have:

- Offered support to raise awareness of **Action Areas** regionally and among partner countries;
- Committed to consulting members on the Terms of References of the **GPEDC Review**;
- Proposed to hold the **21st Meeting** of the GPEDC Steering Committee virtually in Q2/2021.

Session 1:

- ✓ Members highlighted the need to continue strengthening country capacity and intensifying **country ownership** on the monitoring process, emphasizing the need to simplify the process and increasingly embed it in existing planning and programming processes without sacrificing the robustness of the data. The importance of preserving the **comparability of the results** to previous monitoring rounds was also stressed.
- ✓ Members broadly supported the **multi-stakeholder approach** to review the monitoring framework, noting that indicators must be relevant for all stakeholders as intended in the Busan Partnership Agreement. The approach for moving forward with consultations on the indicator framework in the first quarter of 2021, as proposed by Co-chairs, was welcomed.

Session 2:

- ✓ Members noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to impact their capacities and ability to engage **at the country level** and raised the need to adapt Action Area work to the current context. Members agreed that the COVID-19 crisis will require a compelling narrative on the significant role of development co-operation and the effectiveness principles in response to the pandemic.
- ✓ Members agreed on the importance of creating **synergies across Action Areas**. Co-chairs and the Joint Support Team confirmed their commitment to facilitate exchanges between Action Areas and extend support in partner-country engagement to ensure activities are anchored at the country-level.

Session 3:

- ✓ Members agreed that the Action Dialogues 2021, building on the evidence of the 2018 Monitoring Round where possible, will help to show **how the Partnership is delivering at the country level** to drive policy and promote accountability among stakeholders. The Action Dialogues will link to the existing work of the Action Areas and assist the identification and establishment of synergies within them.
- ✓ Members agreed that the Action Dialogues should be **with partner countries** rather than **about partner countries**: they must be **country-led** and connect with existing country processes so as to not create additional burdens on partner countries.

Session 4:

- ✓ Members signalled broad support for the proposed approach for the review of the Global Partnership, highlighting the need for inclusive consultations to reflect the views of all **stakeholders**. The review will allow the Partnership to learn from both its successes and its challenges. Members advised on the scope of the review and its methodology.



Summary of Deliberations

Session 1: Global Partnership Monitoring Reform: The New Monitoring Proposal

Moderated by Mr. Vitalice Meja, 4th Co-chair

Members that took the floor: Canada, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, CPDE, EU, Germany, IPU, ITUC, NEPAD, Nepal, OFID, PIFS, Republic of Korea, WINGS

Part 1: Recap on reform: update on work to improve the monitoring process

- Members welcomed this update, which focused on the outcomes of the stakeholder consultations convened by Co-chairs on the monitoring process, and an overview of the two sets of key issues (“technical” and “strategic” – see [session background document](#) for details) that need to be addressed.
- Members expressed agreement with the Co-chairs’ synthesis of the key issues that need to be addressed through an improved monitoring process, and also raised some important considerations including:
 - An improved monitoring process should be designed with careful consideration of not undermining data comparability, while still recognising the value and importance of institutionalising the process at country-level.
 - Work to advance on options for each of the two sets of process issues should not take place in isolation of each other, as the issues need to be considered in a holistic way.
 - The process will be strengthened by simplifying the process, increasing the data collection period, and building capacity of actors involved.
 - A monitoring process that is inclusive and can account for contextual differences.

Part 2: Proposed approach to review the indicator framework

- The Co-chairs’ proposal focuses on revising the indicator framework to:
 - Reflect the commitments and priorities of each constituency in relation to the four effectiveness principles;
 - Ensure it better mirrors the multi-stakeholder nature of the Partnership; and
 - Reflects systemic issues at the country level, as well as different country contexts.
- Members expressed strong support for the ‘stakeholder-based approach’ to review the framework and stressed the importance of an inclusive framework that can hold all actors involved accountable to commitments to the Busan principles.
- Members also encouraged that the review of the indicator framework should proceed with attention to key considerations, including:
 - Maintaining and/or strengthening indicators’ linkages to the SDGs;
 - Engaging academia and the research community in developing countries;
 - Utilising previous relevant work to strengthen/adapt the indicator framework; and
 - Being cognisant of the revised framework illuminating what the implementation of the principles means in practice, with particular attention on indicators’ relevance to all Busan signatories.
 - Being open to the possibility of deepening existing indicators and/or adding new indicators, including to go beyond aid by capturing other elements of development cooperation

Part 3: Next steps for monitoring reform

- Immediate next steps for the reform in 2021 include:
 - For ‘ ‘technical’ ’ issues (Issues A as referenced [here](#)) to be addressed to improve the *monitoring process*: a consultation process to invite inputs from members and stakeholders on potential ideas to address the issues;
 - For ‘ ‘strategic’ ’ issues (Issues B as referenced [here](#)) to be addressed to improve the *monitoring process*: in-depth analytical work to explore implications of various options to address the issues;
 - For *review of the indicator framework*: constituency-based consultations in early 2021, led by Co-chairs and SC members, to be followed by a reconciliation process led by Co-chairs which looks across the priorities and commitments raised by constituencies.
- Based on the outputs from the above, Co-chairs will bring the following to the next meeting of the Steering Committee (21st meeting):
 - A proposal on options to improve the monitoring process.
 - A proposal of contours of the new indicator framework, with the expectation that this will be followed by further technical work with constituencies and Action Areas on actual indicator development/refinement, and then piloting/testing.
- Discussions highlighted the critical role of the JST to support the Co-Chairs and Steering Committee in executing these next steps of the reform successfully.
- Members expressed their readiness to engage with the Co-chairs’ proposed next steps, including taking an active role in organising constituency-based consultations on the indicator framework.

Session 2: Delivering the Work Programme in the run-up to the next HLM

Moderated by Ms. Andrea Ries, Focal Point, Development Effectiveness, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Switzerland

Members that took the floor: Canada, Colombia, CPDE, EU, Germany, IPU, ITUC, Oru-Fogar Switzerland, UNSDG, WINGS

- AA leads face challenges in:
 - Communicating AA work to partners;
 - Buy-in on research components;
 - Capacity challenges;
 - Connecting with country offices and establishing ‘synergies’ between AAs; and
 - Steering Committee members’ participation, specifically partner country representatives, engaging in AA’s work.
- Members also noted a need to adapt the work programme to meet challenges in overall progress and implementation caused by the pandemic.
 - Members highlighted the importance of the effectiveness principles as a guide to pandemic response and trust-building between partners.
 - The pandemic will require a compelling narrative on the significant role of development effectiveness and the principles in recovery.

- Members noted the need to adapt the work programme implementation to build connections to other global alliances, platforms and processes already taking place at country level.

Session 3: Launching ‘Action Dialogues 2021’

Moderated by H.E. Ms. Elysée Munembwe Tamukumwe, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Planning, Democratic Republic of Congo (GPEDC Co-Chair)

Members that took the floor: Canada, Colombia, CPDE, EU, Germany, IPU, ITUC, Nepal, PIFS, Republic of Korea, UNSDG

- o Members indicated their broad support for and readiness to engage in the Action Dialogues that were launched during this session and will take place throughout 2021.
- o Co-chairs underscored the importance of the multi-stakeholder Action Dialogues as a strategic means to facilitate action and collect evidence on effective development co-operation at the country level in order to generate further political momentum ahead of the next HLM;
- o Co-chairs called upon all Steering Committee members to mobilize and actively engage their constituencies and support the Dialogues in 2021 and informed about their ongoing outreach, in the form of a letter (signed by Co-chairs) that invites all countries to undertake Action Dialogues;
- o The following points were noted on the Action Dialogues in that they should aim to:
 - Link monitoring results to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
 - Be *country driven*, inclusive and strategic in approach.
 - Make use of existing frameworks and ensure the dialogue process does not stress limited resources/capacities or create a burden on partner countries.

Session 4: Building Political Momentum on Effectiveness for the next HLM

Moderated by Mr. Thomas Gass, Ambassador, Assistant Director General, Swiss Agency for Development Co-operation, Switzerland (GPEDC Co-Chair)

Members that took the floor: Canada, Colombia, CPDE, EU, Germany, IADB, IPU, ITUC, Nepal, OECD/DAC, Republic of Korea, UNSDG

Part 1: The Global Partnership review

- o The Co-chairs proposal reiterated that the GPEDC review is an important solution-oriented engagement opportunity in the run up to HLM3, addressing perceived challenges and improving its approaches and functions to **make the Global Partnership ‘fit for the future’ in the context of COVID-19** and the changing development landscape.
- o Rather than conducting a complete mandate and governance review, it can improve the **implementation of the comprehensive mandate** received in 2016 and the Global Partnership’s ways of working to make the best possible contribution to deliver the 2030 Agenda.
- o During the discussion, members broadly supported the base assumptions that guide the review, noting that the scope should include a **diagnostic study** as well as that **Terms of References** for the Review should be reviewed by the Steering Committee. The

consultations led by the co-chairs and the questions for the consultancy team should be informed by this diagnostic exercise. Any considerations related to the working arrangements should inform the review, even though they are part of the agreed 2016 mandate.

- Members underscored that the review process should take into consideration:
 - previous adjustments to the Partnership, building on progress already made towards delivering on its mandate;
 - the need to strengthen stakeholders' ability to consult and organise themselves within and across constituencies and convey stakeholder-specific views including on the review itself; and
 - how the GPEDC aligns itself and relates to the 2030 Agenda, the SDGs, and the Financing for Development agenda.

Part 2: Ambitions and 'building blocks'

- Co-chairs noted that the **next HLM comes at a crossroads** – at half-time to the 2030 deadline, with SDG-related gains in jeopardy due to COVID-19. Its success hinges upon its contribution to the development agenda, demonstrating how the effectiveness principles can help to unlock and scale up partnerships, and how whole-of-society approaches can work and positively impact development.
- Members agreed with the urgent need to demonstrate the Partnership's value added, and respond to the growing pressure on multilateralism and the COVID-19 pandemic by highlighting its **ability to engage diverse stakeholders through broad and inclusive political buy in**.
- Members welcomed the discussion and agreed with the proposal to **design a political offer within existing commitments**, underpinned by robust technical products and engagement opportunities that attract different actors at highest level, building on the diverse ongoing activities and plans – including those related to the monitoring, the action areas/work programme implementation and the review.
- Members also reiterated that a truly political HLM requires **ministerial level engagement**, from both partner and donor countries.
- Members made the following specific proposals:
 - The need to be **context-specific** and provide solutions that engage well with other initiatives (see for example the [OECD COVID-19 hub](#));
 - Result in a **declaration with new commitments and roadmap for the second SDG 'half-time'** and send a strong message from the HLM to the UN General Assembly;
 - Systematically **engage all regions**, with increased focus on Small Island Developing States (SIDS), **and constituencies** through existing tools and platforms, including the GPEDC's own initiatives, such as the renewed Business Leader Caucus;
 - Improve **communications, advocacy and outreach** by translating the technical messages around better co-operation and partnerships emanating from the different action areas into an appealing narrative for different high-level audiences and clear guidance for stakeholders on the ground;
 - Devise a clear and inclusive preparatory process and make use of the **6th Busan Partnership Forum in 2021** as one preparatory event, and also link to the Financing for Development and SDG milestones during this period;
 - Consider a **hybrid HLM** with virtual and in person representation; and
 - Ensure work across all action areas is prioritised and constituencies can organise **'side events'** (such as parliamentarian or business forum).
