

Global Partnership Monitoring Reform

Analytical paper on the occurrence of the monitoring exercise: when, how often and how long? [June 2021]

This paper, produced by the Joint Support Team with guidance from the Co-Chairs, examines the challenges linked to the occurrence of the monitoring exercise, looking specifically at its timing (when it takes place), frequency (how often it takes place) and duration (how long it lasts). It analyses four options for a revised occurrence of the exercise and the implications on different strategic guiding criteria and associated trade-offs. The analysis and the provisional options should be considered within the broader work under the monitoring reform. This includes other issues on the monitoring process and the technical work to adapt the monitoring indicator framework. The emerging insights from the paper and the provisional options will continue to evolve, and in conjunction with the other pieces of work.

[Disclaimer added in December 2021: This paper was developed at an earlier stage of the Global Partnership Monitoring Reform (ahead of the 21st Steering Committee meeting in July 2021). Since then, stakeholder consultations and further analysis have been undertaken and the latest information on the proposed monitoring process and its occurrence can be found in the [Background Document](#) to the monitoring session of the 22nd Steering Committee meeting of the Global Partnership, particularly under Annex I]

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Executive summary

Changes to the occurrence of the Global Partnership monitoring exercise can help enhance the role of the Global Partnership monitoring in driving behaviour change towards more effective development co-operation. Many Global Partnership stakeholders have voiced that previous monitoring exercises have been time-constrained, too frequent and embedded in a rigid timeframe. These aspects of the *occurrence* of the exercise have reduced buy-in and engagement, limited the time available to take action on the results, and hindered the ability of countries to integrate the exercise within their existing processes and systems.

This paper identifies and analyses four options for a revised occurrence of the monitoring exercise and, by looking at a set of strategic guiding criteria, the implications of each. The paper examines the challenges linked to the occurrence of the monitoring process, looking specifically at its timing (when it takes place), frequency (how often it takes place) and duration (how long it lasts). It proposes four provisional options:

- 1) **open monitoring waves**, in which countries have flexibility to choose in which wave to enrol within a monitoring round;
- 2) **monitoring waves by region**, in which countries are assigned to a wave based on their region;
- 3) **monitoring waves by country context**, in which countries are grouped according to their context (i.e. fragility status, development level, income level, or territorial characteristics);
- 4) **a “one-off” round**, in which all countries undertake the exercise within a fixed timeframe, similar to the previous monitoring approach but with a longer duration.

For each option, the paper points out the implications *vis à vis* the different guiding criteria identified by Global Partnership stakeholders as important for future monitoring exercises. These include: institutionalisation of the process at country level; increased use of results; enhanced whole-of-society participation; improved engagement by development partners; support to mutual learning and enhanced accountability for all actors; and any implications for the Global Partnership’s custodianship of three SDG indicators.

The provisional options, and analysis of the implications of each, should be considered within the broader work under the monitoring reform. This includes additional issues on the monitoring process (Issues A), which have been taken forward through consultations, and the technical work to adapt the monitoring indicator framework. The emerging insights from the paper and the provisional options will continue to evolve, and in conjunction with the other pieces of work, will inform decisions at the 22nd Steering Committee Meeting taking place towards the end of 2021.

All four options offer improvements to the frequency, duration and timing of the exercise and allocate dedicated time, within a monitoring round, for the use of monitoring results. While each option presents specific advantages and disadvantages, when compared to the occurrence of the previous monitoring exercise, all options allow more time for stakeholders to participate in the exercise and make use of its results. The burden for all stakeholders to participate in the monitoring is reduced, at least inasmuch as the options offer decreased frequency. Furthermore, a more structured process is foreseen by encouraging pre-registration and providing a clear and longer-horizon calendar for participation, use of results, and support needed.

The four options allow for the Global Partnership’ to continue to generate data on the three SDG indicators and maintain its role in support of accountability and learning. In all options, the frequency of the exercise ensures that the Global Partnership monitoring keeps providing regular information to maintain the custodianship for reporting on three SDG indicators (5.c.1, 17.15.1 and 17.16.1). Such a frequency would allow alignment with the Global Partnership High Level Meeting (HLM) cycles, and maintaining the role of the monitoring in support of accountability and learning for all stakeholders by providing snapshots of performance for all groups at the end of each round.

When comparing across options, option 1 (open monitoring waves) is the most appealing. It provides the most flexibility to facilitate institutionalisation of the process at the country level, and would generate the most regular data, therefore increasing occasions for political momentum. Option 4 (one-off round) would allow some flexibility but within a shorter time frame for partner countries, while option 2 and 3 (waves by region and by context) would not allow this type of flexibility as countries will be “assigned” to a specific wave. Furthermore, grouping by regions and context is politically sensitive for some partner countries and could discourage participation in the exercise.

An extended duration could facilitate engagement and participation of stakeholders but only to a limited extent. For all options, a longer timeline for the country-level process gives more time to development partners (and other stakeholders) to engage and report at country level and increase the whole of society approach of the exercise. However, it is recognised that the engagement of stakeholders is only partially related to the occurrence issue and arguably depends more on the degree to which the monitoring framework reflects their priorities and interests as well as their capacity and political will to engage.

Options containing waves would allow presenting an additional snapshot of results, after each wave. This could be in the form of country profiles and reporting performance for the group of participating countries/stakeholders (resources dependent). This would be additional to what will be produced at the end of a full round, when aggregate results from all participating countries and stakeholders will be made available (either in the form of a progress report or other types of products such as a tracking platform or online dashboard).

Each option has implications on the type of support and resources required. While the “one-off” option, with the round taking place at the same time for each country, would allow “economies of scales”, all options including waves may require additional resources and support from the Joint Support Team to be available continuously and for different countries at a different time. As per support provided by development partners, different options may require a different type of coordination between headquarters and country offices. For example, the options with waves would require headquarters of development partners to coordinate a smaller number of country-offices per wave compared to the “one-off” option, but their support will need to be more regular and extended through the full round.

Transition arrangements are needed to ensure the exercise regains political momentum and generates enthusiasm for participation after the Third High Level Meeting (HLM) in 2022. Following the HLM, after a period of 4 years without a monitoring exercise because of the pause needed to undertake a broad monitoring reform, many partner countries might wish to undertake the monitoring as soon as possible. Among the options with waves, option 1 (open monitoring wave) would better ensure the exercise regains political momentum and generates enthusiasm and demand for participation. With its flexibility, this option would allow as many countries as possible to undertake the exercise during the first wave.

Changes to the occurrence of the monitoring process need to take into account how the GPEDC aims to position the monitoring in the global conversation on development co-operation. Some prioritisation will be needed to define the occurrence of future monitoring rounds. Prioritising the GPEDC as a platform promoting country-level learning and behaviour change may require more flexibility to partner countries on when they begin and end the exercise. Positioning the GPEDC as a key contributor to regional/context-specific processes may require thinking on how the GPEDC works with regional platforms/organisations. Prioritising the GPEDC as a contributor of global aggregates for periodic global processes may require a high number of countries participating in the same time frame.

(1) Objectives of the paper

The reform of the Global Partnership monitoring aims to: increase possibilities for institutionalisation and adaptation of the exercise to country processes and systems; reinforce participation and multi-stakeholder engagement; strengthen political momentum created by participation in the exercise and the results it produces; and increase the use of monitoring results to drive accountability for all stakeholders, guide learning, capacity building and behaviour change towards more effective development co-operation.

Global Partnership stakeholders have voiced that previous monitoring rounds have been time-constrained, too frequent and with a rigid timeframe that have: reduced buy-in and engagement; limited the time available to understand and use the results for action; and not allowed countries to integrate it within their existing processes and systems. Coupled with other challenges, these issues have hindered the ability of the monitoring to drive behaviour change and support accountability for the implementation of the Busan commitments.

Therefore, a rigorous analysis of the **duration** (how long does it last?), **timing** (when does it take place?), and **frequency** (how often does it take place?) of the monitoring exercise – together referred to as the overall **occurrence** of the exercise - is necessary to understand how changes to one or more of these elements can contribute to achieve the strategic aims of the monitoring reform.

This paper analyses the challenges related to the occurrence of the monitoring and sets out a number of guiding criteria identified by Global Partnership stakeholders as important for future monitoring exercises:

- institutionalisation of the process at country level
- increased use of monitoring results
- enhanced whole-of-society approach
- engagement of development partners
- support to accountability at country and global levels and for all stakeholders
- evidence generated for the follow-up and review of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In addition, considerations on the strategic positioning of the Global Partnership after the Third High-Level Meeting (HLM3) as well as the type of support needed by countries to undertake the exercise are included.

The paper identifies **four options** for a revised occurrence of the exercise and analyses the implications of each, *vis à vis* the different guiding criteria and associated trade-offs. While it is recognised that other factors beyond duration, frequency and timing of the exercise may also have implications on the guiding criteria, their analysis is beyond the scope of this paper and is covered in other pieces of work within the monitoring reform. Within the realm of factors related to occurrence of the exercise, there are also other variables which are not fully known at this time. Among them, the most relevant is the Global Partnership Review¹, which is also considering the frequency of the HLM cycle in future.

Elements and preliminary findings of the paper fed into, and drew from, work on the “technical issues” (Issues A²) of the monitoring process and on stakeholder-specific consultations on the review of the

¹ More information on the Global Partnership Review can be found at the following link:

https://www.effectivecooperation.org/system/files/2020-11/SCM20_GPEDC%20Review_Final%20%281%29.pdf

² The list of Issues A can be found in the summary of the 20th Steering Committee Meeting available at: <https://www.effectivecooperation.org/system/files/2021-02/SCM20%20Final%20Summary%20%28ENG%29.pdf>

monitoring framework³. Furthermore, the paper is informed by the findings from the paper developed on the implications of the monitoring reform for SDG reporting. As the analysis emerging from the [SDG paper](#) has implications for the occurrence of the monitoring exercise it is advised that readers consider the present paper in conjunction with the SDG paper⁴.

For the reasons above, the analysis in this paper and the proposed options should be considered within the broader work under the monitoring reform. The emerging insights from the paper and provisional options will continue to evolve, and in conjunction with the other pieces of work, will inform decisions on the monitoring exercise at the 22nd Steering Committee Meeting taking place towards the end of 2021.

(2) Defining the problem

This section unpacks the issue of the occurrence of the monitoring and its related components (duration, timing, frequency). It presents – through the lens of occurrence - the main characteristics of the previous monitoring process, and summarises the feedback provided by Global Partnership stakeholders.

a. Definitions

What is meant by *duration*?

The “duration of the monitoring exercise” refers to the time period needed to complete the exercise. The duration of the exercise can be considered both from the country level and from the global level. For the purpose of the analysis in this paper, for a given partner country, the duration of the exercise refers to the period from the country’s confirmation of participation, through its collection of data, until its submission of final data to the Joint Support Team (JST). From a global perspective, the monitoring exercise starts when the official invitation is issued by Co-Chairs and lasts until country-level data are aggregated and translated into global results (e.g. through a digital platform or other type of product). While in the previous monitoring process, the use of results started after the conclusion of the monitoring exercise at global level (when all results were available at the same time), future monitoring options may see availability of country-level results – and therefore their use – ahead of the completion of the full global process.

What is meant by *frequency*?

The “frequency of the monitoring exercise” is used to reference how often the monitoring exercise happens, e.g. the interval of time between the start of two monitoring rounds for a given country. The frequency of the previous monitoring rounds was more or less biennial, providing data in conjunction with HLMs (2012, 2014, 2016, and 2019⁵). Changes to the frequency might have implications for how the monitoring evidence is used at upcoming HLMs/Senior Level Meetings (SLMs).

What is meant by *timing*?

The “timing of the monitoring exercise” is used to reference how the exercise aligns with other processes and events. In the past, because the monitoring happened between HLMs/SLMs, the timing for a partner country to join the process had been fixed to a rigid timeframe to ensure completion of the exercise for

³ The links to Issues A #2-6 are highlighted across the various guiding criteria under section 3 of this paper, while Issue A#1 (streamlining and simplifying the process) is addressed overall in this paper as changing the occurrence is one part of the solution to simplify the process.

⁴ See the corresponding analytical paper on linkages to the 2030 Agenda here: <https://www.effectivecooperation.org/linkagesmonitoringandSDGreporting>.

⁵ The Nairobi Outcome Document (NOD) redefined the frequency of HLMs “to be adapted to the calendar of global level conferences and meetings”. The NOD also defined that these HLMs would have been interspersed with high-level segments (Senior-Level Meetings), to take place in the margins of relevant meetings on development finance and co-operation.

all countries ahead of these global events. Alignment of the monitoring exercise with national processes of data collection or with other cycles (e.g. HLM cycles, regional reporting cycles, etc.) is a potential factor to consider when assessing the implications of the monitoring exercise's timing.

This paper will use **occurrence** of the monitoring exercise as the designated term to refer to all three elements of timing, duration and frequency.

b. Background information on the previous monitoring process

This section summarises the previous monitoring process, highlighting challenges linked to the duration/timing/frequency that had implications on participation, engagement and broadly on the strategic position of the Global Partnership. This section also provides technical details on the previous monitoring (e.g. the time needed to complete it, the role of actors involved in it, and the issues observed in the past) that are necessary to understand its complexity and to identify alternative options for a revised monitoring process.

The monitoring process is country-led, voluntary and multi-stakeholder. Since 2013, the exercise has been undertaken every 2.5 years under the leadership of partner country governments in close collaboration with relevant development actors at country and global levels. The JST provides guidance and support to countries and other participants throughout the entire process.

Past monitoring process: occurrence

Three monitoring rounds took place between 2013 and 2019. Despite slight variations across these rounds, the occurrence of the past monitoring process can be summarised as follows:

		Past monitoring process
Frequency for partner countries		2.5 years
Duration	Country level	6-7 months data collection
	Global*	12-14 months

**excluding the time for the use of results*

Past monitoring process: the main phases

Phase 1: Outreach and preparations

Partner countries are invited to participate through an official invitation letter signed by Co-Chairs. In parallel, the JST develops targeted guidance for different stakeholders and dedicated reporting tools in three languages, and offers webinars, workshops, meetings, and training. Countries confirm participation and nominate a national co-ordinator.

! For some countries the official decision to participate in the monitoring can take several months after receipt of the invitation. In some cases governments are in the middle of elections, restructuring across ministries, in other cases the responsibility for managing development co-operation is split across different ministries and an internal agreement needs to be in place to identify a focal point. A significant amount of time is also needed to identify and get in contact with relevant focal points from partner country governments due to turnover and/or changes in government structures. In the past, this reduced the chances for some countries and their partners to participate in the exercise within a fixed and limited timeframe.

Phase 2: Data collection and validation

National co-ordinators lead data collection at country level: the government can report four indicators independently, four indicators require inputs from development partners, and two indicators require reporting through dedicated multi-stakeholder dialogues at country level. The other three indicators come from existing global assessments and do not require country-level reporting.

! Late responses from stakeholders has affected the duration of the process. On the other hand, not having adequate time to report has often hampered engagement/reporting from certain stakeholders and/or reporting on those indicators that require intensive data collection and dialogues (e.g. indicators 2 and 3, which were reported by only about half of the participating countries).

Data are validated at country level (ideally through multi-stakeholder country dialogue) and submitted to the JST.

! Adequate time is needed by national co-ordinators to convene stakeholders in a dialogue. Time constraints have affected the validation process which could not be undertaken in several countries. This limited the opportunity for multi-stakeholder dialogue and learning around the data collected at country level, which is a key feature of the exercise. Furthermore, delays accumulated in starting the process, collecting and validating the data have resulted in data submissions to the JST much beyond the time originally scheduled.

The JST collaborates with national co-ordinators to review the information received from countries and ensure data comprehensiveness and accuracy. In parallel, the JST sends provider-related data to development partners' headquarters focal points for them to verify the data provided at country-level/input additional data.

! Significant time is needed for data verification and identification of data gaps. Multiple interactions are required between the JST and focal points (national co-ordinators at country level and development partners at headquarter level). The headquarter review process in the past has been particularly cumbersome and difficult to manage for a large number of countries in a very limited timeframe, and resulted in disengagement from the process by some development partners.

Data revised by headquarters focal points is sent back – directly or through the JST - to national co-ordinators for their consideration and possible inclusion in final submission to the JST.

! The time needed for headquarters of development partners to send back the reviewed information to national co-ordinators has been rather long in the past and in some cases led to delays in the final data submission from partner countries.

Phase 3: Data analysis and reporting

The JST undertakes further data cleaning and consistency checks, aggregates and analyses data, and prepares country profiles and global reports.

! Delays in final data submissions significantly reduced the time available to collate data, provide final aggregates, analyse the results, report on SDGs, draft the global Progress Report, and finalise country profiles within a tight deadlines (i.e. ahead of the Global Partnership Senior Level Meeting, July 2019).

Phase 4: Use of results

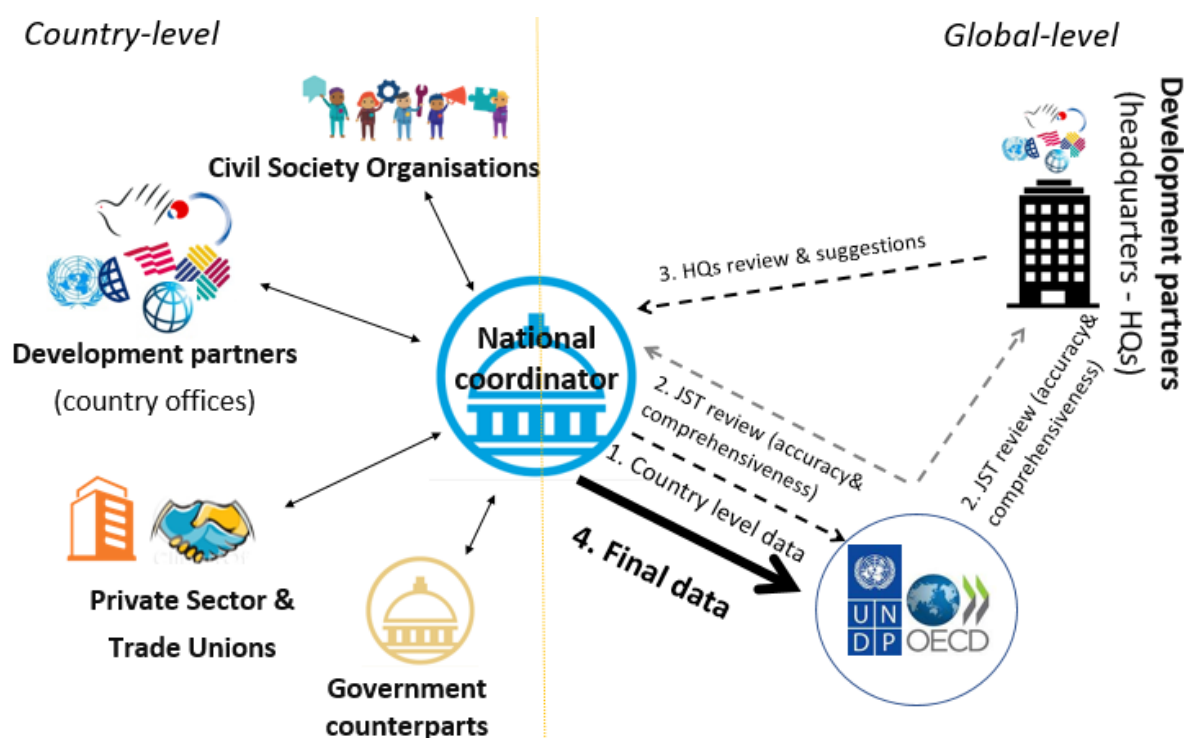
Between one round and the next, partner countries and their development partners are encouraged to and supported in making use of the monitoring results in various ways. Targeted outreach is done by the JST to support inclusion of evidence on effectiveness in Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) ⁶. The JST may provide remote and in person support to development partners and partner countries that wish

⁶ See section 2.3 on country level processes in the accompanying [paper on linkages to the 2030 Agenda](#), particularly pages 25-27.

to undertake further analysis of their results. Data tools, guidance notes, and infographics for various stakeholder groups have been produced to support use of 2018 monitoring results and action to improve policies and practices for more effective development co-operation. Evidence is provided for UN-led reports and events⁷. Presentations on the monitoring results are made in several fora⁸. Data for bilateral development partners feed into providers' profiles under the OECD Development Co-operation Report and inform DAC peer reviews and other OECD reports.

! No systematic approach to facilitating use and action on results at country level has been in place following previous monitoring rounds.

Figure 1. Previous data collection and validation process



c. Main feedback and expectations from Global Partnership stakeholders

This section summarises stakeholders' feedback, consistently captured from a range of sources, which is relevant to the occurrence of the exercise. It draws from the [SLM Co-Chairs' Statement](#), and feedback collected from the 2019 [Bonn monitoring dialogue](#), the [2020 virtual survey on the monitoring process](#), the [virtual stakeholder consultations in late 2020](#), recent Steering Committee meetings, and previous monitoring rounds (including the [2018 Post-Monitoring Survey with national coordinators](#)).

Duration

Many stakeholders described the monitoring process as too complex and time-constrained, reducing buy-in by stakeholders, and making it difficult to engage participants. Stakeholders highlighted that more

⁷ E.g. SDG report to the High-Level Political Forum, the Financing for Development Forum and Development Co-operation Forum.

⁸ E.g. Global Partnership Senior Level Meeting, Busan Partnership Forum, EU workshops, DAC CSO Days, and various DAC fora and networks.

time to get the exercise done could partly address these challenges. They also called for extending the data collection period and offering more flexibility to partner countries as well as to development partners.

Some stakeholders considered a fixed duration to be problematic if the timeline does not manage to take into account that the same indicators may require varying timeframes for data collection across different countries.

All stakeholder groups indicated that the ability to draw on existing data systems to collect monitoring data is crucial to success. Some stakeholders indicated that extending the duration of the exercise would reduce the burden on governments and would help integrating the data reporting through AIMS⁹ (where available), and in the engagement of other stakeholders. It was suggested that making better use of time/allocating time to build capacities and better use data in partner countries should feature in a revised monitoring process.

Frequency

Most stakeholders expressed that conducting the monitoring exercise every two years is too frequent as it does not allow enough time to understand and use the results between two rounds. Furthermore, monitoring every two years was deemed insufficient to show changes in stakeholders' performances. Some stakeholders suggested to run monitoring rounds less often, for example only once every four years. However, some other stakeholders have hesitation about having less frequent monitoring exercises, with concerns about this leading to a less visible/robust global accountability mechanism (such as HLMS).

Timing

A substantial number of stakeholders suggested that the monitoring should allow countries to decide when to undertake the exercise – for example to match with when they are preparing a new national strategy or review, to better fit with when partners are most available to contribute, or to avoid a clash with national budget preparation.

Some stakeholders also considered that the timing of the monitoring exercise should align and integrate more with existing processes and structures at national level, internal reporting systems, SDG reporting and follow up, including the country's VNR process.

(3) Criteria used to research and discuss the occurrence of the monitoring exercise

This section illustrates those elements that stakeholders have consistently indicated as important for the monitoring exercise (see section 2 above) and seeks to explain their strategic relevance and technical implications. These elements will be used in section 4 as criteria to analyse and compare alternative monitoring options with different duration and frequency¹⁰.

Country institutionalisation of the monitoring exercise

⁹ Aid Information Management Systems.

¹⁰ The outcomes of the GPEDC Review may have implications on the final revised monitoring process. However, because the output of the GPEDC reform and the monitoring reform have different timing, specific considerations around it cannot be included in this paper.

Strategic rationale. From its onset and with mixed results, the GPEDC has upheld the principle of country ownership, by striving to institutionalise the monitoring exercise within existing country systems and processes, including multi-stakeholder co-ordination and dialogue mechanisms¹¹. Greater attention to the alignment of the monitoring process with national milestones – including but not limited to the monitoring and evaluation of national development strategies and/or mutual accountability frameworks – could increase the impact of the monitoring exercise and the mainstreaming of the effectiveness principles into national policy-making. Integration of the monitoring in existing processes would also facilitate the use of results for action and dialogue at country level (see criteria below). Additionally, the GPEDC must acknowledge the different capacities of countries to administer the monitoring process and increase the relevance of the exercise for all.

Implications. Providing flexibility with regards to when and how the monitoring is carried out could increase participation of partner countries and use of results. Flexibility in the timing of the monitoring could provide multiple entry points for a diverse set of countries to *synchronise* the exercise with their own processes and systems; it could also facilitate drawing on country data collection systems and co-ordination mechanisms. Flexibility in the frequency and timing as well as targeted support would be particularly relevant for countries with limited administrative capacities (e.g. SIDS, conflict-affected states). However, country institutionalisation is not simple nor immediate: countries' processes¹² and systems vary and require structural efforts on the part of both governments and other country-level stakeholders. Changes in the occurrence of the monitoring alone might not be the most conducive to country institutionalisation, which would also depend on changes to the monitoring framework, as well as on many other factors. *It will be important to draw from the partner country-led inputs on this issue [#3] under the Issues A work in order to understand better the actual country-level systems and processes which are relevant, and the types of constraints associated with institutionalising aspects of the monitoring in them.*

Use of results

Strategic rationale. Use of monitoring results at country and global levels will be a large part of the whole monitoring round going forward. The new monitoring process should allocate time for the use of results throughout its implementation - and strengthen the *ownership* and *accountability* of partner countries, development partners and other actors at country, regional and global levels.

Implications. Less frequent and extended monitoring exercises could provide more time for the use of monitoring results by all stakeholders at country level and global level (see below under the criteria Accountability) - including through the planning of the use of results phase during the inception of the monitoring round, to stimulate learning, dialogue (for example through [Action Dialogues](#)) and behaviour change. When possible, the use of results phase should also align with country processes (i.e. institutionalisation) and be part of country systems (for example of the monitoring and evaluation of national development strategies).

Whole-of-society approach

Strategic rationale. Meaningful engagement and dialogue among diverse actors throughout the monitoring process - beyond the data collection phase alone - is a central aspect of the exercise. The monitoring exercise is a concrete opportunity to start/strengthen dialogue with development partners (see criteria below), the private sector, civil society, and other development actors in the country,

¹¹ Country systems include national arrangements and procedures for public financial management, procurement, audit, monitoring and evaluation, and social and environmental procedures.

¹² These include but are not limited to national development planning cycles; monitoring of SDGs; high-level political forums on aid effectiveness, etc.

reflecting the spirit of inclusive partnerships, and a ‘whole-of-society’ approach, that achieving the 2030 Agenda requires.

Implications. Changes to the occurrence of the monitoring exercise could better facilitate multi-stakeholder participation by allowing for more time to strengthen the inception phase, organise dialogues, data collection and validation in a multi-stakeholder setting, as well as use of results. However, it should also be recognised that the engagement of stakeholders is only partially related to the occurrence issue and arguably depends more on the degree to which the monitoring indicator framework reflects their priorities and interests as well as their capacity to engage. *It will be important to draw inputs from discussions on issue #5 under issues A.*

Engagement by development partners

Strategic rationale. Development partners play a key role in the exercise and their engagement at headquarter and country levels is crucial for its successful and timely implementation. Headquarters should provide guidance and incentives to their country offices to engage in the monitoring, co-ordinating ahead of the roll-out of the exercise to ensure their timely contributions. Country offices should in turn report on (five) country-sourced indicators¹³, and participate in the country-level data validation led by the government. Lack of co-ordination between headquarters and country offices led to data discrepancies and disputes between data provided by country offices - and validated at country level by national co-ordinators - and headquarters information. *To address these issues, in addition to changes to the occurrence of the exercise, the reform of the process under issues A [#4] will be also looking at how to increase co-ordination between headquarters and country offices of development partners in future monitoring exercises, for example by ensuring that the review of country offices’ data by their headquarters happens before that data is submitted to national co-ordinators.*

Implications. Changes to the occurrence of the monitoring exercise could facilitate engagement of development partners by allowing for more time to participate in country-level dialogue, data collection and validation. However this may have a limited impact as engagement also depends on how the monitoring framework reflects their priorities and interests. When comparing alternative occurrence-related models for monitoring, it will also be important to consider how frequency, timing and duration can reinforce development partners’ engagement.

Accountability at country and global level and for all stakeholders

Strategic rationale. To make progress in the effectiveness agenda, all development actors should be accountable to one another for the commitments they have made. Firstly, a monitoring exercise that produces country-level results will stimulate country-level momentum around effectiveness and supports accountability among stakeholders. Secondly, a monitoring exercise that produces global results by stakeholder group stimulates political momentum at a higher level and supports accountability among stakeholders for meeting the commitments they have made as well as learning, dialogue and action, by highlighting areas where progress has been made and where additional efforts are needed. Furthermore, providing performance snapshots for all stakeholders at global level (in addition to country-level results) can stimulate peer-learning and generate pressure for improvement of development policies and practices that ultimately can lead to better development results at country and global levels. It is therefore important to ensure that different stakeholder groups (e.g. CSOs, UN agencies, DAC, Arab providers) receive their own aggregate snapshot of results (reflecting group performance in all partner countries) at a regular frequency to enable their use for internal learning.

Implications. The generation of country-level data in support of country-level accountability will still be possible and could be facilitated by changes in the occurrence of the monitoring (increased duration,

¹³ This paper refers to the number of indicators as they were in the past monitoring exercises. The number of indicators may evolve as result of the monitoring reform.

flexibility, etc.). Partner countries and all their stakeholders will still continue producing timely country-level data, though with less frequency if the duration of a global monitoring round is extended. To generate trends and accountability at global level for all stakeholder groups (e.g. trends for partner countries as a group, trends for development partners as group) through a global report or other means (such as a tracking platform or dashboard), may require a robust number of observations within a certain period of time. Changes to the occurrence of the process need to ensure that global comparability of data is maintained and that the exercise still allows for regular reviews of progress during HLMs or other relevant Global Partnership milestones. This may require some adjustments to the aggregation methods (e.g. introducing rolling averages)¹⁴. It is important to note that, in addition to changes to the occurrence, comparability highly depends on adjustments/changes to the indicator methodologies that may occur in the context of the review of the monitoring framework.

SDG reporting

Rationale. The Global Partnership monitoring generates evidence for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda by providing data for partner countries and development partners that participate in the exercise on three SDG indicators¹⁵ classified as Tier II (solid methodology; data not regularly produced by countries). In addition to country-specific results, aggregates (global values, e.g. total number of countries making progress) may be included in annual reports of the UN Secretary-General on SDG progress. Global Partnership stakeholders have indicated that a revised process should retain a role for the Global Partnership as custodian¹⁶ of the methodologies for these indicators.

Implications. Independent from the timing and frequency of the process, data for an individual partner countries will be available after completion of the monitoring, and as soon as calculations for countries in a wave/round are available. This information could feed into Voluntary National Reviews and in reporting to UN Statistics. However, when it comes to global-level reporting (aggregates values and values for development partners)¹⁷, in order to maintain custodianship for three SDG indicators, the monitoring should keep providing regular global aggregates to the UN Statistical Division (UNSD). For this reason and, following advice of the UNSD, all options identified in this paper foresee a full monitoring round to take place with a frequency of maximum four years. Within this period, global aggregates could be provided on a rolling base¹⁸.

Strategic positioning of Global Partnership monitoring after 2022, building on linkages with other dimensions of the monitoring reform.

Strategic rationale. Reforming the monitoring exercise aims at maintaining the GPEDC as a relevant and visible platform that promotes accountability for Busan commitments through its monitoring exercise, while also building on the monitoring process to stimulate dialogue and drive behaviour change. Changes to the occurrence need to take into account how the GPEDC aims to position the

¹⁴ See section 2.2 on global level processes in the accompanying [paper on linkages to the 2030 Agenda](#).

¹⁵ 1) *Extent of use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools by providers of development co-operation* (17.15.1) which is calculated from some elements of Indicator 1a; 2) *Number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the sustainable development goals* (17.16.1) which is calculated using all indicators relevant for partner countries and bilateral development partners; and 3) *Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment* (5.c.1) which corresponds to [GPEDC monitoring] Indicator 8.

¹⁶ Through the OECD and UNDP, the GPEDC is custodian of the methodology for SDG indicators 17.15.1 and 17.16.1. In addition, it is co-custodian of the methodology for SDG indicator 5.c.1 together with UN Women.

¹⁷ In fact, similarly to the point above on accountability, to generate global values/values for a specific stakeholder group (e.g. SDG 17.15.1 indicator for providers at global level) a robust number of observations within a certain period of time may be needed.

¹⁸ See section 2.2 on global level processes in the accompanying [paper on linkages to the 2030 Agenda](#).

monitoring – and position itself - in the global conversation on development co-operation. The exercise must remain a process to:

- stimulate country-level learning and behaviour change;
- support accountability for specific regional/context-related processes (e.g. Istanbul Plan of Action for LDCs, the SAMOA Pathway for SIDS, g7+ process for fragile and conflict-affected states); and
- support other periodic global processes (e.g. Global Partnership HLMS, global follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and beyond).

The reform should also ensure that within the development co-operation landscape, the GPEDC monitoring continues to provide *reliable, timely* (when global exercises are increasingly providing real-time data) and *relevant* evidence on effective development co-operation at different levels (see also criteria on accountability and SDG reporting above); while avoiding duplications and building synergies with other exercises.

Implications. While the examples illustrated above can coexist to a certain extent, some prioritisation is necessary to define the occurrence of future monitoring rounds. For example, prioritising the GPEDC as:

- a platform promoting country-level learning and behaviour change may require providing more flexibility to partner countries on when they begin and end the exercise;
- a key contributor to regional/context-specific processes may require thinking on how the GPEDC works with regional platforms/organisations;
- a contributor of global aggregates for periodic global processes may require a high number of countries participating in the same time frame.

In all these instances, changes to the occurrence of the monitoring exercise can support a revamped communication strategy – i.e. by increasing the duration of the “use of results” phase (including Action Dialogues) to combine monitoring data and best practices from the field in future GPEDC outputs.

Support for roll-out and implementation of the exercise

Strategic rationale. There is a need for customised support at different levels and time to make sure that data are collected, validated and used by partner countries and stakeholders. Currently the JST actively supports governments in leading the monitoring exercise and facilitates participation of other stakeholders, by providing guidance, training and support throughout the entire process, including facilitating review and final validation. However, data collection is seen as burdensome for partner countries and is dependent also on data and inputs from other stakeholders, especially development partners. Some governments (for example SIDS) have limited capacity to implement this international multi-stakeholder exercise. For future monitoring, support can come from different actors in the process (i.e. development partners at country-level, regional bodies).

Implications. While support will continue independently of the revised process, frequency, timing and duration of the monitoring may impact the type of support that can be provided by the JST, development partners, and others, based on available resources. In particular, the feasibility of securing support of regional organisations to implement the exercise needs to be explored.

(4) Provisional options - overview

Based on the analysis of the problem and the criteria illustrated above, this section proposes four main options, some of which include two or more sub-options, to be analysed in depth as improvements to

the previous monitoring exercise, looking in particular at their frequency, duration and timing: 1) **open monitoring waves**; 2) **monitoring waves by region**; 3) **monitoring waves by country context**; and 4) a “**one-off**” round. The four options are not completely distinct and share some common features. The key features of each of the four options are summarised in this section, including a summary of key advantages and disadvantages of each option. A more detailed illustration of the options is presented in section 5 which includes a comprehensive matrix with detailed implications of each option for each of the guiding criteria.

To address the key issues consistently raised by all stakeholder groups, in all four options, the proposed duration of the data collection period for a given partner country is extended compared to the previous monitoring (12 months instead of 6-7 months) and the frequency of the exercise is reduced (from a monitoring exercise every 2.5 years in the past to a monitoring every 3 or for 4 years, depending on the options).

For all options identified, the frequency of the global monitoring exercise – which culminates with the availability of aggregated results for all countries and stakeholders – does not exceed the four year period. This is to ensure that the Global Partnership monitoring keeps providing regular global aggregates necessary to maintain the custodianship for reporting on SDG indicators 5.c.1, 17.15.1 and 17.16.1 ([see the SDG linkages paper for details on this requirement](#)). This also allows different stakeholder groups to obtain and use their own aggregate results for learning at a regular frequency of about 3-4 years. Such a frequency of a global round would also allow countries to undertake two monitoring exercises before 2030.

Option 1: Open waves

Multiple, consecutive reporting “waves” make up a full monitoring round. Partner countries choose in which wave to enrol, and therefore have a great deal of flexibility in the frequency and timing of their participation in the monitoring.

		Scenario 1	Scenario 2
Number of waves within a round		2	3
Frequency for partner countries		3 years	4 years
Duration	Country level	12 months data collection + use of results to continue beyond wave	
	Global	3 years	4 years

Main advantages	Main disadvantages
Most flexible option to facilitate the institutionalisation of the process at the country level as allows countries to align the exercise to their systems and processes (maximum leeway - especially in scenario 2 - to define the frequency of monitoring rounds compared to other options)	May reduce peer pressure across partner countries to undertake the exercise (due to non-homogenous groups of countries participating in a wave) ultimately leading to lower accountability at all levels (can be countered by global “steering” to encourage countries of same region/context to join the same wave)
Similar to other waves options, it allows extended time for use of results by partner countries and all stakeholders between one round and the next (compared to one-off [option 4])	
Could position the GPEDC monitoring as building capacity for countries to align the monitoring process with national milestones and mainstream the effectiveness principles into national policy-making	Could lead to unbalanced participation of countries across waves with implications on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the comprehensiveness of intermediate aggregates/products that could be provided (if low number of countries in a specific wave) - the support that could be provided to countries within the set timeframe (if high number of countries in a specific wave)
Allows to tailor the monitoring round according to various priorities (i.e. by encouraging countries from same regions/contexts to participate in the same wave; by providing snapshots of progress by context/region, etc).	
Countries that wish to, could undertake the monitoring more than once within a round.	

Option 2: Monitoring waves by region

Multiple, consecutive reporting “waves” within a full monitoring round. Countries are assigned to a wave based on their region. Regions are ideally grouped into a maximum of three waves to take place within a four-year round.¹⁹

Number of waves within a round		3
Frequency for partner countries		4 years
Duration	Country level	12 months data collection + use of results to continue beyond wave
	Global	4 years

Main advantages	Main disadvantages
Similar to other waves options, it allows extended time for use of results by partner countries and all stakeholders between one round and the next (compared to one-off [option 4])	Very limited institutionalisation of the process at country level: the rigidity of participation by region does not allow countries to align the exercise to their systems and processes
In addition to country and global level accountability, it could support accountability at the regional level by providing snapshots of results by region (about every year)	The 4-year round necessary to organise waves by region could reduce occasions for political momentum at country and global levels
It could promote collaboration between the GPEDC and regional bodies as well as co-operation and learning within the region - including by possibly encouraging regional counterparts to support data collection and use of results	Collaboration with and support by regional bodies/platforms to the monitoring round may vary significantly from one region to another and could incur important transaction costs when implemented; in some regions it may not be offered/feasible
	Regional grouping is politically sensitive for some partner countries and could discourage participation in the exercise

¹⁹ Monitoring each region separately would require longer rounds (5-8 years depending on the classification adopted) therefore reducing occasions for political momentum at country and global level and putting at risk SDG custodianship.

Option 3: Monitoring waves by country context

Multiple, consecutive reporting “waves” within a full monitoring round. Countries are grouped according to their context. Four possible grouping: 1) fragility status (fragile versus non-fragile states); 2) development level (Least Developing Countries versus other countries); 3) income level (low-income, lower-middle income; upper-middle and high income countries); 4) territorial characteristics (Small Islands Developing States, Landlocked Least Developing Countries, other countries).

		Scenario 1: Fragility status/ development level	Scenario 2: Income level/ territorial characteristics
Number of waves within a round		2	3
Frequency for partner countries		3 years	4 years
Duration	Country level	12 months data collection + use of results to continue beyond wave	
	Global	3 years	4 years

Main advantages	Main disadvantages
Similar to other waves options, allows extended time for use of results by partner countries and all stakeholders between one round and the next (compared to one-off [option 4])	Very limited institutionalisation of the process at country-level: the rigidity of participation by context reduces the possibility for countries to align the exercise to their systems and process
In addition to accountability at country and global level, it could support accountability among countries in specific contexts by providing snapshots of results by context (about every year)	Some options (waves by income level or territorial characteristics which have three different categories) may require longer rounds (up to 4 years) therefore reducing occasions for political momentum at country and global levels Some classifications (i.e. fragility) may not resonate with some partner countries and may in fact dissuade them from participating in the exercise

Option 4: One-off round

All countries undertake the exercise within a fixed timeframe, similar to the previous monitoring approach. However, countries have more time to complete the exercise.

		One-off round
Number of waves within a round		1
Frequency for partner countries		4 years
Duration	Country level	24 months data collection + use of results to continue beyond wave
	Global	4 years

Main advantages	Main disadvantages
<p>Could allow some degree of institutionalisation of the process at country level: provides some flexibility to countries to align with their systems and processes within a pre-defined but longer timeframe (compared to the past)</p> <p>Higher degree of data comparability across countries: all countries report for the same timeframe (with some flexibility within the reporting period of 24 months)</p>	<p>Shorter time to use results between monitoring rounds for countries and all stakeholders, when compared to other options</p> <p>Fewer opportunities for political momentum at different levels: all evidence and products (country profiles, global aggregates/ dashboard) available at the same time at the end of the full round</p> <p>A process that is too long for the country (24 months) may result in lower engagement/loss of momentum for some stakeholders</p>

(4.1) Monitoring options: comparing to the previous monitoring

In addition to the specific advantages and disadvantages presented within each option, the four options show shared improvements to the frequency, duration and timing compared to the previous monitoring exercise and help provide:

- more time for all stakeholders to undergo the monitoring exercise;
- more time and structured focus on use of monitoring results, by introducing indicative time periods for use of results in the monitoring round²⁰;
- reduced burden for all stakeholders to take part in the monitoring exercise —at least inasmuch as “burden” is associated with frequency;
- a more structured monitoring process - by encouraging pre-registration and providing a clear and longer-horizon calendar that would also help development partners in planning their contributions (and support).

All options/sub-options ensure that the monitoring maintains its role in support of accountability for all stakeholders towards the implementation of the effectiveness commitments (snapshots of performance for all stakeholder groups are produced at the end of each round) within a longer timeframe compatible with the need to increase flexibility and duration of the exercise. Data comparability would be maintained under all options, allowing for regular reviews of progress during HLMs or other relevant Global Partnership milestones. This may require some adjustments to the aggregation methods (e.g. introducing rolling averages) to ensure that all stakeholders can make use of the results at a regular frequency²¹.

All options/sub-options presented above anticipate a maximum duration of the full monitoring round of 4 years. This is in response to the need to provide full global aggregates (data for partner countries and development partners) for SDG reporting on a maximum delay of 3-4 years. In addition, this duration also allows other stakeholders to obtain aggregate results (e.g. results on civil society enabling environment or quality of public-private dialogue at global level for all countries) within this timeline. This global duration also allows some alignment with the Global Partnership HLM cycles which are currently happening every 4 years.

Option 1 (open waves) is the most flexible option as it allows partner countries to choose the preferred wave. Option 4 (one-off) would allow some flexibility but within a shorter time frame for partner countries, while options 2 and 3 (regional and context) would not allow this type of flexibility as countries will be “assigned” to a wave based on their region/context.

For all options, the longer duration of the country-level process compared to the previous monitoring gives more time to development partners (and other stakeholders) to engage in the process and provide data to the national co-ordinator. For headquarters of development partners, the options with waves (1-3) will require them to co-ordinate with a smaller number of country offices per wave compared to the “one-off option”. However their support will need to be more regular and extended through the full round. It is however important to note that under the review of the monitoring process (Issues A – *strengthened support and engagement*) the best way to adapt the support provided by headquarters and improve co-ordination between headquarters and country offices is being discussed.

The options containing waves (options 1-3) would offer the possibility to present a snapshot of results after each wave. This could be in the form of country profiles and reporting performance for the group

²⁰ The use of results phase is “indicative” as countries should not be limited in time when using monitoring results. When planning the roll-out of the monitoring exercise, a formal phase could be dedicated to organising a workshop with stakeholders to discuss the findings and plan actions to address gaps or other activities

²¹ It is important to note that comparability highly depends on adjustments/changes to the indicator methodologies that may occur in the context of the review of the monitoring framework.

of participating countries/stakeholders. At the end of a round, independently of the option chosen, aggregate results from all participating countries and stakeholders will be made available. This could take the form of a progress report, a global report or other products (such as a tracking platform or online dashboard).

Another element to take into account is that inputs to global SDG reporting are due each year between mid-February and mid-March. Therefore, options that yield the possibility of timing monitoring waves/rounds so that SDG calculations are ready prior to March may have an added advantage.

In the “one-off” option (option 4) certain types of support are needed at specific junctures, similar to the previous monitoring exercise, which allowed for some “economies of scales” with the round moving at the same time for each country. By contrast, **all options including waves may require a shift in the way the JST supports the monitoring exercise**. In the case of waves, in order to support countries reporting at different stages and make indicator calculations, aggregates and reports after each wave, **additional resources will be required and need to be available continuously** (e.g. dedicated data cleaning, statistical capacity to collate the database and calculate aggregates, graphic designing for profiles/reports or online tool reporting and publishing). Furthermore, if the JST is expected to substantially support countries and stakeholders in the use of results at different timing and as part of the monitoring round, this will also have significant implications on the type of support and resources required.

(4.2) Monitoring options: transition arrangements

For the first three options (containing waves), the transition from the previous monitoring process to the next must be managed. This is to ensure the exercise regains political momentum and generates enthusiasm and demand for participation. This is important also because by the time of a new monitoring exercise, there would have been no monitoring exercise over the last 4-year period, and therefore many partner countries might wish to undertake the monitoring as soon as possible to take stock of their progress (or lack thereof) in development effectiveness.

For the option of open waves, as many countries as possible could be encouraged to undertake the exercise during the first wave, and then the remaining would sign up to consecutive waves within the round. For the waves by region and context in particular, countries from all regions could be encouraged to participate in the first year (as an open wave) after HLM3 while the wave by region/context would take effect as of the second wave of the monitoring round. This period of transition, for these latter options, would however mean that only one round can take place ahead of 2030. These arrangements should be seen as a transition to restart the monitoring exercise following the pause during the reform, in particular to counteract the potential dip in its visibility. To support this consideration, an estimated number of countries will be provided for the different options presented in more detail below.

(5) Provisional options – comprehensive description and illustrative examples

(5.1) Option 1: Open monitoring waves

This option consists of multiple, consecutive reporting “waves” that would take place within a full monitoring round. With “open waves”, partner countries can choose in which wave they enrol. Two possible ways of arranging the “open waves” are presented below: one with two waves within a three-year round, and one with three waves within a four-year round. Irrespective of the length of the full monitoring round (3 or 4 years) and number of waves chosen, this option provides partner countries with the most flexibility in when to start and end the monitoring exercise, to the extent that they can choose which wave to join within a round.

In this option, it could be useful to seek commitments/indications from partner countries, ideally in advance of HLM3, regarding which wave they would like to join. Knowing in advance who will participate and when, will help to build peer pressure – across regions or groups of countries with similar features. Furthermore, it could be useful to have more countries **joining the first wave**. This is to account for possible delays in the data collection process and still allow a country to be included in the following wave in case data collection is not finalised on time to allow results aggregation within the first wave.

Duration

For a given country in each wave, the timeline for completion of the exercise is 12 months, from the launch of the wave to the final submission of country-level data to the JST - compared to 6-7 months in the 2018 monitoring exercise. Countries would receive their results within ideally a 3-4 month period after completion of the data collection and would have from 25 months (sub-option 1) to 30 months (sub-option 2) to use and act on their results until their next participation in the exercise. Partner countries would have more time and flexibility in conducting the exercise. The duration of the full round could be of 3 years (comprising 2 waves) or four years (comprising 3 waves).

Frequency

In this option, partner countries could choose which “wave” within each given round they wish to join. This determines the frequency of their participation: for example, a partner country may wish to join the first wave of the first monitoring round and the second wave of the second round, thereby prolonging the time between two monitoring exercises and reducing the frequency of the monitoring according to its needs.

Timing

The flexibility provided by this option may allow partner countries to more easily align monitoring to in-country processes, such as other data collecting activities. From a global perspective, the length of the full monitoring round could be defined based on the timing of global processes (e.g. future HLMs or other processes) and waves (and number of countries) could be adjusted based on that timeline.

Open waves: some examples

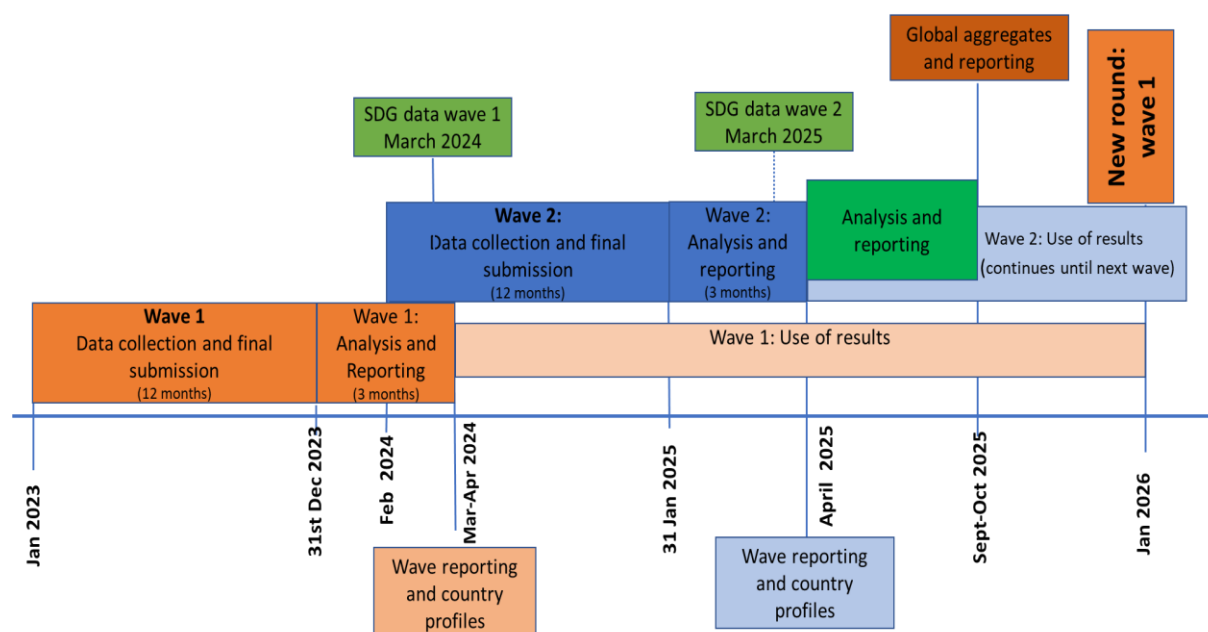
Sub-option 1: three-year cycle, two waves

Duration for partner countries: 12 months data collection plus use of results

Frequency for each country: 3 years (or more)

Duration of one round (global process): 3 years; January 2023 to December 2025 (use of results continue for some waves)

Figure 2. Open waves, two waves



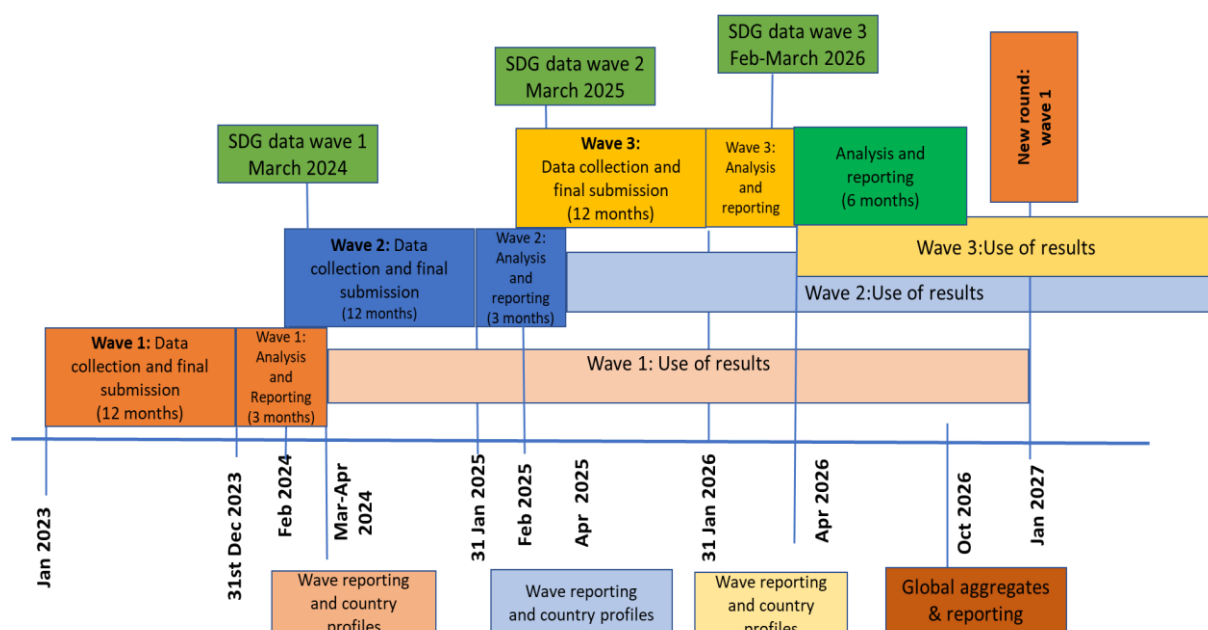
Sub-option 2: four-year round, three waves

Duration for partner countries: 12 months data collection plus use of results

Frequency for each country: 4 years (or more)

Duration of one round (global process): 4 years; January 2023 to December 2027 (use of results continue for some waves)

Figure 3. Open waves, three waves



(5.2.) Option 2: Monitoring waves by region

This option consists of multiple, consecutive regional “waves” taking place within a round. While the exercise remains voluntary, countries would be *assigned* to a wave depending on their region. It is worth noting that assigning countries to a region could become overly political and complicated which may discourage participation of some countries, therefore making running a regional wave option difficult. There are currently several different regional classifications to consider (e.g. SDG regional grouping,²² UNDP regional classification, the classification based on UN Regional Commissions, and others). With some classifications, countries belong to more than one region. For the purpose of the paper going forward the classification of reference chosen could be the one followed by UNDP with five regions: Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States; Latin America and the Caribbean; Africa.

Duration

Each country within a wave/region would have 12 months from the time of the launch of the wave to the time of final submission of country-level data to the JST. Three to four months would be dedicated to analyse data and produce regional profiles or other types of reporting. Countries would receive their results ideally within a 3-4 month period (after completion of the data collection) and have around 30 months to use and act on their results until their next participation in the exercise. After the 3 waves, 6-10 months would be dedicated to issue global aggregates in the form of a report or other products (such as a tracking platform or dashboard).

The overall duration of the full monitoring round depends on two factors:

- The feasibility of grouping some regions together in the same wave to decrease the number of waves within one round, hereby increasing the frequency of the monitoring for a given country until 2030.
- Overlapping regional waves: whether data analysis and reporting for one region can take place while data collection is ongoing in a second region.

Frequency

The frequency at which each country could undertake the monitoring depends on how many regions undertake the monitoring at the same time. In order to maintain the role of custodians for SDG indicators, the five regions should be distributed across a maximum of 3 groups/waves, to ensure a frequency that does not go beyond the 4 years.

Timing

Consistent with the current monitoring process, countries cannot choose freely when to participate in the monitoring as they will have pre-defined windows to join based on their region. Each new regional wave would start 12 -18 months after the beginning of the previous wave. The first wave would preferably start as soon as possible after HLM3. Thus, to ensure that a regional snapshot is provided for each region (basically put, that countries from the same region report on the same years), countries from the same region should undertake the exercise at the same time, within the same time-window.

Regional waves: an example

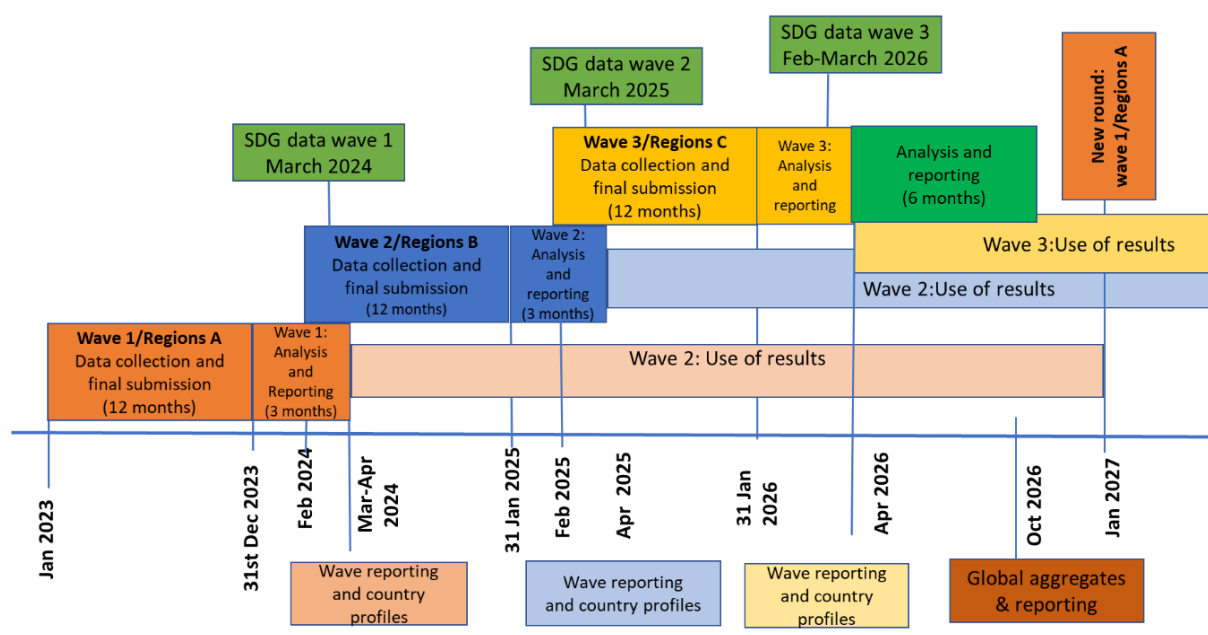
Duration for partner countries: 12 months data collection plus use of results

Frequency for each country: 4 years

Duration of one round (global process): 4 years; January 2023 to December 2026 (use of results continue for some waves)

²² According to SDG reporting standards, there are 7 regional groupings: Northern America and Europe; Latin America and the Caribbean; Central Asia and Southern Asia; Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia; Western Asia and Northern Africa; Sub-Saharan Africa; Oceania.

Figure 4. Waves by region



(5.3) Option 3: Monitoring waves by country context

This option is conceptually similar to the waves by region option described above, but countries would be grouped according to the characteristics indicated below. While this option could facilitate data aggregates for these groups of countries, trying to get these groups to participate at once may prove very challenging and does not give countries flexibility to choose when to do the monitoring. Furthermore, categorisation of countries is often sensitive and may discourage participation for some countries, and may not be well understood by other constituencies (private sector for example). The percentage between parentheses indicates an estimated distribution of countries across the groups based on participation in the 2018 monitoring round.

1. Fragility status: fragile states (50%) versus other countries (50%)

This classification would be based on the latest OECD Fragility Framework assessment available ahead of the start of the monitoring. This option may be sensitive as some partner countries would not identify themselves as fragile. Ultimately this could lead to imbalance between the groups.

2. Development level: Least Developed Countries (50%) versus other countries (50%)

This classification would be based on the Human Development Index calculated by UNDP.

3. Income level: low-income (35%); lower-middle income (35%); upper-middle and high income (30%)

This classification would be based on the World Bank Income classification.

4. Territorial characteristics: Small Islands Developing States (26%), Landlocked Least Developing Countries (23%), other countries (51%).

This classification would be based on the grouping identified by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

The above categories are mutually exclusive, and thereby provide sub-options as to how the waves within the same monitoring round could target different countries. However, once a round is completed for a specific classification, the following one could be done with a different classification. Based on participation in past monitoring rounds, it is estimated that the first three options would give balanced waves in terms of number of countries. The fourth option (territorial characteristics) would be unbalanced with above half of the countries being included in the category “other”. To re-balance the samples, within this sub-option, non-SIDS and non-LLDCs countries could choose which of the other two waves they prefer to join. However this option would then become similar to the open waves described above (option 1).

Duration

Independently from the classification chosen, for a given country in each wave, the timeline for completion of the exercise is 12 months from the time of the launch of the wave to the time of final submission of country-level data to the JST. Countries would receive their results within ideally a 3-4 months period (after completion of the data collection) and around 20 months (classification 1 and 2) or 30 months (classification 3 and 4) to use and act on their results until their next participation in the exercise. The full monitoring round (all waves completed and global results available) would span 3 years (option 1 and 2) or 4 years (options 3 and 4).

Frequency

For sub-options 1 and 2 (two waves), a country within a wave would be undertaking the monitoring exercise every 3 years.

For sub-options 3 and 4 (three waves), a country within a wave would be undertaking the monitoring exercise every 4 years.

Timing

In all four possible classifications, consistent with the previous monitoring process, countries have pre-defined windows to join based on their classification, therefore they cannot choose freely the timing to participate in the monitoring. This implies that the possibility to align the process to country systems and processes is limited, with no change compared to the past. From a global perspective, the timing of the monitoring could be aligned to relevant review processes (e.g. Istanbul Plan of Action for LDCs, the SAMOA Pathway for SIDS, g7+ process for fragile and conflict affected states). However, in practice this alignment may prove to be very challenging. Furthermore, past experience shows that disaggregation of the global results by country context provides a useful input to these processes and may be sufficient without aiming to carry out context specific waves.

Waves by country context: some examples

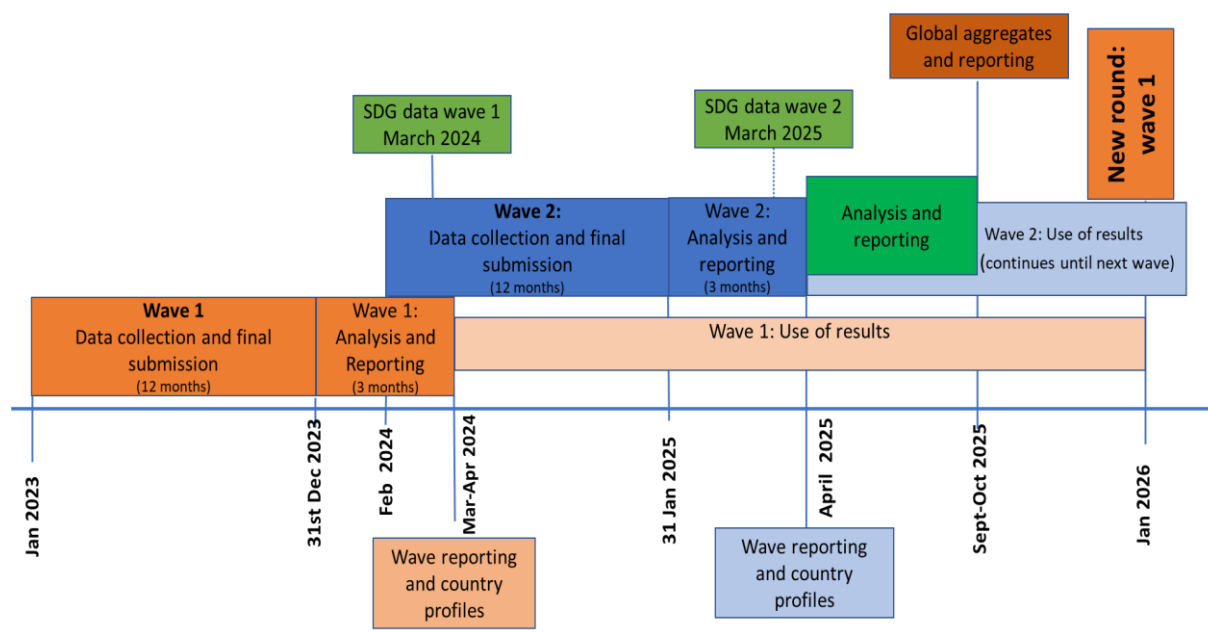
Sub-options 1 and 2: Waves by fragility status or developing level

Duration for partner countries: 12 months data collection plus use of results until next participation

Frequency for each country: 3 years

Duration of global process: 3 years; January 2023 to December 2025 (use of results continue for last wave)

Figure 5. Waves by fragility status or development level



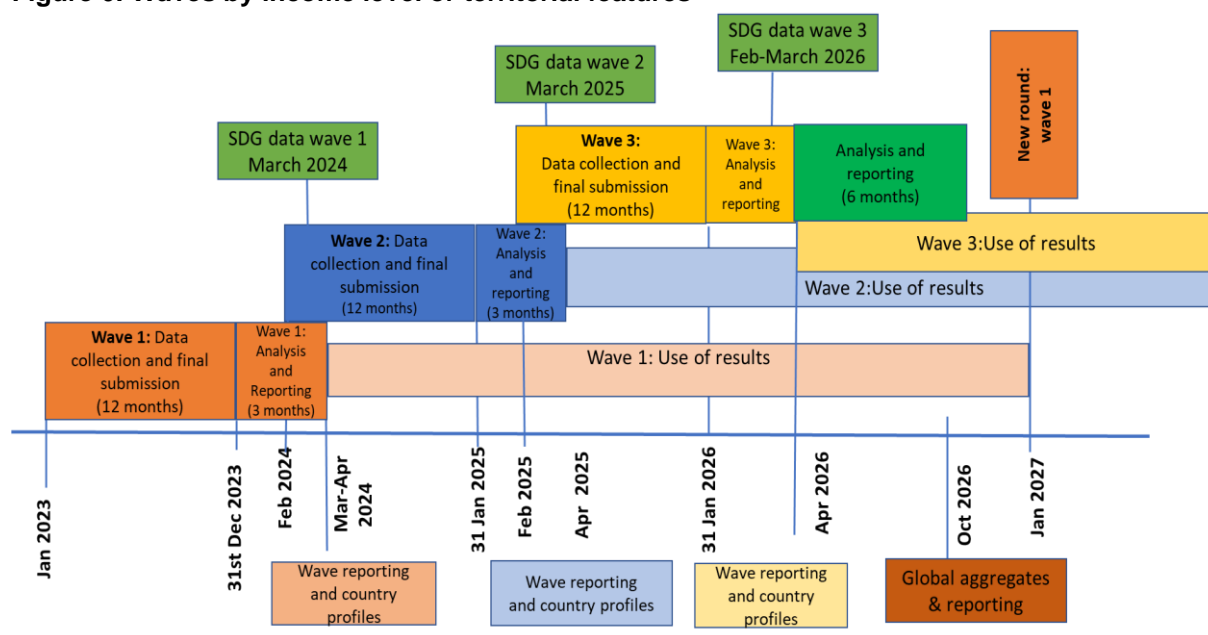
Sub-options 3 and 4: Waves by income or territorial features

Duration for partner countries: 12 months data collection plus use of results until next participation

Frequency for each country: 4 years

Duration of one round (global process): 4 years; January 2023 to December 2026 (use of results continues for last two waves)

Figure 6: Waves by income level or territorial features



(5.4) Option 4: “One-off” round

In this option, there would be a fixed start and end date for all countries undertaking the monitoring in the given period to ensure enough time for data validation, the issuing of global aggregates in the form of a report or other means, the use of results, etc. In other words, it differs from the previous monitoring approach insofar as countries are provided more time to complete the exercise but resembles the previous “sequential distinct rounds” of the previous approach.

Duration

Countries would have 24 months to undertake data collection and submit the final data to the JST. This period would be followed by the analysis of the results and production of global aggregates through a report or other means and will be followed by the use of results phase until a next round starts.

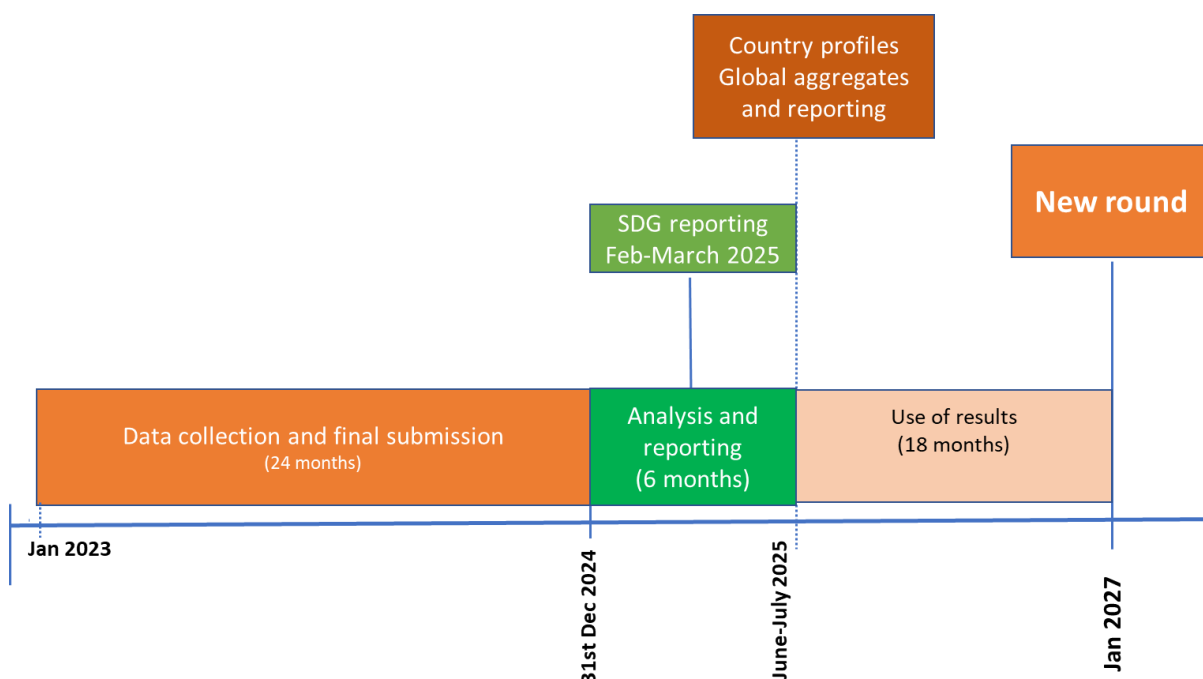
Frequency

Countries would undertake the monitoring every 4 years.

Timing

Partner countries have a common starting date but a longer timeframe to conduct the monitoring could allow for some flexibility to align with country processes and systems.

Figure 7: One-off option



(5.5) Comparing options against guiding criteria

Tables 1 and 2 below illustrate four alternative options for future monitoring exercises:

- Table 1 summarises the characteristics of each option with respect to the elements of duration, frequency and timing. It also provides an estimated number of countries based on countries' participation in previous monitoring exercises.
- Table 2 illustrates the implications of each option on each the guiding criteria indicated by stakeholders as important elements for the monitoring to achieve its strategic aims. When relevant to better understand the implications, the table makes reference to the previous process indicated under section 1.

As indicated in section 3 above, **the tables focus on potential implications of alternative occurrence of the monitoring process (duration/frequency/timing)**. Other factors that may have implications for the guiding criteria but not related to the occurrence **are out of the scope of this analysis and are evaluated under separated pieces (i.e. Issues A and monitoring framework review)**. For example, the potential implication of one option on the engagement of stakeholders in the monitoring has to be understood – in this table - only in relation to the occurrence of the exercise. Other aspects that may influence the engagement of stakeholders and the whole-of-society approach to the exercise (e.g. interest in what is monitored) are not evaluated in this piece.

Table 1. The four options for a new occurrence of the monitoring exercise: key features

Option		Open waves		Regional waves	Context waves		One-off
Sub-option		1	2	none	Fragility/ development level	Income/territory	none
Number of waves		2	3	3	2	3	1
Frequency		3 year round	4 year round	4 year round	3 year round	4 year round	4 year round
Duration	Country-level	12 months					24 months
	Global	3-4 years		4 years	3 years	4 years	4 years
Timing		<p><u>Country-level</u>: Countries can freely choose the wave they prefer; flexibility to align with existing country processes and systems</p> <p><u>Global level</u>: the timing of the full round can be aligned to High-Level Meeting rounds. Individual waves within the rounds could be aligned to SDG reporting processes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Country-level</u>: pre-defined time window to start and complete the exercise; limited possibility to align with existing country processes and systems • <u>Global level</u>: could be aligned to relevant regional review processes (e.g. providing evidence for regional monitoring, learning and policy discussions of NEPAD, the Asia-Pacific Development Effectiveness Facility, PIFS, UN Regional Commissions) and supporting the implementation of regional development strategies. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Country level</u>: pre-defined time window to start and complete the exercise, based on country classification; limited possibility to align with existing country processes and systems • <u>Global level</u>: could be aligned to relevant review processes based on classification (e.g. Istanbul Plan of Action for LDCs, the SAMOA Pathway for SIDS, g7+ process for fragile and conflict-affected states). 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite a common starting date, a longer timeframe to conduct the monitoring could allow some flexibility for countries to align with country systems and processes
Estimated number of countries		<u>Wave</u> : 20-30 <u>Total</u> : 40-60 (if two waves) 60-90 (if 3 waves)		<u>Wave</u> : 20-55 (depending on region) <u>Total</u> : 60-90	<u>Wave</u> : 30-45 (fragility/development level); 20-30 (income/territory) • Total: 60-90		Total: 60-90

Table 2. The four options for a new occurrence of the monitoring exercise: comparison against guiding criteria

Option	Open waves	Regional waves	Context waves	OneO-off
Country institutionalisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries choose a wave and can plan on adjustments with national calendar/processes/systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries are assigned to a regional wave and have little flexibility to adjust to national calendar/processes/systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries are assigned to a wave by typology and have limited flexibility to adjust to national calendar/processes/systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries have more time to potentially align the exercise to their national processes and systems
Use of results (UoR) and country-level learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries can start using their results after they receive them from the JST (3-4 months after the final data is submitted) before the next monitoring round: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sub-option 1: around 25 months ○ Sub-option 2: around 30 months • Increased duration of the exercise might support better planning of UoR activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Countries can start using their results after they receive them from the JST (3-4 months after the final data is submitted) before the next monitoring round: around 30 months • Increased duration might support better planning of UoR activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries can start using their results after they receive them from the JST (3-4 months after the final data is submitted) before the next monitoring round. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sub-option 1 and 2: around 20 months ○ Sub-option 3 and 4: around 30 months • Increased duration might support better planning of UoR activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries can start using their results after they receive them from the JST (6 months after the final data is submitted) and have around 18 months to use their results until the next round starts.
Whole-of-society approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased duration (compared to previous monitoring), though limited, could support better engagement of all stakeholders at country level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased duration (compared to previous monitoring), though limited, could support better engagement of all stakeholders at country-level • Constrained timing might hinder the engagement of stakeholders in dialogues and events during the monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased duration (compared to previous monitoring), though limited, could support better engagement of all stakeholders at country level. • Constrained timing of the exercise might hinder the engagement of stakeholders in dialogues and events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased duration (compared to previous process and to other options) could support better engagement of all stakeholders at country level.
DP engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Country-level</u>: country offices would have more time (compared to previous monitoring) to engage in the process and provide data to the national co-ordinator. • <u>Headquarters</u>: co-ordinate smaller number of country-offices per wave; support extended throughout the full 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Country-level</u>: country offices would have more time (compared to previous monitoring) to engage in the process and provide data to the national co-ordinator. • <u>Headquarters</u>: co-ordinate smaller number of country offices per wave and can better anticipate which offices to support by region; support extended throughout the full round. Little alignment is possible between the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Country-level</u>: country offices would have more time (compared to previous monitoring) to engage in the process and provide data to the national co-ordinator. • <u>Headquarters</u>: co-ordinate smaller number of country-offices per wave; support extended throughout the full round. Little alignment is possible between the monitoring exercise and DP internal processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Country-level</u>: country offices should have more time (compared to previous monitoring) to provide data to the national co-ordinator. • <u>Headquarters</u>: co-ordinate a big number of country-offices at the same time but

		round. Little alignment is possible between the monitoring exercise and DP internal processes.	monitoring exercise and DP internal processes.		through a longer time frame. Some alignment is possible between the monitoring exercise and DP internal processes (because of extended duration of data collection).
Global accountability	Snapshot performance per stakeholder/peer pressure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Countries</u>: Snapshot of performance after each wave; may lead to lower accountability as peer pressure could be low among non-homogeneous group of countries • <u>All stakeholders (including DPs)</u>: Snapshots at the end of each round generate political momentum and accountability for all stakeholders groups (every 3-4 years depending on specific option) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Countries</u>: Snapshot per region after each wave generates regional accountability among countries/stakeholders • <u>All stakeholders (including DPs)</u>: Snapshots at the end of each round generate political momentum and accountability for all stakeholders groups (every 4 years) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Countries</u>: Snapshot per country typology after each wave generates accountability among countries/stakeholders in the same group • <u>All stakeholders (including DPs)</u>: Snapshots at the end of each round generate political momentum and accountability for all stakeholders groups (every 3-4 years depending on specific option) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>All stakeholders</u>: snapshot of performance following each round generates political momentum and global accountability at the end of each round (every 4 years)
	Global trends (across time)	Countries mostly report for different years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different reporting years for each wave • Global trends generated at the end of the round or through rolling averages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different reporting years for each wave • Global trends generated at the end of the round or through rolling averages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries mostly report for the same years • Global trends generated at the end of the round
	SDG reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Country data + aggregates by country wave</u> at the end of each wave • <u>Global aggregates: rolling averages starting from 2nd wave</u> • <u>DP performance</u>: after completion of full round (every 3-4 years) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Country data + aggregates by country context</u>: at the end of each wave (every 1.5 years) • <u>Global aggregates: rolling averages from second wave</u> • <u>DP performance</u>: after completion of full round (every 4 years) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Country data + aggregates by country context</u>: at the end of each wave (every 1.5 years) • <u>Global aggregates: rolling averages from second wave</u> • <u>DP performance</u>: after completion of full round (every 3-4 years) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Country data and global aggregates</u>: after completion of full round (every 4 years)

GPEDC strategic positioning post-HLM3	Primary focus of the monitoring exercise in the development co-operation landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting countries building capacity to align the monitoring process with national milestones and mainstreaming the effectiveness principles into national policy-making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support accountability and use of results for specific regional/context-related processes (SAMOA pathway for SIDS, etc.) Strengthen co-operation between the GPEDC and regional platforms/organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen accountability and use of results for specific country contexts while maintaining accountability at global level Strengthen co-operation between the GPEDC and thematic platforms/organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen accountability for all stakeholders groups and support periodic global processes
	Strategic communication/reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country profiles + dashboard + tailored group reporting after each wave Global aggregates at the end of each round (every 3-4 years?) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country profiles + dashboard + tailored regional reporting after each wave Global aggregates at the end of each round (every 4 years) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country profiles + dashboard + tailored group reporting after each wave Global aggregates after each round (every-3-4 years) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country profiles+ dashboard +global aggregates at the end of each round (every 4 years)
Support to countries		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended and intensive. Unbalanced participation across waves could negatively impact support provided within the set time frame 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensive and relatively customised - distributed with focus on one or two regions at a time Could benefit from support of regional bodies but not clear feasibility of it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensive and customised - distributed with focus on one typology of context at a time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended and intensive
Transition to the next Monitoring Round post HLM3		<p>"Open call" to all PCs to participate in the monitoring immediately following HLM3 and pre-registration of other countries for the subsequent waves. This first round (which would feature a mix of all countries) would be followed by a shift into another chosen model (such as regional or country typology waves)</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No transition arrangements required