

# TOGO

Togo has several development planning policies in place. The Togo 2025 government roadmap sets out a vision for the development across economic, social and environmental dimensions. Having participated in all three GPEDC monitoring rounds, Togo is a strong advocate of development effectiveness and upholding the four principles that were agreed in Busan<sup>1</sup>. This is also demonstrated in the rationale to lead an Action Dialogue in 2021, which marked a new approach to development cooperation by establishing a multi-stakeholder platform that aims to make each actor's development efforts more effective, with a view to achieving tangible results toward the SDGs<sup>2</sup>.

Bringing together over 90 participants from different stakeholder groups, the Action Dialogue was held in three phases that allowed participants to: first take stock of progress made, challenges faced and key actions needed to improve effectiveness in parallel stakeholder groups; then review a draft report of these discussions in an integrated session that allowed for dialogue across constituency groups; followed by a final phase where all stakeholders came together to validate the final report and agreed actions to improve the effectiveness of partnerships in Togo.

## KEY ISSUES

The issues discussed at the series of meetings that formed the Action Dialogue in Togo were organized around the four principles of effective development cooperation. In terms of country ownership, the government recognized the importance of country ownership and highlighted that the new 2020-2025 roadmap has been sensitized with all actors. Use of national PFM systems was noted as critical to increasing ownership, however development partners raised their hesitation to use these systems due to cumbersome procedures. In response, the government recognized the need to continue to implement reforms to correct the shortcomings of their PFM systems.

With regard to strengthening the focus on results, it was noted that there is a need to improve results-based management and the culture of results among development actors. Regular reporting on development projects and programs, joint reviews involving all development actors, and follow-up on the recommendations of these reviews were all highlighted as ways this could be addressed. Another was to improve national statistical capacity. As evidenced by the newly reformed National Institute of Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies and the implementation of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics, improving national statistical capacity is high on the government's agenda. It was noted that reliable data, including financial data from CSOs and development partners, was part of the challenge.

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<sup>1</sup> See [here](#) the GPEDC 2018 monitoring results for Togo.

<sup>2</sup> The summary of the Action Dialogue in Togo can be accessed [here](#).

On inclusive partnerships, the need to improve the enabling environment for different actors was discussed. For the private sector, notwithstanding recent improvements (including the establishment of the state-private sector consultation framework for regular dialogues to facilitate the alignment of the private sector's activities with the national priorities, and a technical committee by the Ministry of Economy and Finance to operationalize strategic decisions), greater ownership and alignment with national priorities is needed. The Kampala Principles were emphasized as a tool to guide private sector engagement in development cooperation. Private sector representatives called on the government to address the recommendations that they had put forward regarding strengthening their engagement in implementation of the national development strategy, improving mutual trust and better communicating the development results contributed by the private sector. For civil society, it was noted that creation of a framework for better CSO engagement is under way. CSO representatives recognized the need and reaffirmed their readiness to provide the government with financial information on their activities, yet noted that CSO umbrella organizations have expressed practical difficulties in collecting information on funding obtained by their members, aggregating it and transmitting it to government. The CSO representatives raised several requests to improve their enabling environment, including to establish regular dialogue, inclusion in joint field visits to both NGO and state development projects, and government support to improve CSO self-organisation in order to improve ownership and mutual accountability.

On transparency and accountability, there was appreciation for Togo's mechanisms to manage external resources and dialogue with technical and financial partners, including through regular joint monitoring and evaluation of projects and programmes. However, it was recommended that the Court of Auditors play a greater role in auditing completed development projects and overseeing CSO finances.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

Following the series of meetings that constituted the Action Dialogue in Togo, the Government and development actors agreed on the following actions to address the issues that had been addressed under each of the four principles of effective development cooperation.

The Government committed to continue to implement public financial management system reforms, including to accelerate procurement reforms as well as to continue to conduct Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) assessments and Public Investment Management Assessment (PIMA), and implement the recommendations resulting from these assessments. The Government agreed to revitalize, and where needed establish, inclusive and regular dialogue between development actors and the government to ensure there are regular exchanges to address the challenges to upholding the principles of development effectiveness. To support this, the government committed to strengthen statistical capacity and ensure the availability of reliable statistical data; organize regular joint reviews of project portfolios and programmes with all development actors; and, to systematize the completion of reports for development projects and programmes in order to strengthen the culture of results and

accountability among all development actors. The government also committed to improve the business climate and strengthen the post COVID-19 stimulus package for the private sector. In addition to regular dialogue with civil society, CSO umbrella organizations and networks would like the government to support them in setting up an information management system.

Private sector representatives committed to ensuring a climate of trust between the Government and the private sector and be more involved in social actions through the development and implementation of corporate social responsibility (CSR). Private sector representatives also committed to strengthen the private sector's ownership of and alignment with national priorities.

Civil society representatives committed to strengthen cooperation with the government, including by ensuring a culture of accountability and transparency, and by setting up an information management system of NGOs and associations active in the field. They also agreed to mobilize NGOs to make more information available on the external resources that NGOs receive. CSO representatives also committed to establish CSO self-regulation measures around the principles of development effectiveness.

Development partners committed to make greater use of national procurement systems.