International development co-operation surged in the early 1960s amidst post-war optimism and enthusiasm. It has since continued to evolve and is recognised as one of the key instruments in advancing global development. Yet several factors have been identified to reduce the effectiveness of aid, such as lack of co-ordination, overly ambitious targets, unrealistic time- and budget constraints, and political self-interest.

This module will sensitize participants to the context of the effectiveness agenda in development co-operation, how it fits into the larger global agenda, and their roles in driving the effectiveness agenda forward. It will cover:

- Context of effective development co-operation agenda, introduction of GPEDC, and situating it in other global processes.
- Overview of the monitoring exercise related to 2022 Geneva Summit outcomes, 2023-2026 GPEDC Work Programme, and progress in the global roll-out of the monitoring.

**Format**

This session provides space to discuss the effectiveness agenda in development co-operation, how it fits into the larger global development context, and forward outlook following the 2022 Geneva Summit. A background presentation shall give thorough information on the GPEDC as the main global platform driving the effectiveness agenda in development co-operation, concluding with a short Q&A section.

**Background**

1. **What is the Effective Development Co-operation Agenda?**

The delivery and management of development aid and co-operation have undergone significant transformations over the years. Efforts to reshape the aid effectiveness agenda and modernize development co-operation have been underscored in the following high-level fora (see figure 1).

![Figure 1: The High-Level Fora on Aid Effectiveness](image-url)
The advances made in these high-level events led to the formulation of four principles of effective development cooperation (country ownership, focus on results, inclusive partnerships, transparency and mutual accountability), which provide a blueprint for maximising development cooperation results.

Another significant contribution of the four High-Level fora on Aid Effectiveness was expanding the view about which stakeholders are responsible for effective development co-operation, from a mainly Government-to-Government (donor-recipient) approach espoused in 2002 to the current consensus around multistakeholder engagement. This is also reflected in a change of the language from "Aid Effectiveness" to "Effective Development Cooperation".

The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC) was created in 2013 as a result of the Busan Partnership Agreement, which was signed by over 160 countries at the 4th High-Level Meeting on Aid Effectiveness held in Busan. Since then, GPEDC has been a driving force in advancing implementation of the four effectiveness principles and effectiveness commitments.

With its multi-stakeholder nature, the GPEDC provides space for all development actors to jointly address the challenges and complexities of the development co-operation landscape.

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Figure 2: The journey towards more inclusive development co-operation

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By providing a framework for different constituencies to engage with governments and other development cooperation actors, the effectiveness agenda (e.g. the effectiveness principles and the institutions promoting effective partnerships) drives efforts toward long-lasting development results and fulfilling the ambition of the 2030 Agenda.

2. Positioning the effectiveness agenda and the GPEDC in the global development architecture

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets out the global development agenda in 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, also adopted in 2015, sets out the means of implementation for these Goals. The effectiveness agenda speaks to how development cooperation is carried out with the aim to “improve the quality, impact and effectiveness of development cooperation and other international efforts in public finance, including adherence to agreed development cooperation effectiveness principles” (AAAA paragraph 56). Sustainable Development Goal 17 speaks to strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. And, indeed SDG 17 is the vehicle through which all the Goals, and the 2030 Agenda, are realized.

The GPEDC promotes finding country-level answers to questions such as: How is development co-operation managed? Is it done in a way that promotes country ownership? Does it follow or strengthen data governance frameworks? Does it promote transparency and mutual accountability (if so, for whom and to whom)? How are non-public and international stakeholders (such as Development Partners) engaged in defining, conducting, and reviewing development co-operation agendas?

The GPEDC provides a perspective that is complementary to other reporting efforts geared towards accelerating the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, such as the United Nations’ Financing for Development Forum and the High-Level Political Forum, which spur processes such as the Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs) and Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). The GPEDC monitoring can help complement efforts in other relevant processes, expand national perspectives by drawing in diverse stakeholders and provide fresh data for dialogue and action toward more effective development cooperation.

Where is the GPEDC and the development effectiveness agenda now, following the 2022 Geneva Summit?

The 2022 Effective Development Co-operation Summit in Geneva renewed political momentum around development effectiveness. In the Geneva Outcome Declaration, stakeholders reaffirmed the relevance of development effectiveness to tackle pressing development challenges and global crises and to support recovery and delivery of the 2030 Agenda under increased pressure on Official Development Assistance (ODA). The Summit ensured that the GPEDC’s focus will be on country-level action going forward, in particular through the revised and updated GPEDC monitoring exercise.

The 2023-26 GPEDC Work Programme, adopted by the GPEDC Steering Committee at its 25th meeting in May 2023, aims to translate the Geneva Declaration into ambitious, member-driven and country-focused action, structured around three core outputs:

(i) Generating evidence through the new GPEDC monitoring exercise;
(ii) Driving multi-stakeholder dialogue and action in countries based on monitoring findings to
inform policy decisions, and strategic partnerships for engagement with relevant partners; and

(iii) Fostering political awareness, behaviour change and uptake through targeted advocacy and outreach.

Complementing these three core outputs, five member-led thematic initiatives were launched by coalitions of partners represented in the Steering Committee. These initiatives – on data, civil society, private sector engagement, subnational data and South-South co-operation – examine specific aspects of development effectiveness in multi-stakeholder settings to guide and foster action to improve policies and practices.

The new GPEDC monitoring is the backbone of the GPEDC work programme. Political commitment to the new monitoring exercise is reflected through its prominent inclusion in the Geneva Outcome Document, which includes a dedicated annex on the monitoring. The 4th round of GPEDC monitoring (2023-2026) was formally launched at the Geneva Summit, and roll-out has been underway since early 2023. With 50 partner countries (so far) committed to lead the exercise in their countries, momentum is strong and growing, with diverse stakeholders at country, regional, and global level positively anticipating monitoring results and looking forward to the opportunity to engage in various ways in the exercise.

Resources

OECD – The High Level Fora on Aid Effectiveness: A history
The Effectiveness Principles
The Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation at a glance