



## Session 1 – Setting the Scene: Effective Development Cooperation in the Context of Global and Emerging Challenges

**Session objective:** This first session of the Busan Forum will frame the dialogue throughout the two days with a discussion on the challenges and context of poly-crisis that international development actors are facing today. By delving into these challenges, the discussion aims to highlight the intricate issues at play in development cooperation, while simultaneously emphasising the relevance of the effectiveness principles. The main goal is to foster a nuanced understanding the landscape in which the effectiveness principles operate and how they can address global and emerging challenges.

The world grapples with established and emerging challenges, with poverty and staggering inequalities in income and wealth persisting on a significant scale. Astonishingly, the global bottom 50% owns a mere 2% of the world's total wealth, echoing levels of inequality observed in the early 20th century. Concurrently, persistent violent conflicts endure, while new ones emerge, exemplified by a disturbing 50% spike in conflict-related civilian deaths witnessed in 2022. Amidst these, other emerging challenges are escalating, such as the impacts of climate change and the stark lessons from the COVID-19 epidemic, revealing the dire consequences of inadequate pandemic preparedness.

These challenges are interconnected, disproportionately affecting the poorest and most fragile nations. Understanding the role of development effectiveness is paramount in navigating progress amidst these global and emerging challenges. Emphasizing country ownership ensures that nations define their own development priorities, fostering a broad democratic foundation. Inclusive partnerships amplify the voices of marginalized groups most impacted by these challenges. Prioritizing results accelerates the attainment of development goals, while transparency and mutual accountability build trust between development partners and partner countries, offering data to achieve progress in addressing challenges.

The Effectiveness Summit held in Geneva in December 2022 saw countries coming together to again commit to leaving no one behind, uphold the importance of development cooperation and enable multi-stakeholder participation. This session serves as a platform to share and debate lessons learnt and good practices since the Summit, to ensure that development can impactful and effective tackle global issues.

### Guiding questions:

- To what extent is the current state of the SDGs linked to the global challenges converging today (from conflict to COVID to inequality, and beyond)?
- Do current global challenges make the discourse around the effectiveness of international development cooperation more relevant, or less?
- What is the greatest single challenge your country/organization is contending with, and to what extent can the effectiveness principles play a role in addressing it?