26th STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
SUMMARY
4 DECEMBER, SEOUL

Objectives

- Present progress and challenges related to the monitoring and agree priority actions
- Discuss challenges and steps to drive inclusive and impactful country dialogues
- Agree priorities for members' political outreach through strategic partnerships, advocacy and global events in 2024
- Secure long-term and broad-based resourcing through a member-led delivery model

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For background documents and presentations from this meeting, please visit this page and for a list of Steering Committee members, please visit this page.
Decisions and actions arising

Co-Chairs:

✓ Will reach out to members to respond to queries about the roll-out of the monitoring and the use of findings, propose strategic engagement opportunities for 2024, ensure full constituency-representation in the Committee and intensify resourcing from a broadened base of partners.

The Steering Committee:

✓ Welcomed UN Development Coordination Office (UN DCO) representing the UN development system as a new member and thanked the UNDP for its lead in this role to date. UNDCO will engage the UN development system and mobilise Resident Coordinators to support country-level action on development effectiveness.

[GPEDC Monitoring, Dialogue & Action at Country Level]

✓ Reiterated the urgency and commitment towards supporting the monitoring and ensuing country-level dialogue and action as the first priority of the 2024 Action Plan:
  o Appreciated progress in the roll-out of the 4th Monitoring Round, with 53 countries already confirmed to undertake the monitoring exercise (as of 4 December 2023).
  o Agreed to exchange with other countries to encourage them to sign up to the exercise.
  o Agreed that each member accelerates efforts to engage their constituency at country level in the monitoring exercise, also to lay the ground for using the findings.
  o Requested targeted advocacy materials on benefits of engaging in the monitoring.
  o Agreed to hold one last in-person monitoring training for the 2023-26 round in Q2/2024 pending a host and resourcing and to explore hosting or pooling of resources to ensure solid participation.

[Behaviour Change & Uptake of Development Effectiveness]

✓ Agreed to foster and revive strategic partnerships to ensure solid constituency engagement, especially among members that are not very active, and in preparing for phase 5 of the monitoring.

✓ Agreed to boost regional support and uptake to drive action and foster peer learning across countries based on the experiences with the monitoring.

✓ Decided to ensure effective communications in 2024, including to strategically influence events (SIDS, LLDC3, FFD, Summit of the Future)

✓ Agreed to connect the monitoring exercise to key global processes (on means of implementation, VNRs, INFFs, etc.)

✓ Agreed to initiate transitions in their own representation or activate existing memberships for solid governance arrangements in line with the Committee’s TORs.

✓ Agreed on priorities outlined in the progress tracker for Q1/2 2024.

[Long-Term Resourcing of the Global Partnership]

✓ Agreed to prioritise investment in phase 5 of the monitoring (in-country) and the JST.

✓ Agreed to promote financial/in-kind resourcing, driven by constituencies, without installing a memberships fee.

✓ Agreed to use the GPEDC Resourcing Committee meeting to discuss specific resourcing needs, advise members and matchmaking them to address specific issues.

✓ Agreed to follow through on broadening the resourcing base and engaging new partners

Unfortunately, not all members were able to attend the meeting (see List). Those present used this first in-person meeting in four years (since the 2019 Busan Forum) for informal bilateral and group discussions on the implementation of the 2023-26 Work Programme as well.
Session Summaries

Opening

- **H.E. Ms. Judith Suminwa Tuluka**, Minister of Planning (DR Congo), welcomed members and observers, thanked the Republic of Korea, highlighted the monitoring exercise as a critical tool in a changing global political context, the need to convince stakeholders and more countries to engage, and to invest up-front in ensuring that follow-up dialogue and action around the findings is well prepared. The Minister also raised the Committee’s challenge to cement political will and mobilise adequate resourcing for key stakeholders at country level to engage meaningfully. The Minister welcomed the UN Development Coordination Office as new member representing the UN development system replacing the UN Development Programme.

- **H.E. Mr. Bogat Widyatmoko**, Deputy Minister for Political Affairs, Law, Defence, and Security, Ministry of National Development Planning/BAPPENAS (Indonesia) raised the potential of the monitoring exercise for learning and behaviour change. The Deputy Minister urged members to mobilise their constituencies to engage and prepare for the use of the monitoring findings at country level. He requested a more structured overview of the benefits of engaging in the exercise for each stakeholder through increased investment in communications and encouraged greater engagement of private sector and philanthropic organisations. The Deputy Minister reported on a monitoring training held in Indonesia for 13 Asia-Pacific countries (with attendance from private sector and civil society) and reaffirmed Indonesia’s plans to host a high-level forum on multi-stakeholder partnerships in 2024 to foster learning and, serve as link from Geneva and the Busan Forum to other events, such as the Summit of the Future.

- **Ms. Marie Ottosson**, Deputy Director General of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sweden), reiterated the uniqueness of GPEDC as action-oriented, country-focused partnership, driven by a jointly developed work programme. Ms. Ottosson welcomed the 53 countries already signed up to the monitoring and underscored members’ collective responsibility to make data collection solid, get more countries to sign up and for all stakeholders to use findings as part of a political process to drive action. Ms. Ottosson informed about DAC members’ intent to strengthen dialogue and learning at country level and to adapt their policies, practices and partnerships based on evidence, and emphasized the need for bi- and multilateral partners, in particular MDBs and Arab donors, to engage their constituencies more.

- **Mr. Vitalice Meja**, Executive Director of Reality of Aid Africa (Non-executive Co-chair), thanked the Republic of Korea for hosting this meeting and the Busan Forum. Mr. Meja stressed that the success of the GPEDC work programme depends on members’ ability to translate commitments from Geneva into actions that impact livelihoods at country level – an effort that requires members’ collective energy, resources, and expertise, and strong collective efforts to provide enabling conditions for all stakeholders to be able to play their roles.

- **Mr. Kicheon Choi**, Director of Development Agenda and Policy Division, Development Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Republic of Korea) welcomed participants, emphasized the need for a revitalised GPEDC to respond to changes in development, and noted Korea’s continued commitment to effectiveness by providing an open platform where stakeholders can share their experiences, announcing the handover of its seat to Japan next year.

- **Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco**, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Development Coordination (UNDCO), voiced his pleasure to represent the UN development system following UNDP’s important work thus far, noting the ambition to engage the 130 UN Resident Coordinators to support the monitoring exercise in line with their mandate to foster strategic policy dialogue, and to build political momentum for effectiveness in UN processes, including the SDG Summit.

- **Ms. Ulrika Modéer**, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Director, Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy (UNDP), reiterated the importance of development effectiveness in the current context, and underscored the continued support of UNDP alongside UNDCO to drive country action in integrated ways, linking also more to the financing for sustainable development agenda.
Session I: GPEDC Monitoring, Dialogue & Action at Country Level

(Moderated by H.E. Ms. Judith Suminwa Tuluka, Minister of Planning, DR Congo and Mr. Vitalice Meja, 4th Co-Chair and Executive Director of Reality of Aid Africa)

Takeaways:

Members:

- Recognised the benefit of increasing the total number of partner countries participating in the 4th round and acknowledged Members’ role to drive such increase through outreach efforts.
- Recognised the value of in-person monitoring trainings and agreed to explore a Member/partner who can fund and host a final training in 2024 (Q2), based on guiding parameters.
- Took note of important deadlines and milestones for the 4th round, particularly:
  - Final in-person monitoring training (Q2, 2024)
  - Stocktake of number of confirmed partner countries (27th SC Meeting/mid 2024)
  - Deadline for all partner countries to confirm participation in the 4th round and begin implementation of the exercise (end of 2024)
  - Deadline for submission of all final country data (end of 2025)
- Affirmed the importance of Phase 5 (Reflection, Dialogue and Action) of the country-level monitoring exercise, as the entry point for strategic dialogue and evidence-based action and behaviour change, acknowledging that ensuring successful Phase 5 processes will require political-level engagement, mobilisation, and support from all Member constituencies.
- Appreciated the value of the monitoring exercise as the vehicle for connecting country-specific effectiveness issues with broader global dialogues and development agendas.
- Requested communication materials which articulate the incentives for different constituencies to engage in the monitoring exercise at country level.

Discussion:

- Members reiterated that the monitoring is the flagship instrument of the Global Partnership and remain committed to work to realise the full potential of the 4th round. There is a shared incentive to have a high number of countries participate, which will reinforce the credibility of the 2026 report and provide a firm basis for political dialogue.
- Members representing development partners reiterated their commitment to drive engagement within their constituencies, with examples of how this was being done in practical terms, such as through targeted communications from HQ to country-level missions. They also committed to encourage more partner countries to confirm participation through ongoing outreach efforts.
  - The OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) has committed at political level, in their 2023 High Level Meeting, to support the monitoring and make use of the findings.
  - Development partners were encouraged to ensure that their commitment at global level “trickles down” to field offices, and to comprehensively report data to the exercise.
- The in-person monitoring trainings hosted by Indonesia and Korea were highly appreciated. There was support for Co-Chairs’ proposal for a final in-person training in 2024, provided that a partner comes forward to host and organise such a training.
  - Non-executive Members, namely CPDE and WINGS, also updated Members on strategies for advocacy as well as monitoring training for their respective constituencies.
- Members expressed appreciation for the JST’s work, which has been instrumental to the positive progress on the 4th round exercise, noting the JST needs to be fully funded to continue this work.
- Partner country Members provided examples not only of how they are utilising the monitoring to drive or bolster existing country processes, as well as making linkages to regional processes.
Identifying synergies with country processes both reduces transaction costs and attracts political support by demonstrating linkages between the monitoring and other country priorities.

- Phase 5 was reaffirmed as a critical aspect of the revised monitoring, one which links the technical strengths of data/evidence with levers of political decision making and behaviour change. Discussions also reflected on the role of all Members/constituencies to engage in this phase, as well as in some cases to support the partner country to lead a robust and constructive Phase 5.

- Members welcomed the commitment of the United Nations development system, represented by the UN Development Co-ordination Office (DCO), to continue supporting the monitoring exercise at country level, including through drawing on its convening ability to support policy dialogue and through technical support to carry out the exercise.

- Members leading Thematic Initiatives, including on CSO Enabling Environment and the Kampala Principles, recalled how these Initiatives will both rely on thematic evidence emerging from the exercise as well as aim to link to the country-level dialogues to take place as part of Phase 5.

- Some partner country Members described challenges in persuading non-executive actors within their countries to engage in the monitoring, and requested the JST to develop communications materials that present constituency-specific incentives for this.

Session II: Behaviour Change & Uptake of Development Effectiveness
(Moderated by Mr. Hendra Wahanu Prabandani, Director for Foreign Policy and International Development, Ministry of National Development Planning/BAPPENAS, Indonesia)

Takeaways:
Members:
- Welcomed proposed activities for Q1/2 2024 as outlined in the progress tracker (which unpacks the activities agreed in the 2023-24 Action Plan at the end of the 2023-26 Work Programme).
- Underscored the importance of strategic partnerships to drive phase 5 of the monitoring, noting that reviving or activating constituency-driven, member-led processes takes time.
- Reiterated the need for regional partnerships to support action at country level, calling for intensified leadership by all regional partners involved, and engaging more in regions not covered.
- Called for targeted communications, advocacy and outreach around the monitoring, including lessons from countries that undertook the monitoring in the past on the use of the results.
- Agreed to focus on communications, advocacy and outreach at country level to drive action.
- Agreed to influence the agendas of global events in 2024 to embed development effectiveness in the broader 2030 Agenda and FFD Follow-up and Review processes, alongside other events.

Discussion:
PART I: Strategic Partnerships
- Indonesia recapped progress in implementing the work programme so far, including welcoming the commitment by partner country governments to undertake the monitoring and mobilise development partners and non-state actors to engage, supported by two trainings on the monitoring and constituency-specific outreach and advocacy activities, such as consultations and awareness raising efforts, including at global level at the UN or G20 (see progress tracker).
- Indonesia also outlined proposed activities for Q1/2 2024 – high investment in the monitoring and its follow-up, consolidating member-led, and constituency-driven engagement and outreach and targeted advocacy, including through key events. This is in line with the 2023-24 action plan (see progress tracker).
• Members welcomed the proposals, and discussed ‘strategic partnerships’ as ‘campaigns’ by members to engage constituencies and drive action, and that they should not be seen as formal processes or new structures. Clear objectives for these efforts are needed, built around the monitoring and its follow-up, and conceived as glue between global and country action.

  o Several members highlighted that strategic partnerships will help to drive action related to the monitoring, through inclusive engagement of all constituencies at country level, embedding the monitoring in national development co-operation processes, as well as by fostering peer learning and awareness raising at regional & global levels.

  o Members highlighted the need to ensure that technical work with, by and for constituencies is supported by momentum and engagement at political level, which requires adequate resources and support to ‘land the work’ at the country level.

  o Regional partnerships are particular important in this regard, notably by the EC, PIFS and AUDA-NEPAD, and similar set-ups in other regions would be welcome, all with the ambition to making development effectiveness integral to their work.

  o Emphasis was placed on reviving engagement with Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), proposing to tease out the benefits of engaging, including in the context of the multilateral reform agenda, and to re-engage with World Bank, the Asian and African Development Banks.

  o Members encouraged more engagement with large foundations, as partners and sources for supporting the implementation of the work programme.

  o Members also raised the issue of capacity for some stakeholders (for instance, Southern local governments, local civil society), and cautioned that constituency-engagement takes time.

• Members briefed on the status of thematic initiatives (CPDE on civil society, CIPE on private sector), recapping their objectives, the communities they wish to engage, and the ambition to build on the monitoring and help countries drive inclusive action around the evidence. They highlighted resourcing constraints and invited members/countries to express interest.

  o DR Congo also mentioned ongoing work on climate and effectiveness, linking it to the 2030 Agenda follow-up and review.

PART II: Communication

• Many members highlighted challenges around effective communication, advocacy and outreach, raising the need to articulate better the benefits of undertaking or engaging in the monitoring, as integral part of stakeholders’ efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

  o It was proposed that partner country members that have undertaken the monitoring in the past could share lessons from using the results to inform substantive messages.

  o Members encouraged stakeholders to continue using the findings to follow-up at country level and through SDG reporting, VNRs, linkages to INFFs, FFD Report inputs etc., with the help of the JST.

• Some raised the lack of conversations on development effectiveness at country level, calling for dedicated engagement with the political leadership to get traction. Others presented efforts in-country to present monitoring findings, including in sub-regions.

  o Partner country members raised that efforts for advocacy and outreach should take place predominantly at country level as part of the follow-up to the monitoring, rather than investing in global advocacy efforts.

  o Others reaffirmed this, and the need to focus on using findings to change behaviour through appropriate advocacy and outreach materials, giving voice to partner countries to encourage all engaged actors to take the process forward and challenge partners.

• Others expressed interest in influencing global events in 2024 to raise awareness and spur
political uptake permeating the main agendas, not just side events, including:

- The **Financing for Development process** (in run up to FFD4 in 2025, stressing the ‘partnership angle’ and following up on ‘effectiveness commitments’ from Addis),
- As part of the **UN agenda**, the High-Level Political Forum (with Canada joining the ECOSOC Bureau), the Summit of the Future, SIDS & LLDC conferences (if members lead).
- Working with Indonesia on a **High-Level Forum on Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships**.
- On climate and development, in **preparation of the COP29**
- Members leading **knowledge sharing and peer and country-to-country learning**.

**Session III: Long-Term Resourcing of the Global Partnership**

*Moderated by Ms. Marie Ottosson, Deputy Director General, Sida*

**Takeaways:**

**Members:**

- Recognized the need to prioritise resourcing of phase 5 of the monitoring and the JST.
- Recognized the necessity to promote resourcing (financial and in-kind), broaden the resourcing base and engage new partners to ensure implementation of the work programme.
- Agreed to hold a next GPEDC Resourcing Committee meeting to discuss specific resourcing needs, advice members and matchmake them to address specific issues.

**Discussion:**

- Members discussed **predictable long-term resourcing for the successful delivery of results** of the work programme and how to broaden and secure resourcing for all four layers, including country-level action, JST core functions, member-led activities at regional and global levels and member-led thematic initiatives.
- Members emphasized the importance of **financing the country-level action**. Initial investment would provide a basis for development partners and others to leverage action, driving the long-term institutionalization through country budget allocation to support the implementation of the monitoring, and action dialogues that constitute key platforms for behavioural change.
- Members also stressed the relevance of **ensuring JST’s long-term funding** given its cross-cutting contribution to the work programme by supporting all other three layers of the GPEDC’s delivery model.
- In terms of financial and in-kind support, members provided examples of their **activities to operationalize the work programme:**
  - **Development partners members will continue supporting the work of the GPEDC through financial support** to the JST and encouraging country delegations/missions to engage in the monitoring exercise. They also emphasized the importance of broadening donor engagement among and beyond DAC members.
  - **UN DCO will continue supporting partner countries to undertake the monitoring exercise**, including through engagement in development/political dialogues, coordination of multiple stakeholders, identification of decentralized resources at the country level and offering a platform to pool country efforts, along with seed funding that can be channelled to country level through UNDP where resources are made available to the UNDP-JST. UN DCO also elaborated on the synergies between the effectiveness agenda and the Funding Compact (which is itself a mutual accountability mechanism between the UNDS and its partners). UN DCO will explore the possibility of leveraging GPEDC monitoring indicators for a revitalized and strengthened Funding Compact.
Colombia informed about their financing of regional projects through the FOCAI, which counts on approximately 4 million USD per year to finance SSC initiatives; and their close collaboration with Indonesia and partner country governments in the context of SSC thematic initiative. Colombia also indicated that they are exploring ways to contribute to GPEDC in 2024.

Non-executive members will support the implementation of the work programme in kind.

- The Private Sector (CIPE) offered to provide limited support to partner countries interested in PSE, together with the Friends of Kampala network, to identify avenues to drive partnerships with local actors, mobilising resources, including in-kind.
- ORU-FOGAR offered to contribute through the organisation of possible events in the margins of conferences and is exploring a possibility of hosting a SC meeting.
- WINGS will continue supporting by organising side events, build capacity through trainings, design technical assistance programs for governments and philanthropic organisations, and mobilize local partners.
- CPDE will continue being a lead partner, and informed about their challenging financial situation and the risk of engagement being scaled back in 2024.

Sweden updated the members on the first meeting of the GPEDC Resourcing Committee, held in September 2023 that discussed a possibility of transitioning to a membership fee-based model, which was disregarded to secure broad-based participation of diverse stakeholders; and proposed to convene the second Resourcing Committee meeting in Q1 2024.

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