



## The Busan High-Level Forum: Five reasons why it was a success

The Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Busan, Republic of Korea, 29 November to 1 December 2011) marked a turning point in international discussions on aid and development. It was clear that this was a conference—contrary to its title—about development, not just aid. As such, the HLF4 delivered a number of important outcomes. And while all of these contributed to making Busan a success, it is possible to single out some particularly clear measures of achievement:

- 1** Developing countries were plainly in control of the deliberations in Busan, as they were in the process leading up to the Forum. They drove the negotiations on the outcome document: the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. And they fuelled—and led—the discussions on the outstanding commitments from the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness: 78 countries participated in the 2011 survey to monitor the implementation of the Paris Declaration.
- 2** The discussions at Busan were clearly evidence-based, and the evidence—in particular the independent Evaluation of the Paris Declaration—confirmed that the Paris Declaration aid effectiveness principles continue to be valid and relevant—not only for aid, but for all development practice.
- 3** The HLF4 was not a conference for experts, technicians or even development ministers alone. It was a whole-of-government forum, with Heads of State and world leaders engaging in discussions on the future of development, and its pivotal relevance to the highest-level international agendas.

**4** The Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation is the most inclusive agreement on development principles to date: donors, providers of South-South co-operation, developing countries, CSOs, private sector representatives and others participated in its formulation and ratified it through their participation. China, Brazil and India endorsed the principles outlined therein and agreed to use these as a reference for South-South co-operation. This agreement was underpinned by an inclusive and transparent negotiation process, led by the OECD/DAC-hosted Working Party on Aid Effectiveness.

**5** A series of 'building blocks' on results, transparency, fragmentation, fragile states, climate change, South-South co-operation, effective institutions and the private sector laid the groundwork to enable countries, firms and CSOs to begin to implement the Busan commitments immediately. This helped to demonstrate that, while reaching consensus on a global agenda for development entails the willingness to compromise on many sides, this flexibility is not the enemy of, but rather the key to successful innovation.

A number of international agreements on core development challenges were launched at Busan, including:

- The New Deal for International Engagement in Fragile States
- The Busan Joint Action Plan on Gender Equality and Development
- The Busan Action Plan for Statistics
- A New Consensus on Effective Institutions and Policies
- A joint statement on public private co-operation for broad based, inclusive and sustainable growth

These measures of success—ownership, evidence, whole-of-government, inclusiveness and innovation—should mark the way forward as we look to the future, working together to put in place the new global partnership for effective development co-operation, supported by the OECD and the UNDP.



부산 세계개발원조총회  
**4<sup>th</sup> High Level Forum  
on Aid Effectiveness**

29 Nov –1 Dec 2011, Busan, Korea