A Global Action Plan to Unlock the Potential of Effectiveness

Concept Note

Introduction: The Context for a Global Action Plan

The political origin of the Global Action Plan (GAP) is paragraph 36 of the Nairobi Outcome Document (NOD) which recognizes that there is much left to be done to fulfil effectiveness commitments and that in an effort to do so the GPEDC will establish time bound action plans. The GAP comes under Strategic Output 2 of the 2017-2018 Work Programme and the idea emerged from discussions in GPEDC Workstream 2 on Unlocking the Potential of Effectiveness. In effect, by bringing together the various strands of evidence and country experiences, the GPEDC should be able to develop and tailor a GAP to support the realisation of effectiveness commitments.

The Steering Committee agreed to conceptualise the GAP as a way to address the unfinished business of the development effectiveness agenda. For the GAP to be effective in its own right it will need to be both political and technical in character and will need to extend to, and become the responsibility of, the GPEDC as whole.

Workstream 2 has been tasked to conceptualise the GAP and potentially animate and support its implementation. Based on initial discussions within the working group, the objectives of the GAP have been defined as: (i) to identify the aspects of aid effectiveness where the commitments made in the Paris Declaration and the Accra Action Agenda have not been fulfilled and the impacts that this lack of progress has on achieving development effectiveness, (ii) analyse the key drivers and causal factors behind the weak progress in these aspects, that, if addressed, will allow for accelerated achievement of effectiveness commitments; and (iii) to identify practical measures to address the constraints to progress and reinvigorate political momentum to address these challenges. With this objective in mind, the work will be split into two distinct but complementary phases.

The first phase will involve a mapping of progress made towards effectiveness commitments, identifying where unfinished business remains. Work will then be done to determine the underlying factors and categorising them in terms of their importance and their nature – technical, administrative, institutional or political. This will be done through reviewing previous global monitoring reports and through a literature review of relevant research and evaluative work on aid and development effectiveness. This will be triangulated with the outputs of the survey work done to develop a Global Compendium of Good Practices – undertaken under GPEDC Strategic Output 1 – which will propose potential solutions to a variety of technical challenges and identify areas where solutions are lacking or difficult to implement.

The second phase will translate this analytical work into a number of proposed actions, along with a timeline for implementation. It will outline a number of strategic and achievable objectives, towards an end goal of Unlocking the Potential of Development Effectiveness, or in other words, meeting the commitments set out since Paris and Busan. These objectives can give form and function to the GAP.
The final product will inform country-level action and global policy debates, notably the 2019 Senior-Level Meeting of the GPEDC and the 2019 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) for Sustainable Development.

**Strategic Objective**

*Establish a Global Action Plan with concrete timelines to deliver the "unfinished business," which can be monitored regularly.*

The Global Action Plan will need to move on four fronts:

2. Garner political support to ensure these long standing effectiveness objectives can be achieved through necessary action at political level.
3. Agree on a set of practical, timebound and measurable actions.
4. Provide technical guidance and support for implementation at country and other levels to ensure changes in policy can be reflected in action.

**Objectives**

The objective of the Global Action Plan will be two-fold: (i) to identify and seek agreement on the drivers behind the "unfinished business", that if addressed, will allow for accelerated achievement of effectiveness commitments; and (ii) reinvigorate political momentum to address these challenges by setting out practical, timebound and measurable actions to achieve the unfinished business.

**Deliverables**

An agreement, as part of the overall outcome, at the 2019 Senior Level Meeting to a Global Action Plan

**Outcomes**

Political and technical support to the GAP implementation and monitoring

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Phase 1 - Analytical review of a number of commitments/indicators especially those which have multiplier effects
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The first step in designing a Global Action Plan requires a comprehensive understanding of what commitments remain to be achieved and an assessment of progress, or lack of it, to date. This will be done through reviewing previous global monitoring reports and through a literature review of relevant research and evaluative work on aid and development effectiveness. It will be complementary to and can draw from the Global Compendium but would go beyond, looking at bigger/broader challenges across or faced by the various constituents of the GPEDC in an attempt to prioritise these i.e. which ones needs to be addressed first to allow the others to be addressed faster/better.

**Objectives**

1. Identify what has been committed under the effectiveness agenda and what remains to be done
2. Review the agreed areas of commitment, assess bottlenecks in making progress;
3. Develop relevant measures and indicators to monitor fast-tracking progress in these areas.

**Deliverables**
1. Proposed commitments, in the context of progress achieved to be included in the GAP
2. Evaluation and review monitoring data and assessments frameworks;
3. Proposed indicators and methodologies for assessing fast-track progress for the GAP commitments.

Outcomes
1. Consensus on GAP areas of commitment and the level of progress achieved
2. Information and feedback from a mostly technical perspective which can allow a Global Action Plan to establish feasible timelines and ultimate agreement with all GPEDC stakeholders.

Resources
This work will take advantage of the outcomes of the Third Monitoring Round, qualitative country level inputs from WS1 country pilot studies and the Global Compendium of Good Practice, and other complementary work on bottlenecks and issues in achieving progress in commitments relating to development effectiveness. This work could also include/be turned into a theory of change.

Support
Working Group Members
Joint Support Team

Timeline
Finalized by Spring 2019

Phase 2 - Identify priority areas and establish concrete timelines

The second part would then be to review the analytical work in order to arrive at a number of priority areas under the unfinished business along with a timeline for implementation. This part of the process will require input from various stakeholders to develop timelines which are achievable and realistic. This would be translated into a political agreement to be taken at the 2019 Senior Level Meeting.

Objective
1. Reach a political agreement which sets a course for achieving the unfinished business

Deliverables
2. Political agreement as part of 2019 Senior Level Meeting Outcome
3. Timelines for the identified priority areas which are achievable and realistic

Outcomes
4. Accelerated progress towards the achieving the unfinished business

Resources
The phase 1 Analytical work

Support
Working Group Members
Steering Committee

Timeline
Completed for the GPEDC Senior Level Meeting 2019
- Review of outstanding commitments
- Global Compendium of Good Practice
- Third Monitoring Round

Establish Concrete Timelines

- Identify priority areas where progress is slowest
- Develop timelines which are realistic and achievable for the priority areas

Political Agreement

- A part of the outcome of the Senior Level Meeting 2019

January-February 2019
February-June 2019
July 2019