

Strengthening country ownership

**2nd Annual Plenary of the OECD
Global Forum on Development
20 May 2008**



OECD

**Conference Centre,
Room CC12**

**2 rue André Pascal
75016 Paris**



ANNOTATED AGENDA

STRENGTHENING COUNTRY OWNERSHIP

INTRODUCTION

This year's Annual Plenary of the OECD Global Forum on Development will focus on "Strengthening Country Ownership". It follows a year of Forum activities related to the theme of ownership, including Workshops on "Ownership in Practice" in September 2007 and on "Scaling Up at Country Level" in December 2007. Reports of these meetings are available on www.oecd.org/development/globalforum and are the principal background documents for the event.

The Plenary will give senior policy makers and experts an opportunity to review discussions held at the above meetings. Discussions will generate messages for the intergovernmental dialogue on ownership, most notably the Third High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, to be held in Accra on 2-4 September 2008. In doing so, the aim is not to generate a consensus, but to identify the points of agreement and disagreement about how to put the ownership principle into practice.

As last year, the Plenary will be held on the eve of the annual High-Level Meeting (HLM) of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC). However, it is worth noting that the Global Forum Plenary is different from the DAC HLM in important ways. First, the Plenary is an informal space for dialogue, where participants can contribute to discussions in their personal capacities, not necessarily as representatives of their respective institutions. The Plenary will apply Chatham House Rules. Second, discussions in the Plenary will foster a diversity of views, with participants including experts from government, think tanks and civil society in developing countries, OECD countries and emerging economies.

AGENDA

8:30 9:00	Registration	
9:00 9:30	Welcome and Introduction Angel Gurria, OECD Secretary General Richard Carey, Director, OECD Development Co-operation Directorate Javier Santiso, Director, OECD Development Centre	<i>Results and reflections from the second year of the OECD Global Forum on Development</i> In its second year, the Forum has focused on the theme of Ownership and included events on "Ownership in Practice" (September 2007) and on "Scaling Up at Country Level" (December 2007) Background reading The Reports and other documents related to these meetings are available at www.oecd.org/development/globalforum .
9:30 11:00	Morning Session Speakers: Debapriya Bhattacharya, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the WTO and UN Offices Bernard Petit, Deputy Director-General, Directorate General for Development, European Commission Moderator: Stephen King, Director, BBC World Service Trust	<i>More Predictable Aid, More Ownership ?</i> Countries receiving aid need a clear idea of future aid disbursements. Without good information on the volume and timing of disbursements, they cannot reflect this major source of finance in macroeconomic programmes. This prevents them from planning public investments and current expenditure on education, health, infrastructure, agriculture. The Global Forum Workshop on "Scaling up" showed that several donors have begun sharing forward information on their aid spending with their main partners. If this evolving practice were generalised to all donors and all partners, countries would have greater ownership and confidence in planning and implementing their national development strategies based on all the domestic and external resources available to them. Do the First Consultative Draft of the Accra Agenda for Action and its complementing Menu of Options go far enough in addressing the issue of aid predictability? How feasible is progress by donors in this area? What will be required of developing country administrations in order to make progress?



	Background reading Summary Records on "The Challenges of Scaling Up at Country Level" First Consultative Draft of the Accra Agenda for Action (para. 13) Menu of Options (Item A, page 4) Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (para. 26 and indicator 7)	
11:00 11:30	Coffee	
11:30 13:00	Parallel Sessions	
	Session A Speaker: Talaat Abdel-Malek, Economic Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of International Co-operation, Egypt Moderator: Jan Vanheukelom, Coordinator, Governance Programme, European Centre for Development Policy Management Background Reading First Consultative Draft of the Accra Agenda for Action (para. 11 -12) Menu of Options (Item C, page 5) Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (para. 22-27 and indicators 4,5 and 7)	Capacity for Budgeting Aid can amount to over 40% of the budget in heavily aid-dependent countries. For these countries in particular, planning and executing a budget without reliable information on external aid is like trying to plot a course in a fog. But if the fog clears and donors provide reliable information, how long will it take for partners to adjust? What other obstacles are there to successful budgeting? What are the capacity challenges to setting and monitoring a budget that focuses on the results to be achieved? This parallel session will allow a frank exchange of views on the capacity constraints in budgeting – real or perceived – and on how to tackle them.
	Session B Speaker: Yash Tandon, Executive Director, South Centre Moderator: Matthew Martin, Director, Development Finance International Background Reading Report and Case Studies for Ownership in Practice Workshop First Consultative Draft of the Accra Agenda for Action (para. 10) Menu of Options (Item B, page 4) Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (para. 16)	Policy Space and Conditionality True ownership of development finance depends not only on a country's capacity to plan with aid flows but also on the policy space it has to do so. The conditions that donors attach to aid remain a controversial feature of donor-recipient relationships. Critics argue that conditions constrain domestic policy space by limiting a country's policy options. Advocates claim that conditions remain necessary for the success of programmes, and to satisfy donors' domestic accountability needs. In line with discussions at the Global Forum Workshop on Ownership in September 2007, early drafts of the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) are proposing that donors agree on best practices in the use of conditionality by 2010. How are different forms of conditionality, based on policies, processes or performance, evolving? To what extent can conditions be compatible with domestic policy space and country ownership? How much progress is feasible by 2010?
13:00 14:00	Lunch	Informal networking opportunity over buffet lunch

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14:30 15:00	Reporting back	
15:00 16:30	<p>Afternoon Session</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Antonio Tujan, Chair of the Reality of Aid Network and Director of the IBON Foundation, Philippines.</p> <p>Berit Olsson, Head, Department for Research Cooperation (SAREC), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <p>Alison Evans, Director, Poverty and Public Policy Group Overseas Development Institute</p> <p>Background Reading Report and Case Studies for Ownership in Practice Workshop</p> <p>Documents related to the discussions on “Civil Society and Aid Effectiveness”</p> <p>First Consultative Draft of the Accra Agenda for Action (para. 16)</p> <p>Menu of Options (Items K-M, page 8-9)</p> <p>Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (para. 14)</p>	<p><i>Broadening Country Ownership for Development</i></p> <p>The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness interprets the principle of ownership narrowly, focusing mainly on government actions and priorities. However, while the need for governments to lead the development process is beyond doubt, participants in Global Forum discussions have been calling for a broader view of country ownership. Early drafts of the AAA have taken on board these calls.</p> <p>Parliaments, civil society organisations and many other actors are still not sufficiently engaged in local policy debates and programmes. And think tanks, with their strong potential to monitor policy and provide recommendations, lack the resources and independence to play these roles adequately.</p> <p>What can governments and donors do to help broaden country ownership for development? How should their approaches differ in diverse country circumstances, for example in so-called fragile states?</p>



16:30
18:00

Wrap up

Speakers:

Enrique Maruri,
Director of International Cooperation, Ministry
of Foreign Affairs, Colombia
Edita Vokral,
Head, Department of Bilateral Development
Cooperation, Swiss Agency for Development
Cooperation
Jomo Kwame Sundaram,
Assistant Secretary-General for Economic
Development, UN Department of Economic and
Social Affairs (DESA)

Co-Chairs:

Eric Martin, Chair, OECD Development Centre
Governing Board
Eckhard Deutscher, Chair, OECD Development
Assistance Committee

Messages for the Accra and Beyond

At the Accra Forum, one of nine Roundtables will be devoted to the topic of “Whose Ownership? Whose Leadership?”. As designated Co-Chairs of this Roundtable, the governments of Colombia and Switzerland are playing a leading role in this year's inter-governmental discussions on ownership. The terms of reference of the Roundtable draw attention to two facets of ownership.

- A broader vision of ownership, incorporating diverse actors and diverse perspectives in development.
- Country leadership and capacity development: evolving donor-recipient relationships and roles in development cooperation.

In the day's “Wrap Up” session, representatives of both governments will reflect on the messages emerging from the Plenary for discussions in Accra and its preparatory events. Their challenge will be to identify:

- i. Concrete and ambitious actions which governments would be willing commit to as part of the Accra Agenda for Action, and which would lead to stronger country leadership and ownership.
- ii. Subjects on which Accra might mandate further analysis and dialogue, and which could lead to inter-governmental commitments and progress indicators at the fourth High-Level Forum, likely to be held in 2011.
- iii. Areas in which progress is less feasible, and which could be taken up by other fora or would be more appropriately discussed outside the intergovernmental dialogue on aid effectiveness.

The “Wrap-Up” Session's final speaker will provide an insight into preparations for the UN review of progress in implementing the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development, to be held in Doha, Qatar, on 29 November – 2 December 2008. The Doha Conference is set to discuss issues related to country ownership from a wider perspective, looking at the challenges countries face in mobilising sources of finance beyond aid, including trade revenues and investment.

The insights on the Monterrey discussions will help cast a glimpse at next steps in the OECD Global Forum on Development. In its third year, the Forum will focus on the most effective instruments of development finance, including those instruments which can catalyse private investment and facilitate collaboration between public and private sectors. The Global Forum has already begun discussing this theme at its Roundtable on “Banking on Development”, organised with the World Economic Forum in Geneva on 28-29 February 2008.

