

**MINISTRY OF PLAN IMPLEMENTATION, SRI LANKA  
TRANSLATING THE PARIS DECLARATION AND  
ACCRA AGENDA FOR ACTION (AAA) INTO COUNTRY BASED ACTION PLAN<sup>1</sup>**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

At the 2008 High Level Forum (HLF) in Accra it was strongly emphasized that a deeper understanding by the donors and partner countries on Aid Effectiveness was considered as fundamental and the need for the change in behaviour is essential to make aid more effective, accountable and transparent.

The Country Based Action Plan is an attempt to prioritize the Paris Declaration (PD) and Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) and make it contextual, country based and inclusive. In this context, the Ministry of Plan Implementation (MPI) of the Government of Sri Lanka has drafted a road map for action to direct the implementation of PD and AAA. This draft road map is not only based on PD & AAA but also based on the **1<sup>st</sup> Phase Evaluation of PD implementation in Sri Lanka** supported by the UNDP and carried out by MPI with the guidance of the OECD/ DAC Development Evaluation Network. The road map sets out some ambitious actions prioritized in the local context.

## **2. GLOBAL DIALOGUE**

Sri Lanka represented Asia Pacific Region in the Partner Country Contact Group/ Consensus Group and coordinated and facilitated to reflect the partner country views in the negotiation of AAA which was finally endorsed at HLF 3 in Accra in September 2008.

Sri Lanka also actively participated in the HLF3 and placed the Managing for Development Results (MfDR) initiative in the market place and delivered a keynote address at Roundtable 4 (RT4) on MfDR. Moreover, the Ministry of Plan Implementation, Sri Lanka served as a Co-Chair on PD Evaluation initiative which captured evaluation of 8 partner countries and 11 donors. Currently the MPI is involved in the Steering Committee of the Capacity Development Facility for Development Effectiveness (CDDE) initiated by the UNDP with ADB and other donors to set –up a Asia Pacific Community of Practice on Aid Effectiveness to promote peer-to-peer dialogue on aid effectiveness in the region. We strongly support and endorse the CDDE initiative and the proposal to strengthen the voices of Asia Pacific Region in the WP-EFF.

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<sup>1</sup> Para 28 of the Accra agenda for Action endorsed by the High Level Forum (HLF3) on aid Effectiveness in September 2008 encourages “countries to design with active support of donors – Country Based Action Plans that sets out time bound and monitorable proposals to implement Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action.

Further, the Ministry of Plan implementation, Sri Lanka plays an active role in the Joint-Venture on MfDR and serves in the core-team and contributed to the OECD Sourcebook on MfDR. The Asia Pacific CoP – MfDR which plays an active role in JV-MfDR with over 30 delegates in the region visited Sri Lanka in end 2008 to learn emerging good practices on MfDR. This is a key milestone to demonstrate the success of South-to-South dialogue on MfDR. MPI as a member of the WP-EFF of the OECD contributes actively to the deliberations in taking the PD and AAA initiatives forward.

The Country Based Action Plan is subdivided into general actions and specific actions which are identified below.

### **3. GENERAL ACTIONS**

#### **3.1. Policy Level Engagement**

- Placing the Paris Declaration (PD) and Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) to the Cabinet of Ministers through a Note to Cabinet by the Ministry of Plan Implementation.
- Circulate PD and AAA documents to all Secretaries of Line Ministries.
- Engagement of all national and sub national stakeholders in the PD and AAA

#### **3.2. National Language**

- Translate the PD and AAA into local languages i.e, Sinhala and Tamil and widely circulate among relevant Government Institutions at national and sub national level.

#### **3.3. Localized Version of PD and AAA**

- Developing a localized version of PD and AAA and make it a “Colombo Declaration” to ensure it as a country level declaration with localized joint commitments and targets, as agreed at HLF3 in Accra, Ghana.

#### **3.4. Beyond Narrow Circles of Specialists (National, Regional and Local)**

- Conduct awareness workshops targeting Secretaries of Line Ministries, Provincial Secretaries and District Secretaries.
  - Awareness Programme to Secretaries of Line Ministries through Development Secretaries Committee Meeting

- Awareness Programme to District Secretaries through Government Agents Forum
- Create awareness to donor community and NGO sector to ensure implications of PD and AAA at the national level.
- Launch Media Publicity on the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and Accra Agenda for Action

### **3.5. High Level National Forum for Implementation**

- Create a high level forum Co-Chaired by Government and Donors as both have to take action.
  - An agreed Plan of Action for implementation of PD and AAA
  - To review the implementation progress of the agreed action plan.
  - To address constraints and backlogs.

### **3.6. Monitoring and Evaluation**

- Regular monitoring survey on 12 targets and other commitment
- Independent evaluation of PD and AAA
- Wider dissemination of Monitoring and Evaluation findings at the country level.

### **3.7. Close links with Global Forums for Local Action**

- Closely work with WP – EFF of the OECD and related Forums to keep in par with global aid reforms and to get the good practices, strategies and actions by other countries and provide feedback.

## 4. Specific Areas for immediate actions

### 4.1 Institutionalizing MfDR

- Strengthen the on-going efforts to institutionalize MfDR in Line Ministries to measure and make them accountable for results by establishing Agency Results Frameworks (ARFs) and Scorecards (SCs) and report outcomes and impacts using Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
- Strengthen the existing MfDR Web Platform in the MPI to facilitate results reporting through a MfDR information system with Dash Board.
- Linking the Agency Results Frameworks (ARFs) and Scorecards (SCs) of the Line Ministries to the national budget system to ensure the implementation of performance budgeting.
- Also linking ARF and SC with the National audit System to support and strengthen the Performance Audit Initiatives.
- Strengthen sector level performance indicators including MDGs to track sector progress and place them in the web based MfDR platform.
- Support to strengthen the National Statistical System to capture disaggregated data at sub national level and increasing the frequency, accuracy, comprehensiveness and timeliness and link NOR
- Enhance the use of statistical evidence for planning, budgeting, targeting investments and decision making.
- Cascade MfDR and strengthen the Results Reporting on all major development projects by institutionalizing Robust Results Frameworks with KPIs and place such information in the e PMS.
- Mainstream Results Frameworks in projects and Line Ministries to make it the driving force for planning, budgeting, management, monitoring and post evaluation.
- Strengthen the existing Community of Practice (CoP) on MfDR (the Steering Committee of the Line Ministries) to share the best practices and facilitate face-to-face dialogue, virtual interactions and peer exchange to connect “islands of best practices” on MfDR in Sri Lanka.

## **4.2. Capacity Development**

- Currently ADB's Readiness Assessment tool has been used to identify the capacity gaps in Line Ministries to institutionalize MfDR. Based on this capacity assessment tool, Capacity Development Plans have been developed for 4 pilot agencies. It is proposed to expand the use of this tool to cover other key Ministries.
- Organize Capacity Development Initiatives government wide on MfDR and M&E.
- Develop Training manuals and CDs on MfDR in close collaboration with training institutions such as SLIDA, PIM of University of Jayawardanapura.
- Support to promote Capacity Building of Parliamentarians and domestic institutions such as Auditor General.

## **4.3. Harmonize and Strengthen the Aid Monitoring and Evaluation System**

- Strengthen the electronic Project Monitoring System (e PMS) to monitor ODA
- Strengthen the Evaluation Information System (EIS) to widely disseminate evaluation lessons, findings and best practices.
- Strengthen the electronic Development Information Management System (e DIMS) to monitor all non ODA
- Strengthen the on-line reporting system for projects over Rs.50Mn and capital expenditure.
- Harmonize all individual system under one platform to have a Integrated National Development Information System in the NOR
- Enhance the use of country M&E systems by donors after undertaking a needs assessment.
- Promoting joint evaluations to ensure ownership of evaluation findings.

#### **4.4. Use of Country Systems**

- Collaborate with the donor partners to enhance the use of country Aid Monitoring and Evaluation Systems.
- Develop guidance-manual to enable donors to use the country systems.
- Identifying the weaknesses in the Country System ( e.g PFM, M&E) using diagnostic tools such as Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) and Readiness Assessment and improve the quality of the systems to meet international standards.
- Donor plans on using country systems
- Strengthen the national procurement system and harmonize with donor procurement procedures. Identify the gaps in the national procurement guidelines and harmonize with donor procedures.
- Auditor General to undertake and coordinate the audit of all foreign aid projects and extend support to strengthen Performance audit (Value –for- money Audit)

#### **4.5. Enhance the national ownership of National Development Strategy (NDS)**

- Create wider awareness of the NDS
- Facilitate and closely link the Donor Country Assistance Programme with NDS
- Promoting Aid on Budget
- Increase the use of program based approach
- Develop provincial and sub national level results focused development plans and link to NDS and establish results tracking systems at the sub national level.

#### **4.5. Aid Predictability**

- Donor providing multi year aid plans indicating commitments and projected disbursements.
- Linking Medium Term Expenditure Framework with NDS and ensuring the Public Investment Programmes and national budget is closely aligned with NDS.

#### **4.6. Untied Aid**

- Coordinate with donor communities and collaborating with them to develop plans for untying of aid.

#### **4.7. Mutual Accountability**

- Quarterly performance report on progress of development projects be available in the MPI website.

#### **4.8. Conditionalities**

- Making conditionalities mutually agreed and transparent within government by ensuring all conditionalities are entered in the e PMS and are harmonized within the National Development Strategy.
- Donor's commitment to make all conditions transparent and flexible within the NDS.

This is a preliminary draft action plan and is being consulted. However, institutionalizing of MfDR and Harmonization of M&E initiatives are in progress.

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