



Joint Venture on Monitoring the Paris Declaration

12 February 2008

ROOM DOCUMENT 1

Emerging Issues from the 2008 Aid Effectiveness Survey Roll-Out Workshops

This document was prepared by the UNDP.

EMERGING ISSUES FROM THE 2008 AID EFFECTIVENESS SURVEY ROLL-OUT WORKSHOPS

SUB-REGIONAL SURVEY ROLL-OUT WORKSHOPS

Asia-Pacific	Bangkok, 21-22 January	20 countries	65 participants
Southern & Eastern (Anglo- & Lusophone) Africa & Arab States	Kigali, 22-25 January	20 countries	60 participants
West and Central Africa	Dakar, 31 Jan – 1 Feb	18 countries	60 participants
Latin America and the Caribbean	Nicaragua, 8-9 Feb	8 countries	40 estimated
Europe & CIS	TBC		

Partner countries emphasised that the Survey process both offered **value in terms of a country level stock-taking** of progress and challenges, and as a further **aid effectiveness instrument to embed within the political and institutional aid architecture**. They also stressed that the Survey process at country level is as important to promote mutual understanding, accountability and change behaviour.

Newcomers to the survey welcomed the **opportunity to learn from those countries that completed the 2006 survey**, and the broader opportunity to **share across all countries tangible examples of country level initiatives** to promote aid effectiveness. Survey letters, terms of reference and process work plans have been shared since the workshops and **south-south mutual support visits have been scheduled** between Bangladesh and Indonesia and Cambodia and Nepal in Asia and a number of countries in Africa.

The energy and commitments of country level officials and donor focal points to the success of the 2008 Survey was clear, as was their **keen interest in contributing to the HLF preparation process**, Accra Agenda for Action and Round Tables. This **high level of interest presents opportunities as well as challenges**. Countries are eager to **contribute their perspectives and wish to engage actively in the preparations for the HLF**, but in order to do so they **need a sustained flow of information** on the timeframe for the HLF consultations, opportunities and concrete mechanisms that are available for their contribution.

SURVEY IMPLEMENTATION

1. Participants agreed that the 2008 **survey instrument had been further strengthened, with more clarity on indicators to ensure** less misinterpretation at the country level. New examples and clearer criteria on some indicators were a great help.
2. Countries (particularly in Kigali) expressed a **strong interest in contextualizing and further defining indicators at the country level**. The Survey Help Desk will play a role in ensuring data can serve an aggregate purpose at the global level.
3. Countries presented practical examples of aid effectiveness actions already underway at country level and these examples, as well as insights on managing the survey process, were actively shared **country to country** at the workshop. Some survey newcomers invited countries that participated in the 2006 survey to visit and to provide **South-South support**. The OECD DAC dedicated website is of great importance for this process.
4. Countries that were new to the Survey were keen to **use the Survey process** (as far as possible given the timeframe) **to build institutions for sustained improvements in aid effectiveness at country level**, as well as to provide data to the global survey – examples included: establishing or reinvigorating working groups on aid effectiveness; establishing a prioritised action plan on aid effectiveness; establishing aid tracking databases; developing mechanisms for mutual accountability.
5. The **OECD DAC/UNDP/World Bank Survey Help Desk** was launched and has already been used to: (i) answer technical and process questions on the Survey indicators; (ii) to promote South-South learning sharing practical examples for implementing the survey from different countries; (iii) establish a Frequently Asked Questions section for reference; and (iv) provide resources for national level launch workshops.

6. Finally, participants expressed the demand that this activity **should not be a “one-shot-deal”** but rather should develop into an information sharing facility and capacity development initiative post-HLF.

FEEDBACK ON PARTNER GOVERNMENT PREPARATIONS FOR THE HIGH LEVEL FORUM

7. Sub-regional structure: Partner countries in Bangkok, Kigali and Dakar stated a **preference for sub-regional workshops as part of the consultation process**. In response, for the Asia and Pacific region organisers are suggesting 4 workshops covering South East Asia, South Asia, Central and West Asia and the Pacific.

8. Requests for more information to national coordinators, in a timely manner, **on the process of developing the HLF AAA and Round Table (RT) agendas** were expressed at both workshops. Opportunities to present/chair/contribute should be highlighted. Key timings for preparations should be disseminated. Other preparatory work should be mapped and possible opportunities to participate highlighted.

9. Focus on HLF substance: Partner countries in both Bangkok and Kigali expressed a demand for consultations as a mechanism for conveying their needs and interests regarding the two key discussions at the HLF – the **Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) and 9 Round Tables**.

10. Asia and the Pacific: Alongside developing inputs and perspectives on the AAA and RTs, partner countries were supportive of developing a **regional perspective document** as a third channel of communicating issues from the region to the HLF and that this would be developed as one strand of the consultations process.

11. Anglo- and Lusophone African countries and Arab states: Partner countries confirmed that a **Ministerial level preparatory meeting** would be useful in ensuring strong contributions were developed prior to HLF. The African Development Bank referred to the meeting of African Finance Ministers in Mozambique in May as an opportunity.

12. Francophone Africa: Partner countries indicated interest that HLF **preparatory meetings address specific issues**, such as fragile states and aid effectiveness in countries with low levels of aid dependency.

13. Resources and support for consultations: multi-partner support will be necessary to respond to the demand for sub-regional consultations and preparations.

- In Asia and the Pacific **AsDB, Department for International Development (UK), OECD DAC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Japan), UNDP and World Bank** have begun to develop a plan for support to the process.
- In Anglo- and Lusophone Africa countries and Arab states **AfDB, Department for International Development (UK), OECD DAC, UNDP and the World Bank** have had initial discussions about supporting the process.
- In Francophone Africa, **AfDB, UNDP and OECD-DAC** also discussed support to the preparatory process. AfDB will revert by the end of February with more details on proposed Africa consultations.
- **Interest was expressed by some partner countries to contribute to the Survey Help Desk**. One option may be to extend the Help Desk beyond the Survey as a mechanism to **provide information on the HLF preparations**, and expanding its membership beyond OECD DAC, UNDP and World Bank to include a small number of partner countries from each region.
- **Support from additional donors would be welcomed to sustain this process.**

The orientation workshops were a fine example of good practice and collaboration between the partner countries, OECD DAC, WB, UNDP, AsDB and AfDB.

Information on the workshop in Mangua and an update on the Europe & CIS workshop will be provided at the JV MPD.