

Key Messages
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What priority measures/initiatives for the coming years can help to make capacity development efforts more effective?

Partner countries and donors should ensure that capacity development agenda is persuaded to address the individual, the organization and the enabling environment; Ensuring that there is a solid national programme to which donors can align and own, and that sectors and sub-sector programmes are properly embedded in broader national policy and planning processes - PRS, expenditure frameworks, public sector reform etc. - is critical for progress towards improved effectiveness of aid; More use of existing formal coordination mechanism by donor and recipient countries and strengthen the weak link that may exist; Where the temptation to mount parallel initiatives arises from a perceived lack of commitment on the government side, donors should consider the scope for enhancing demand-side pressures, by promoting mechanisms such as service delivery surveys or citizen report cards, or by developing civil society and private sector advocacy capacity; Capacity assessments for an open dialogue between donors and developing country partners (ex. Cap scan of OECD-DAC); Better aid predictability for the capacity building/development efforts for rapid growth, human development and infrastructure; and, Enhancing, supporting and follow up of networks of people like the regional CoPs for MfDR to facilitate knowledge acquirement, learning and reinvention.

Why are these measures/initiatives promising? (Rational, evidence, risks...)

Long-term holistic vision, Country ownership, Country-led partnership will ensure greater probability of effectiveness and implementation of projects to achieve the MDGs and National development agendas; and, as there will be enhanced ownership which mindsets and power differentials could be source of development failure or success as opening room for dialogue in turn sparks an irresistible energy that may encounter resistance. Capacity development is not power neutral and challenging mindsets and vested interests is difficult. Frank dialogue and a collective culture of transparency are essential steps.

How could they be approached in the coming years? (Potential partnerships, synergies ...)

A need for further dialogue/discussion at all levels and with development partners in the context of scaling up, improved predictability of external finance, harmonization, promoting trade and investment, enhancing capacity to trade as well as to assist on the part of our development partners on improvement in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows; Support National ownership (for the success of the MDGs) that a country needs to decide for itself the difficult questions of how to allocate scarce resources – choosing, for instance, whether it is wise to invest on urban infrastructure or tertiary (higher) education versus primary or secondary education; and, Donors often inadvertently target the same sectors, neglecting others that offer less political mileage and visibility. To avoid some of these problems, external agents must be willing to accept coordination by a national institution wherever possible, or pool their resources in a temporary arrangement as this encourages the emergence of ownership and leadership, yielding a lasting benefit.

What are the recommendations for shaping the Accra Action Agenda?

Strong partnership between donors and partner countries for the sustainability of capacity development in sector initiatives/policies/programmes since it is at the core of development; The other issue that could be addressed in the Accra meeting should be how can we enhance MDG based planning capacities in sectors?; and, How can we enhance the role of the private sector in capacity development/capacity building / in sectors? Should be addressed.