

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS DECLARATION AND ACCRA AGENDA FOR ACTION IN COLOMBIA

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### INTRODUCTION

This document is submitted to the WP Secretariat in response to a request from the WP Co Chairs. Colombia is committed to the implementation of the Paris Declaration principles and commitments of the Accra Agenda for Action and recognizes the important contributions of the DAC guidance to the Aid Effectiveness Agenda.

The document consists of four parts. The first section summarizes the process of Colombia to adhere to the Paris Declaration and its implementation since 2008. The second part, describes the participation of Colombia in the agenda of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness. Thirdly, it presents the main activities being carried out in order to meet commitments in the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action. Finally, the fourth part identifies the main issues and challenges in this process.

This document is available for information to all the members of the WP in order to share our experience and get feedback from other countries.

### BACKGROUND

- Since 2003 the Colombian government began a dialogue with representatives from civil society and international community (G 24) with the aim of defining national priorities regarding international cooperation and the consolidation of its complementarities to national development efforts.
- Since that year the National System of International Cooperation has been consolidated as a mechanism to coordinate public and private institutions both at the national and regional levels.
- Colombia adheres to the Paris Declaration in November 2007. The international community present in the country commits itself to participate in the processes and mechanisms that the Government of Colombia defines to implement the PD.
- In December 2007 the government of Colombia made a draft of the PD implementation plan.
- In January 2008 the Presidency of the Republic approved the “Presidential Directive No.1” on International Cooperation Coordination. This Directive calls on all national and territorial institutions to actively participate on the Implementation Plan of the PD and to articulate their cooperation demands with the priorities set in the 2007-2010 National Strategy of International Cooperation<sup>1</sup>.
- During the first quarter of 2008, the follow-up survey to the Paris Declaration was made, for the first time in Colombia.
- In September 2008, Colombia played an active role in preparing the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness held in Accra (Ghana), participating in the following areas: Consensus Group, Partner Country Caucus, Co Chair of Roundtable 1 “Ownership”, Advisory Group for Civil Society and Aid Effectiveness, and venue of the Latin America Regional Consultation Meeting.

### COLOMBIA ´ S ROLE IN THE INTERNATIONAL AGENDA

Colombia is a member of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness and its Executive Committee. In both areas Colombia seeks to contribute as middle income country in the analysis, monitoring and developing of the international agenda for aid effectiveness.

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<sup>1</sup> The National Cooperation Strategy is the result of an extensive consultative process with civil society, donors, and regional representatives

### **Task Team on South - South Cooperation (TT-SSC).**

- On the basis of the AAA mandates, the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness (WP-EFF) endorsed a Task Team on South-South Cooperation (TT-SSC) during its meeting on 31 March and 1 April 2009 in Paris. The new TT-SSC, led by Colombia, received strong support by several countries and multilateral organizations.
- The TT-SSC aims to be an inclusive platform for partners in South-South Cooperation (SSC) who desire to explore how to interpret the Paris Declaration principles and the Accra Agenda for Action commitments.
- Thus, an overall objective for the TT-SSC is to understand the extent to which, on the one hand, these principles respond to the specificities of SSC and, on the other, how SSC itself might contribute to the aid effectiveness agenda.

Within this framework, the TTSSC will:

- Promote the exchange, undertake a mapping and analysis of SSC practices and their interaction with the aid effectiveness agenda, based upon examples of delivered SSC such as workshops, studies and evaluations, and other sources of information
- On this basis, foster the identification of and agreement on possible good practices of SSC within the context of the Paris Declaration and the AAA

#### *Setting-up the task team.*

- The proposal for setting up the TT-SSC received strong and consistent support during the WP-EFF meeting in March 2009 and the work of the TT-SSC will serve as an important input to the 2010 High Level Meeting on SSC and Capacity development in Colombia and IV 2011 High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Korea.
- On 14 and 15 of September 2009, in Washington D.C., the TT-SSC was officially launched. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce for the first time the platform but also to identify its scope and purpose. The conceptual framework for the TT-SSC, its planned meetings and a general overview on the High Level Event held in Bogotá, Colombia were also discussed.
- On October 27 2009, the TT-SSC had its I Regional Meeting in Bogotá, Colombia, just after the High Level Meeting of OAS Cooperation Authorities. A very precise discussion on the identifying process for the case studies, the Knowledge Fair and the High Level Event of 2010 took place during the meeting. This Regional Meeting also contributed to establish some critical issues for the next regional meetings that will take place in Africa and Asia during the following months.

### **High Level Meeting on South - South Cooperation and Development Capacity.**

- Colombia proposed to host a High Level Meeting on the Middle Term, preparatory to the IV High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. In this context, the Colombia HLE-SSC/CD emerges as an opportunity for deepening the knowledge and analysis of key relevant issues, which are expected to gain importance in the emerging global effectiveness agenda.
- The conclusions and recommendations derived from this meeting, then, are expected to provide valuable inputs for the preparation of the Korea HLF-IV.
- Together with its partners, Colombia, as a middle-income country strongly committed to SSC in the aid effectiveness framework, expects that the HLE-SSC/CD, in 2010, will serve as an opportunity to:
  - Take stock on the advances of the TT-SSC and the CD Alliance/LenCD.
  - Allow partner countries, development partners and multilateral organizations to share their experiences in SSC and CD and thus enrich the ongoing analytical work of the TT-SSC, the CD Alliance and other relevant initiatives like the LenCD, the regional communities of practice and other processes at the United Nations level, particularly in the context of the Development Cooperation Forum at the ECOSOC.
  - Identify and discuss the synergies between SSC and CD.

- Facilitate knowledge sharing and promote partnership, particularly among partner countries, and with donors, international organizations and civil society.
- Agree on recommendations and next steps towards the Korea HLF in 2011.

It is also relevant to say that during the HLE of 2010, a Knowledge Fair will also take place.

#### **International Reference Group Member - II Phase of the Paris Declaration Evaluation.**

Colombia is a member of the International Reference Group which was established to guide the second phase of the global assessment of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. This aims to identify how the effectiveness agenda has helped to improve outcomes in development.

Colombia is the representative for Latin America and the Caribbean in the Management Group of this evaluation, a scenario that aims to develop international evaluation and national case studies provided as part of it. Colombia is one of the 20 case studies identified.

As part of this exercise, Colombia expects to identify the development and impact of the effectiveness agenda in countries with low aid dependence and in those with specific characteristics such as countries that receive and provide assistance at the same time.

#### **IATI**

Colombia has been supporting the construction and launch of the International Initiative for Aid Transparency, given their interest to strengthen existing mechanisms for better accountability on the results of it.

Today, Colombia is a member of the Steering Committees of this initiative and actively participated in the regional consultation of it, as well as in the recent International High Level Conference of IATI.

### **NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS DECLARATION AND ACCRA AGENDA FOR ACTION**

The government of Colombia has adjusted the Implementation Plan of the PD and AAA taking into consideration the results of the 2008 survey and the AAA Commitments.

During 2009 Colombia has been working on a series of actions aiming at:

#### Increase national and local ownership of the National Strategy of International Cooperation

Colombia has a National Cooperation Strategy to guide the demand and offer of aid in the country. Since 2007, this instrument serves as a guiding framework for the negotiation of country strategies and programs of all donors.

Since then it has been implementing a regular evaluation on the targeting of resources for cooperation in the framework of the priorities of the Strategy, as well as on the impact of all programs in each of the components of it.

Throughout 2009, a particular emphasis has been made on the definition of the subnational aid demand, in close coordination with the National Strategy.

#### Strengthening national capacity to channel resources through government institutions

One of the main challenges facing donors in Colombia is the use of national systems. Given the nature of cooperation that reaches the country, an important flow of resources is channeled through international and civil society organizations.

The government has brought forward important reforms designed to improve the quality of their national systems. One example is the recently published study on the national procurement system from the methodology developed by the OECD. In return, Colombia hopes that donors will progressively increase the volume of resources channeled through government agencies.

#### Move forward on cooperation thematic alignment and harmonization with the National Strategy

From the National Cooperation Strategy, it is being conducted thematic coordination exercises among donors and government agencies around issues and priorities of the Strategy.

At a subnational level, continuation of periodic meetings between regional authorities and donors to present their development programs and cooperation priorities.

#### Develop an Aid Monitoring and Evaluation System

Colombia has a geo-referenced information system of Official Development Assistance the country receives. Today, this instrument has been replicated in several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

With the information available on it, is expected to continue on the design of a unique mechanism with criteria and tools for aid M&E.

#### Promote mutual accountability

Throughout this year, the government held bilateral meetings with all donors to follow up the implementation of the DP and AAA and define concrete actions. In this context, Colombia advanced in a voluntary follow-up survey to the PD and AAA - 2009 with all the donors.

On November is it going to be held a mutual accountability workshop with donors and CSO on the management of cooperation in Colombia.

### **PERSPECTIVES**

The adjusted Implementation Plan of the PD and AAA was presented to the international community in bilateral meetings held during this year in order to guarantee their commitment and participation in the country level. Is it of the most importance that donors understand that a great number of commitments depend directly on them, therefore their participation is crucial for the implementation.

To advance on this objective, it is expected to launch a technical dialogue table with key donors in order to ensure continuity of ongoing activities and overcome the following challenges:

- Use of national systems by donors.

As a result of the consultations that are being held with donors and national institutions, Colombia will be able to define if it is necessary to channel aid through governmental institutions.

- Registration of aid resources in the national accounting systems.

Governmental institutions must strengthen their capacity to efficiently administrate aid resources. They have to make the necessary adjustments in their accounting systems to differentiate ODA from other donations.

- Increasing use of Program Based Approaches.

It is necessary to work on the simplification of donor procedures and the progressive use of PBA.

- Evaluation of aid results.

It is important to be able to measure aid results through the implementation of joint M&E mechanisms. Colombia has to work with donors in the creation of middle term frameworks that define priorities, modalities, goals and expected outcomes.

- Aid accountability.

It is necessary to maintain the multi stakeholder dialogue with CSO's and international community on the aid effectiveness issue. The government wants to apply to the aid agenda the principles of the NGO's network for transparency.