

Working together toward effectiveness
By Jorge Enrique Prieto Cardozo

- Capacity development is based on, at least, three key elements: democratic ownership, leadership and local capacities.
- Recipient countries should design and implement national policies to assure that they will conduct their own development and development cooperation processes.
- The developed countries should support, empower, and respect initiatives addressed to foster national leadership in the recipient countries.

That's why it is important:

- To consider differences among middle income countries.
- To promote joint programs and deeper coordination arrangements.
- To strengthen monitor and evaluation of the international aid in the countries.
- To promote South – South cooperation and triangular cooperation actions.

Therefore:

- Donor countries could understand how developing countries, and in particular some MIC, manage ownership, leadership and optimize their own capacities.
- Joint programming will help both donors and recipients to develop a more coordinated assistance.
- It is mandatory to know what the contribution of the international cooperation is for national development priorities.
- South – South cooperation might be one of the most important ways to foster local capacities in developing countries.

To be kept in mind in the coming years:

Developing countries are different:

Key issues: Development long term vision, Joint shaping of the Country Strategy Papers, Setting a set of additional indicators to the Declaration of Paris, Using local knowledge and national expertise.

Joint work is fruitful

Key issues: Coordination of the actions of the international cooperation, Greater coordination with the governmental institutions, National strategies for the cooperation demands, Increase and promote the predictability of the aid, Alignment of the aid with the national priorities.

Measuring guarantees improvement

Key issues: Assess the contribution of the international cooperation to the national priorities, Mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the aid, Project indicators.

An alliance for the South – South cooperation

Key issues: Good practices in developing countries, World wide bank of practices, Support south – South Cooperation.

So, Accra Action Agenda should consider:

- To recognize that within the middle income countries there are different interests.
- To stress the concept of “democratic ownership”.
- To increase the levels of coordination with governmental institutions.
- To highlight the importance of a higher predictability of the aid.
- To define specific mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the aid.
- To include South – South cooperation as well as the triangular one as a mean for promoting capacity development.

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