

Policy Workshop of the Global Forum on Development, 11 December 2007

Remarks by Mr Amano

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am pleased to welcome you to this Policy Workshop on the Challenges of Scaling up Aid at the Country Level. This Workshop is part of the OECD's Global Forum on Development – a three year programme which is addressing Development Financing issues. This year's focus is on ownership, so I am pleased that each session will be introduced by a representative of our partner countries.

Indeed we invited more partner countries, but some were unable to spare staff as December is the month when they are finalising their budgets for 2008. But do these staff have sufficient information to produce sound medium-term budgets? Most Ministers of Finance have only limited information about the external resources they can expect to receive in 2008, let alone for the following two to three years. You will learn in Session II that many donors have policies to produce multi-year financial frameworks with their key partners, but it is not clear that these policies are yet producing the firm planning data that Finance ministries require.

Improving the predictability of aid in this way is a key principle of the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness. It is also an issue of concern in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The conclusions of this Forum will be fed into a new initiative by the UN Secretary General, Ban-Ki Moon, to accelerate progress towards the MDGs in Africa.

Another key issue of ownership is the number of donors that partner countries need to deal with, in total and in individual sectors such as education and health. The Secretariat have produced some new analyses and maps showing the degree of fragmentation of donors in many countries, and conversely of concentration in others, often fragile states. You will have a chance to discuss how to tackle the issue of the number of donors per country in Session I, to examine the scope for a better division of labour between donors.

More predictable aid and better division of labour are important, but as aid is scaled up, it is vital that it is focused on achieving results in countries. In Session III you will hear of progress on producing national development strategies around which countries and their donors can have a dialogue about the results to be achieved and the resources – domestic and external – required to achieve them.

In the final session, our panellist will bring these strands together to see how to accelerate the process of scaling up aid that is predictable, delivered more effectively, and linked to development results. I wish you a rich dialogue today and look forward to the report of the meeting.