

Preparatory Workshop to the Accra HLF  
Bonn 15-16.05.08  
Roundtable 3 on Harmonisation (15.05.08)

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A first presentation made by Franke Toornstra (World Bank) described the capacity needed for harmonisation, the tools and the constraints, before stressing some key messages for AAA.

The second presenter, Tabagus Achmad Choesni (Indonesia) highlighted the need to set up multi-donor trust funds to support capacity development, and also the necessity to develop national road maps.

The group first questioned whether focussing on alignment would lead to better donor harmonisation. It was pointed out that this is not automatic, as we are referring to different countries with different contexts and many dimensions (for both alignment and harmonisation). From there, the discussions were guided to answer the three key questions:

- What should we address in harmonisation and CD?
- Why – what kind of impact do we expect?
- How are we going to address the change processes towards CD?

*1) What should we address in harmonisation and CD?*

- Respect country systems (build codes of conduct for both sides/compacts)
- Seek good opportunities for capacity development
- Develop capacity for policy dialogue
- Build national CD strategy/framework – this could be done through PBAs – but caution! Not one size fits all!
- Establish transparency, ensure better information on aid volumes, establish monitoring system e.g. the Tanzania example of independent evaluation of aid
- Develop donor coordination mechanisms around CD
- Identify and work with champions for CD and recognise partner country leadership
- Provide space for South-South learning on CD best practices
- Avoid creating new mechanisms that could be more burdensome – No ‘new monsters’!

- End tying aid and ear marking
- Create peer pressure through peer reviews (to deal with issues of reluctant donors)
- Who does the assessment of the comparative advantage? This should be collaborative – all stakeholders should be involved

2) *Why – what kind of impact do we expect?*

- Achieving development goals of the partner country through result orientation
- More use of country system/provide support for state building
- National CD strategy needed and also joint evaluations of CD
- Reduce transaction costs and increase efficiency to free resources for development
- Discover common ground through political dialogue and systemic strengths and shortcomings
- Harmonisation can only be achieved when timely information on Aid flows
- Better management and use of aid

3) *How are we going to address the change processes towards CD?*

- Improve political dialogue through CD and be open about motives of each partner
- Incentives and reward system (through decentralisation of donor offices) and then internally with partner country
- Bring additional knowledge into the process – South-South cooperation
- Develop systems and guidelines for reporting and aid flows
- Point of reflection - choice and trust – do partner countries have a real choice – sometimes it is not really a dialogue around the choice...