

**Accra HLF Steering Committee Meeting  
OECD, Paris, June 29, 2007**

**Draft Summary of the Discussions**

1. The Steering Committee (SC) for the Third High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Accra HLF) took place on Friday, June 29, 2007, in Paris, with video links to Accra, Managua, Pretoria, Tokyo, and Washington. Annex A lists participants to the meeting. Mr. Jan Cedergren chaired the meeting.

**I. Feedback from Consultations**

2. The World Bank provided an overview of the consultation meetings with partner countries held in Mauritius (June 21) and Ghana (June 25). In Mauritius, participants from 13 partner countries emphasized the following issues: (a) asserting partner countries' ownership and country experiences; (b) strengthening the national budget as an instrument for country development and donor alignment; (c) use of country systems and its two-way relationship with governance; and (d) predictability for all aid modalities (project and/or budget support). Participants also expect the Accra HLF to be an opportunity to learn and share good practices among partner countries. In Accra, officials from Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, and South Africa emphasized similar issues: (a) aid predictability, (b) importance attached to monitoring and evaluation of Paris Declaration implementation, and (c) budget support as an instrument to strengthen ownership. Other issues raised were the disconnect between headquarters and country offices in donor agencies and the role of global funds in the aid architecture.

**II. The June 2007 Core Group meeting in Accra**

3. The DAC Secretariat summarized the June 25 meeting of the HLF Core Group, chaired by Mr. Nana Juaben-Boaten Siriboe, Chief Director of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning in Ghana. The Core Group was briefed on the progress made by the five subcommittees formed by the government to lead the HLF preparation: protocol, public relations, security, budget, and technical support.

4. The Government of Ghana (GoG) emphasized its commitment to lead the preparation process as host country for the meeting and to ensure security for the expected 800-1,000 participants that will include ministers, heads of agencies, and other senior officials. Nearly 700 rooms have been tentatively reserved in about 20 hotels in Accra. Besides the International Conference Center where the Forum will be held, two other venues (the Kofi Annan Center and the British Council) were identified that could be used for the conference if additional rooms are needed for the Roundtable meetings. The public relations subcommittee has been working on a website and a logo for the conference. The GoG proposed that representatives of the media could be invited to participate in the discussions as part of civil society, and expressed its desire that local companies be used as much as possible (logo design, translation services, printing services, on-site registration, etc.).

5. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Ghana and the World Bank will be prepared in the coming weeks to define the respective responsibilities of the GoG and the World Bank for the various preparation activities for the Accra HLF as well as for the event itself, including the costs and logistical arrangements.

### **III. First Draft Outline of the HLF**

6. The Chair indicated that the three-tier structure of the Accra HLF could now be considered as agreed : (a) the Marketplace, which will include posters, information booths, and other communications; (b) nine Roundtable meetings to facilitate and support decision taking and policy endorsement on key issues for aid effectiveness; and (c) a ministerial-level meeting, which will conclude with the adoption of the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA).

7. **Marketplace.** The Core Group was asked to formulate a proposal for the development of the Marketplace—its objectives and how they would be achieved, drawing on the lessons learned in the Hanoi Marketplace, which included private sector involvement. It was proposed that an agency or a country take responsibility for the overall management of the Marketplace.

8. **Roundtables.** The discussion underscored the need to minimize the number of issues covered by each session, ensure that all important issues are included, and remain flexible to reflect the upcoming consultations. The US representative submitted a revised proposal; others provided suggestions on important issues to be covered by specific roundtables. Continuing discussion emphasized aligning the Roundtable content with the Paris Declaration and ensuring wide participation in deciding on the content. The Chair asked that all comments be submitted in writing to the Core Group for discussion, with a view to making near-final decisions at the time of the Working Party meeting in November. He particularly requested that commenters focus on what is *essential* to be covered in the Roundtables, and to provide proposals on how to address issues that would not be treated in the Roundtables.

9. **Ministerial Meeting.** At this early stage, the thinking on this segment of the HLF is not yet well advanced. The Chair invited written suggestions from SC members.

### **IV. Preparatory Studies and Workstreams**

10. The work toward the HLF (see Annex B) is being led by a variety of working groups and joint ventures, mostly within the OECD/DAC, many of which actively involve country partners. The need for strengthening communication among OECD working groups and Roundtable workstreams was noted, as well as the need to incorporate some analytic work done by partner countries in further discussions of workstreams.

## **V. Consultation Strategy**

11. The consultation strategy is designed to provide partner countries space and voice in the preparation of the Accra HLF. The strategy involves early consultations with partner countries to feed into the decisions about the HLF agenda priorities and content, followed by regional workshops, which are to be organized principally by the regional development banks. These later workshops, expected to take place late in 2007 and early in 2008, will bring in a broader range of actors: civil society, emerging donors, private sector, and possibly parliamentarians. South Africa indicated that its regional network will meet on July 12 in Zambia. The ongoing work of the Advisory Group on Civil Society and Aid Effectiveness relies on significant civil society organizations (CSOs) consultation, including six regional meetings that will involve CSOs and governments in the south, followed by an international conference in Canada that is expected to develop recommendations for the Accra HLF. SC members indicated their support for the consultation process. Some participants stressed the importance of linking the regional and the global level, ensuring the flow of information among country-level discussions and regional and global events. Others mentioned the need to engage emerging donors and parliamentarians in the consultation process. Comments were also made on the need for clarity on the expected outcome of the consultations. The Chair asked the Core Group to consolidate a complete scenario of the consultation process, including all the actors and activities happening in this period, while keeping in mind that the Accra preparation is not a “centralized process”. In addition, the mapping of all the political discussions related to aid effectiveness at the international level would be useful.

## **VI. First Draft of the AAA**

12. The Chair presented a very early draft ministerial statement, explaining that it should both take stock of progress and address emerging issues. He invited participants to discuss principles but not engage in text drafting; and he urged the submission of written comments with specific ideas. Participants expressed agreement on the general structure of the document. The representative from the European Union noted that all member states expect a political document, and not a bureaucratic one, and mentioned that new members of the EU have shown interest in participating in the Accra HLF and signing on to the Paris Declaration. Other comments underscored the need to ensure consistency between Roundtable as well as ministerial discussions and the document, and to focus on an actionable and practicable statement that fosters impetus and moves the aid effectiveness agenda forward. The Chair again invited written comments.

## **VII. Budget**

13. The preliminary overall budget is approximately \$2 million. The Chair noted that it is suitable to have pooled funding, with the World Bank managing and accounting for the funds. To meet early costs—for example, hotel reservations—he requested that whenever possible, contributions be made in this calendar year. The Chair proposed the preparation of a letter requesting funding, to be sent out by the DAC as soon as possible. It

was clarified that OECD-DAC members would need to make contributions in addition to their already pledged support of Working Party work. One concern was the participation of civil society and if there is a need to include their participation costs in the budget. The Chair requested CIDA, as chair of the CSO Advisory Group to inquire if the group's budget would be able to cover the costs of CSO participation at the HLF. The GoG contribution could cover such areas as local transportation, security, and logistical arrangements, or conference facilities. Ghana's representative stressed the importance of agreeing rapidly on a cost sharing arrangement.

### **VIII. Communication Strategy**

14. The Core Group is working on a proposal for a communication strategy, which will address how to manage publicity for the Accra HLF. The GoG has designed a website for the conference; however, a server is needed for the website, and collaboration from a webmaster of the World Bank or another international partner was requested to work on that. The Chair stressed the importance of ensuring a successful public communication on the Forum and asked the Core Group to clarify the implications on the budget.

### **IX. Other Matters**

15. The Co-Chair of the Joint Venture on Monitoring the Paris Declaration asked the SC to consider the feasibility, timing, and costs of a second monitoring survey before the Accra meeting, a subject intensely discussed at the Joint Venture meeting a week before. The overwhelming consensus was that if the Accra HLF is to be evidence-based, a second survey is critical for the discussions at Accra, a point that was strongly made by the host country representative, among other members. It was agreed that the survey should be initiated as soon as possible with a letter to the national coordinators that makes clear that a government decision is being formally sought to launch the survey and offer support in conducting it. To ensure the letter receives appropriate attention at the decision taking level it was agreed that the letter should be copied to the senior official in the Ministries.

### **X. Next Steps**

16. The next meeting of the SC will take place on September 24, 2007 in Accra, for which Mr. Siriboe extended the Government's welcome to SC members to Accra.

ACCRA HIGH LEVEL FORUM ON AID EFFECTIVENESS CURRENT WORKSTREAMS FOR ROUNDTABLES FIRST AND SECOND DAYS - 2-3 September 2008		
ROUNDTABLE 1 DELIVERING AND MANAGING AID BETTER	WORKSTREAMS	WORKSTREAMS LEAD MEMBERS/INSTITUTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is the recent experience in supporting aid management capacity at country level, implementing H&amp;A action plans and aid policies?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development Gateway: aid management systems</li> <li>Consolidation of findings from 15 DAC Peer reviews</li> <li>SPA WGCD on aid management capacity</li> </ul>	World Bank + OECD  OECD- DCD/PEER: <i>Chantal Verger</i> Experience from DAC Peer Reviews World Bank ( <i>Benno Ndulu</i> ); UNDP; AfDB
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are the recent developments with program-based approaches and coordinated budget support, delegated cooperation, decentralization, joint missions and joint analytical work?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two Monitoring Surveys: 2006 &amp; 2008</li> <li>Delegated co-operation: experience of the Nordic + Group</li> <li>SPA budget and sector group surveys</li> <li>WB Dec. 2007 review on conditionality</li> </ul>	WB + OECD ----- ----- DFID: <i>Peter Dearden</i> World Bank
ROUNDTABLE 2 THE IMPLICATIONS OF CHANGES IN AID ARCHITECTURE ON AID EFFECTIVENESS	WORKSTREAMS	WORKSTREAMS LEAD MEMBERS/INSTITUTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How have vertical funds, foundations, new donors, and CSOs been contributing to the aid effectiveness agenda?</li> <li>Have current processes paid enough attention to the specific role of CSOs?</li> <li>What are the plans to enhance the role of these actors to aid effectiveness?</li> <li>What are their plans for further progress?</li> <li>How to strengthen country ownership of aid?</li> </ul>	Good practice principles on <u>integrating global programs</u> , building on specific partner country consultations	World Bank ( <i>Margret Thalwitz</i> ) / WHO / Global Funds OECD DCD/EFF – Senior co-ordinator for health to be recruited DCD/DO: <i>Kaori Miyamoto</i> USAID: <i>Steven Pierce</i>
	SPA Vertical Fund Task Team	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Briefing notes from 7 March 2007 WP-EFF consultation with CSOs.</li> <li>Concept paper/workplan – AG-CSO</li> <li>Issues Paper for the 5 regional consultations</li> <li>Report from the International Conference (2/ 2008)</li> </ul>	Advisory Group on CSOs and Aid Effectiveness- Canada, AG-CSO Chair : <i>Diane Vincent</i> . OECD- DCD/EFF : <i>Göran Eklöf</i>
	New donors: guiding principles in engaging with new donors – DAC role? -----	OECD- DCD/PEER: <i>Jens Sedemund</i> OECD- DCD/EFF: <i>Kei Yoshizawa</i>

<b>ROUNDTABLE 3</b> <b>LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE STUDIES ON “HEALTH AS A TRACER SECTOR” AND COMPARISON WITH OTHER SECTORS</b>	<b>WORKSTREAMS</b>	<b>WORKSTREAMS LEAD MEMBERS/INSTITUTIONS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How are Paris principles applied in the health sector and what have we learned?</li> <li>• How do these lessons compare with those emerging from other sectors such as education and infrastructure?</li> <li>• What are the lessons from this experience for these and other sectors?</li> </ul>	See DAC Chair letter on Health as a tracer sector outlining <u>Next steps</u> [DCD/M(2007)3]	<u>Health</u> : Technical Advisory Group to be set up: World Bank/WHO/OECD. World Bank: <i>Nicole Klingen</i> WHO: <i>Rebecca Dodd</i> OECD- DCD/EFF <i>Senior co-ordinator for health</i> to be recruited
	Education study	<u>Education</u> : EFA-FTI
	Infrastructure Study	<u>Infrastructure</u> : Japan + WB
<b>ROUNDTABLE 4</b> <b>ARE PARIS PRINCIPLES LEADING TO AID EFFECTIVENESS AND DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES?</b>	<b>WORKSTREAMS</b>	<b>WORKSTREAMS LEAD MEMBERS/INSTITUTIONS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the lessons learned from the ongoing Evaluation of the Paris Declaration?</li> <li>• How are these lessons leading to reduced transaction costs and improved aid effectiveness?</li> <li>• How are these lessons applied to country-level aid effectiveness actions?</li> <li>• What are the challenges and opportunities of applying Paris principles to cross-cutting issues such as gender, equity and environment quality?</li> </ul>	Phase 1 country and donor evaluation of the Paris Declaration	DAC Network on Evaluation — Chair, Reference Group on the Paris Declaration Evaluation: <i>Niels Dabelstein</i> OECD-DCD/PEER: <i>Hans Lundgren</i> Partner countries -----
	Key messages from the Dublin workshop on cross-cutting issues: gender, environment and human rights + follow-up work	DAC Networks : Gendernet : <i>Patti O’Neil</i> Environet : <i>Remi Paris</i> Govnet: <i>Sebastian Bartsch</i>
<b>ROUNDTABLE 5</b> <b>PROGRESS ON THE RESULTS AGENDA SINCE THE HANOI ROUNDTABLE AND THE WAY FORWARD</b>	<b>WORKSTREAMS</b>	<b>WORKSTREAMS LEAD MEMBERS/INSTITUTIONS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the experiences with Communities of Practice and country action plans for results?</li> <li>• How to build capacity for results, including statistical capacity in countries?</li> <li>• What additional actions are needed to improve mutual accountability?</li> </ul>	Joint Venture on Managing for Development Results – based on post-Hanoi work programme	OECD-DCD/EFF: <i>Stefan Schmitz</i> JV- Results Co-Chairs: <i>Bruce Purdue &amp; Joan Boer</i>

<b>ROUNDTABLE 6</b> <b>REFORMING TECHNICAL COOPERATION, AND ENHANCING USE OF COUNTRY SYSTEMS FOR CAPACITY BUILDING</b>	<b>WORKSTREAMS</b>	<b>WORKSTREAMS LEAD MEMBERS/INSTITUTIONS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to better harmonize technical cooperation and align it on national/sectoral capacity development strategies?</li> <li>• How to increase reliance on country systems—financial management, procurement, environmental impact assessment, project management, and managing for results?</li> </ul>	<p>Joint study on effective Capacity Development for Technical Cooperation</p> <p>To be determined in consultation with the WP-EFF Joint Ventures on PFM, Procurement, Results, and PD Monitoring</p>	<p>Japan (<i>Miwa Satoko</i>), Germany, UK, ADB, UNDP, World Bank.</p> <p>JV-PFM &amp; JV-MPD: <i>Simon Mizrahi, Sarah Fyson</i>  JV-PROC: <i>Micheal Lawrance</i>  JV-MfDR: <i>Stefan Schmitz</i>  GOVNET: <i>Ben Dickinson</i>  Joint Venture co chairs</p>
<b>ROUNDTABLE 7</b> <b>AID EFFECTIVENESS IN FRAGILE STATES AND EMERGENCIES.</b>	<b>WORKSTREAMS</b>	<b>WORKSTREAMS LEAD MEMBERS/INSTITUTIONS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the recent experience in the implementation of the Paris Declaration and of the London principles?</li> <li>• What is needed for additional progress?</li> </ul>	<p>Fragile States Group Secretariat to submit a brief paper for consideration by the HLF-3 Steering Committee meeting of 29 June</p>	<p>OECD- DCD/POL : <i>Juana de Catheu</i></p>
<b>ROUNDTABLE 8</b> <b>ADDRESSING INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL ISSUES</b>	<b>WORKSTREAMS</b>	<b>WORKSTREAMS LEAD MEMBERS/INSTITUTIONS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to reconcile competing interests: pressure for visibility vs. division of labor, accountability on use of funds vs. use of country systems, domestic constituencies vs. more untying of aid?</li> <li>• How to improve institutional and staff incentives and reduce HQ-field disconnect?</li> <li>• Is there enough investment in development education for the aid effectiveness agenda?</li> </ul>	<p><u>Division of labour</u> : Good practice principles on division of labour -</p> <p><u>Incentives</u> : Good Practice note on incentives for alignment, harmonisation and results in aid agencies - DCD/DAC/EFF(2007)7</p> <p><u>Development education</u>, public opinion, parliamentarians -----</p>	<p>European commission, France, Germany, WB  OECD- DCD/EFF : <i>Hubert de Milly</i></p> <p>JV MfDR  United Kingdom and World Bank</p> <p>Advisory Group on CSOs and Aid effectiveness</p>