

**REPORT OF POLAND ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS DECLARATION  
(PD) AND THE ACCRA AGENDA FOR ACTION (AAA)**

**INTRODUCTION: EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF POLISH DEVELOPMENT  
AID IN GENERAL**

The current Polish development aid policy is geared towards the principles of the Paris Declaration i.e. ownership, alignment, harmonisation, managing for results and mutual accountability.

The newly-adopted Polish aid programme administered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2010 defines the principles, tools and particular countries as well as areas of support which MFA funding is going to cover. The Programme is Poland's response to international challenges as well as obligations resulting from the documents on development assistance, including the Chapter 1, Title V of the Treaty on European Union (Consolidated version of the Treaty as amended by the Treaty of Lisbon), the Millennium Development Goals, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the European Consensus on Development and the Accra Agenda for Action as well as the Eastern Partnership initiative.

Polish foreign aid takes into account the needs of our priority recipients – both Poland's immediate neighbours and the more distant partners. A consistent application of the principles of ownership and alignment requires the use of the recipients' national public and funding systems. At present, Polish law does not permit the use of distribution channels of our partner countries to provide assistance. An important factor here is that most of Polish aid is of project nature: projects are implemented during one budgeting period (one year) and this period of implementation is too short to use our partners' national systems effectively. By granting budgetary aid, Poland contributes to the strengthening of national systems (mainly public finance management systems) in our partner countries.

At the same time, Poland strives to respect the principles of ownership and alignment while preparing changes in legislation (the statute on Polish development assistance and the strategy of Polish aid for the years 2010-2015) which may facilitate a broader participation of recipients' national systems in Polish assistance activities.

While providing assistance, Poland pays particular attention to ownership and accountability for achieving tangible results of aid provision.

In line with the obligations set forth in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, and the Accra Agenda for Action, Poland aims at doing away with all legal and administrative obstacles to full implementation of internationally agreed tasks regarding aid effectiveness.

This is particularly significant in light of the reform of the Polish foreign aid system, whose target is to introduce multi-annual funding of assistance projects and eliminating barriers to utilisation of financial institutions and public procurement systems in partner countries.

While striving to achieve improved effectiveness, efficiency and harmony of development aid provision, Poland also initiates closer co-operation in the field with other donor countries, particularly from the European Union. This co-operation is also aimed at introducing greater co-ordination and at avoiding a fragmentary approach to aid provision. It is crucially important to use the experience gathered by DAC OECD while deciding upon the directions and priorities of Polish aid. The development and implementation of Polish aid programmes is facilitated by active participation of Polish officials in international events: for example, a representative of Poland took part in the development policy review of Switzerland and thus gathered highly relevant experience in the field of programme creation.

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE AAA TO THE POLISH AID SYSTEM:

**1. “Donors will immediately start working on and sharing transparent plans for undertaking their Paris commitments on using country systems in all forms of development assistance; provide staff guidance on how these systems can be used; and ensure that internal incentives encourage their use.” (§ 15 d of the AAA).**

Work to implement the Accra Agenda for Action has continued in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, Department of Development Co-operation during the year 2009. Preparation process regarding both the draft Polish Development Strategy 2010-2015 and the draft Law on Polish Foreign Assistance (with participation of other governmental bodies and Polish NGOs) is under way. Both drafts include as a points of reference Polish commitments under the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action and ensure updating existing procedures and guidance according to the international (OECD/DAC) standards.

**2. ”We will deepen our engagement with CSOs as independent development actors in their own right whose efforts complement those of governments and the private sector” (§ 20 of the AAA).**

**“We will work with CSOs to provide an enabling environment that maximizes their contributions to development” (§ 20c of the AAA).**

AAA indicates the role of donors headquarters in creating and strengthening competences of Members of Parliament (MPs), local and central authorities, NGOs, research institutions, media and private sector. In meantime AAA recognizes the special and independent role of CSOs in the process of implementation of development agenda which is complementary to the efforts undertaken by the governmental and private sectors. In the draft “Polish aid

programme 2010” actions aimed at strengthening capacities of enumerated bodies and institutions are on the top of the priority list.

**3. “Developing countries and donors will work to develop cost-effective results management instruments to assess the impact of development policies and adjust them as necessary” (§ 23b of the AAA).**

Results of the use of public funds in the process of implementation of Polish development policies are subjected to the evaluation. The draft “Polish aid programme 2010” allocates PLN 1.5 million for evaluation and administration. The funds will fuel the implementation of a modern project life cycle, including a logical matrix, as well as monitoring and evaluation activities performed by MFA’s Department of Implementation of Development Programmes.

**4. “Beginning now, donors and developing countries will regularly make public all conditions linked to disbursements” (§ 25b of the AAA).**

Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Development Co-operation Department, since 2005, provides information through its website (<http://www.polishaid.gov.pl>) on transparency and good practices in informing all parties interested in development activities. New guidelines in this regard are included in both the draft Polish Development Strategy 2010-2015 and the draft Law on Polish Foreign Assistance.

**5. “Beginning now, donors will provide full and timely information on annual commitments and actual disbursements so that developing countries are in a position to accurately record all aid flows in their budget estimates and their accounting systems” (§ 26b of the AAA).**

Annual Reports have been publicly available on the website since 2005. Any conditions linked to development projects executed by Polish entities in cooperation with partner countries are transparently stipulated.

**6. “Beginning now, donors will provide developing countries with regular and timely information on their rolling three- to five-year forward expenditure and/or implementation plans, with at least indicative resource allocations that developing countries can integrate in their medium-term planning and macroeconomic Framework” (§ 26c of the AAA).**

So far aid allocations are still determined during the annual budget process. Poland works to change its internal regulations to make legally possible using the mechanism of multi-year planning and to strengthen the use of budget support mechanism (existing regulations, especially budget regulations, do not allow us at the moment introduce multi-year expenditure and planning system). However, currently Poland uses such efficient mechanisms of development aid as budget support and technical cooperation. In 2008 Polish budgetary aid

was directed to Afghanistan (USD 1.17 million) and Palestinian Autonomy (USD 500,000). The funds were transferred through World Bank funds. According to the “Strategy of Polish development co-operation”, technical aid encompasses increasing the level of knowledge, skills and qualifications of various social groups through scholarships, implementation of training courses, technical consulting, development of economic analyses and expert support. Poland uses various forms of technical aid in its development policy. The most significant element of Polish technical aid provided in 2008 was the government scholarship programme administered by the Bureau for Academic Recognition and International Exchange (controlled by the Ministry of Science and higher Education). The scholarships covered the total cost of study of 4,486 students and 478 PhD students and long-term apprentices. The largest number of students came from Belarus (1,509), Ukraine (1,346), Kyrgyzstan (5,540), Vietnam (199) and Albania (150). Furthermore, in 2008, MFA’s Development Co-operation Department organised 4. edition of a training for young diplomats from partner countries - in collaboration with the Diplomatic Academy of the Polish Institute of International Affairs. 24 officers attended the course, representing the foreign services of Afghanistan, Palestinian Autonomy, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cameroon, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Moldova, Namibia, the Republic of South Africa, Ukraine and Turkmenistan. Other Polish ministries and state institutions (Ministry of Finance, Chancellery of the Sejm, Central Board of Prison Service) also had their share in technical assistance activities in 2008.

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