

Berne, Mai 2005

## Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness Swiss Implementation Plan

### 1. Introduction

Following the adoption at the High Level Forum of Paris in March 2005 of the "Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness", SDC/seco are issuing a joint Management Statement of Resolve as well as the present Implementation Plan, which is updating existing action plans and defining responsibilities, overall priorities and concrete actions. Switzerland also builds on a High Level Statement "Switzerland's open pledge to supporting strategies to fight poverty" adopted in 2004 on aligning with PRS. Switzerland considers enhancement of aid effectiveness as an essential contribution to the Millennium Development Goals and the overarching goal of poverty reduction.

Switzerland considers the Paris Declaration as its own work programme, building on and integrating previous work of the DAC Task Force on Donor Practices / Working Party on Aid Effectiveness, the Strategic Partnership for Africa, the Rome Declaration, the Marrakech Roundtable on Managing for Results and the three volumes of best practices issued by the DAC.

Switzerland is fully committed to implementing the Partnership Commitments of the Paris Declaration, recognizing that these commitments need to be implemented in the specific context of each partner country. It will participate in periodical progress assessment and monitoring of the implementation of the Commitments.

**Key Principles for enhancing aid effectiveness are:**

1. Partner countries own and exercise leadership over their development policies
2. Donors align their overall support on partner countries' national development strategies
3. Donor actions are more harmonized, transparent and collectively effective
4. Resource management and decision-making are more results-oriented
5. Donors and partners are accountable for development results

### 2. Tasks and responsibilities within Swiss development cooperation

Headquarters, Swiss Cooperation offices and delegations to multilateral organisations have different tasks in the implementation of the Paris Declaration.

**Cooperation offices in partner countries (COOFs)**

COOFs are given the mandate to ensure implementation at country level, in the framework of the Swiss Cooperation Strategy. By assessing opportunities and risks, they define the concrete action lines deriving from the partnership commitments together with the partner countries' authorities and the development community in the given country.

More precisely their mandate is to :

- identify priorities and possibilities for action regarding the five key principles (ownership, alignment, harmonisation, managing for results and mutual accountability), on the basis of the Paris Declaration and the Joint SDC-seco Statement and in relation to existing operations and annual programmes;
- translate identified priorities for action in concrete measures, that build on existing activities;
- decide with national authorities, national partners and the donor community on measures to strengthen coordination mechanisms, taking into account existing platforms;
- include harmonisation in regular reporting and monitoring flows on annual, periodic and ad hoc basis. Specific guidance with regards to overall monitoring in the framework of annual programmes is provided by headquarters;

- inform and consult national authorities and partners about on-going and planned operations, the annual programme and aid flows (commitments and disbursements).

### **Swiss Delegations to Multilateral Institutions**

Swiss Delegations are responsible to participate actively in guiding and supervising the implementation of the Paris commitments by multilateral institutions, contribute to the further work on standards, definitions and monitoring. They bring to bear the rich Swiss field experience into the multilateral dialogue, and communicate the achievements of that dialogue back, contributing to bridging the gaps between the field level and the multilateral level.

### **Headquarters (both SDC and seco)**

Headquarters, and particularly through the support of the Working Group on harmonization have the responsibility to:

- Provide policy and strategic guidance on aid effectiveness, ensuring institutional coherence;
- Take the necessary measures on the institutional level, in particular adjust internal procedures where appropriate;
- Ensure a close link between international discussions on harmonization and operational work at country level and foster knowledge sharing about good and bad practice;
- Involve domestic stakeholders in the debate and coordinate communication;
- Monitor overall implementation.

## **3. Swiss Priorities for 2005-2006**

In partner countries, national authorities set priorities in collaboration with national stakeholders and the donor community. Swiss priorities stated below therefore concern specific actions to be taken at headquarters.

Six priorities are set for the implementation of the Paris Declaration. Under each priority a number of concrete actions have been identified. These will be regularly assessed by the working group

**1. Aid modalities:** to elaborate clear indications/guidance in regards to the definition of the different aid modalities, e.g. project, program, SWAP, Budget support and the requirements for their applicability and possible linkages and complementarities. This work will thus contribute to the ongoing SDC Mid Term Review of Strategy 2010 / Portfolio Analysis.

#### **Concrete actions:**

- [1] Provide practical policy guidance on aid instruments and aid modalities. To this effect, clarify definitions of instruments/aid modalities (including on Project Implementation Units, PIUs) and set targets; define conditions of implementation, related opportunities and risks. Targets based on the Paris Declaration will be set;
- [2] Identify measures to favour a more systematic practice of common agreements with other donors ;

**2. Using Country Systems and Adjusting internal procedures:** to elaborate clear guidance in relation to the utilization of national systems. Consequently, internal Procedures will also have to be adjusted. It will be important to define under which conditions of quality and governance Switzerland will and can use the national systems. If and when these conditions cannot be met, harmonized and joint capacity development measures to foster reform of these Country systems are to be supported.

#### **Concrete actions:**

- [3] Introduce a monitoring procedure in the approval process for operations (Operations Committees) regarding : alignment on PRS, use of country systems and existing capacities, and support to capacity development and institution building;
- [4] Revision of Administrative Guidelines. Support to our legal units in reviewing Guidelines, integrating the use of country systems and the need of adjusting internal procedure, in order to facilitate the ability of COOFs to engage in harmonised operations;
- [5] Support COOFs in assessing by country and jointly with other development partners, systems that reach acceptable standards;
- [6] Improve untying notifications, reflect and advocate on expanding the scope of the DAC recommendation;

**3. From Good practice to General practice:** work will be undertaken on platforms for the exchange of field experiences and on identifying which can be generalized. It will focus both on specific countries and on thematic issues (e.g., implementation of good practices on sector approaches, procurement and budget support).

**Concrete actions:**

- [7] Identify exemplary good and bad examples with regard to harmonization and share them with interested partners, using various and existing channels such as Information Meetings of field personnel at the headquarters, discussion fora, and electronic platforms;
- [8] Disseminate the good practices papers (3 vol) to staff and NGOs concerned; extract from good practices elements that can be build in new strategies and policies; aim for a common and comprehensive understanding of the aid effectiveness agenda;

**4. Coordination with other Federal Agencies.**

**Concrete actions:**

- [9] Engage in an inter-ministerial Dialogue on Aid Effectiveness within the Swiss federal Administration, using existing channels such as the Interdepartmental Committee for Development and Cooperation (IKEZ);
- [10] Finalise North – South guidelines, contributing to coordination in Swiss development cooperation;

**5. Monitoring and reporting:** SDC and seco ensure a consistent monitoring and reporting on progress made against the commitments Switzerland has subscribed in Paris.

**Concrete actions:**

- [11] Assess periodically mutual progress made with regard to Partnership commitments, at country and Headquarters levels, qualitatively as well as quantitatively ; use existing processes, such as the annual planning processes;
- [12] Assess periodically progress made on the actions described here ;
- [13] Link programme monitoring with existing partner country performance assessment frameworks ; use existing joint formats for monitoring, evaluation and reporting;

**6. Communication**

**Concrete actions:**

- [14] Post on the appropriate electronic platforms information on aid effectiveness and harmonisation as well as on the actions taken by the Swiss development cooperation;
- [15] Brief pro-actively and on request domestic stakeholders;
- [16] Update the international community, and in particular the DAC and websites dedicated to harmonisation<sup>1</sup>, on Swiss priorities and actions.

**This implementation plan will enter into force in Mai 2005, replacing the previous action plans. Assessment of progress as well as need for adaptation to the evolving situation will be communicated periodically to the management.**

<sup>1</sup> [www.aidharmonisation.org](http://www.aidharmonisation.org); [www.countryanalyticwork.net](http://www.countryanalyticwork.net).