

DRAFT SUMMARY OF THE HLF-3 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

17 MARCH 2008

Held in the World Bank office, Paris

1. A virtual meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) for the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Accra HLF-3) took place in Paris on Monday 17 March, 2008. Video links were set up with Ghana, London (DFID), Washington (WB), Ottawa (CIDA) and New York (UNDP/UNDG). Jan Cedergren chaired the meeting.

ITEM 1: Revised HLF-3 Agenda

2. The SC made the following observations on the revised HLF-3 agenda:

3. Sequencing of the Roundtables: The SC agreed to swap Roundtables 4 and 7 so that, as far as possible, there is no clash of timing for roundtables which will attract similar audiences. The agreed Roundtable sequence is: Rts 1, 3 & 4 in the afternoon of the 1st day, Rts 2, 5 & 8 in the morning of the 2nd day, Rts 6,7 & 9 in the afternoon of the 2nd day.

4. Ministerial Segments: More speaking opportunities are needed for Ministers, The proposed agenda suggests 2 moderators and 5 speakers from the floor during each of the 3 ministerial sessions on day 3, but this will not be enough to allow all ministerial participants to speak. It was agreed that the ministerial lunch and dinner should be used as an occasion to deliver statements, and that additional side events may be needed to provide more opportunities for Ministers to speak.

5. The EC and UNDP/UNDG confirmed that Louis Michel and Kernal Dervis will attend the Ministerial session. It was agreed that the CSO representative should report to Ministers on the parallel CSO event. The SC also agreed that the regional balance of speakers should be discussed at the WP-EFF on 2-3 April.

ITEM 2: 1st Draft AAA and Consultation Process

6. AAA Consulting Process: The SC generally agreed with the proposed consulting process. However, it was noted that there needs to be a clear understanding of the role of each actor expected to influence the AAA. The Secretariat will prepare a note explaining how different groups can provide inputs and comments to the AAA.

7. The SC considered whether to revise the draft AAA after the April 2-3 meeting of WP-EFF. Building on previous discussions, the members of the SC agreed that the first consultative draft of the AAA should be released and made public by the 18th of March 2008 in order to enable all the regional preparatory events to provide comments on the same draft version of the AAA — The first regional event is scheduled in Fiji the same week as the Working Party meeting. It was agreed that that the comments on the draft AAA — from WP-EFF, regional events, and other consultations — would be summarised and made available.

8. The SC agreed that the Accra Consensus Group should consist of the SC, the Ghanaian Chair of the Contact Group, three members of the partner country contact group (one each from Africa, Asia and the Latin America & Caribbean regions), and the DAC chair — for the purposes of the discussion of the

AAA. 9. The SC commented that the transparency of the process is very important and that the webpage will be a useful tool to get the public involved. The SC will discuss at its next meeting how to practically arrange for comments from the general public.

10. 1st Draft AAA: The SC welcomed the short and concise nature of the revised draft. But they were concerned that it was not sufficiently ambitious, and would not attract political attention. The SC suggested that the draft be revised again, drawing on some of the ideas in the draft of 3 March, and using stronger language with more options presented in italic and brackets. It was also noted that the draft should be more partner country oriented and should have more reflection on the MDG agenda and other UN activities.

ITEM 3: Generic Guidance of the Roundtable

11. The Secretariat reported on an informal meeting of co-chairs in London on 12 March. It was agreed at the London meeting that co-chairs would prepare specific ToRs by 24 March for circulation to WP-EFF members. In addition to specific ToRs, the co-chairs were asked for a 1 page summary of their Roundtable to present at the regional preparatory events. As the first regional preparatory event in Fiji is scheduled on 4-7 April, the SC noted that these should be prepared by 27 March to be sent to the regional development banks by 28 March.

ITEM 4: Update on Communication Strategy

12. The SC was updated on the Accra communication process. The first set of frequently asked questions, draft press releases, a generic power point presentation and revised communication strategy are being prepared. The Accra webpage became live at the end of February and is ready to post relevant documents, including the draft AAA. Ghana also reported on their preparation process.

13. The SC discussed how to use the webpage as an interactive tool for preparation of the AAA. It was noted that the webpage should be linked with UN sites on the Development Cooperation Forum, MDG summit, Financing for Development Forum (Doha) and other events.

14. The revised communication strategy will be prepared by 28 March and will be sent to WP-EFF members for discussion at the 2-3 April meeting. The SC noted that it is important to have the press release ready very soon and that the revised communication strategy should include: 1) Target groups, 2) Key messages and 3) Communication tools (including press briefing materials).

ITEM 5: Size of Delegation

15. The World Bank gave some information on the number of hotel rooms under block-booking for HLF-3. At the moment more than 600 rooms are available for partner county delegations, CSO participants, RT Co-chairs and panellists and the Secretariat. The SC commented that hotel rooms should be made available for donor country delegations as well. An update will be presented at the meeting of WP-EFF.

16. The SC discussed the reasonable size of country delegations and the possibility of limiting the number of participants at the conference centre at any one time through delegation badges. The Core Group will hold an audio conference to further discuss this issue and will prepare a recommendation for the WP-EFF meeting. The SC noted that the list of responses to the invitation should be provided to WP-EFF soon.

ITEM 6: Next steps

17. Next Meetings: The next HLF-3 SC meeting will take place at 13:00 on Friday 4 April in Paris. The following meeting will be held on Friday 2 May, with the venue to be confirmed.