

DRAFT SUMMARY OF THE HLF-3 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

3 MARCH 2008

Held in the World Bank office, Paris

1. A meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) for the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Accra HLF-3) took place in Paris on Monday 3 March, 2008. Video links were set up with South Africa, Copenhagen (EVALUNET), Washington (WB), Ottawa (CIDA) and New York (UNDP). The annex lists the meeting participants. Jan Cedergren chaired the meeting.

ITEM 1: Adoption of the agenda

2. The agenda was approved.

ITEM 2: Preparation for Accra

3. Ghana's preparation process: Mr. JB Siriboe, Chief Director of Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, updated members on Ghana's initiative to establish a partner country Contact Group to facilitate dialogue with partner countries on the AAA. The Contact Group is expected to include representatives from 6 African countries, 3 Asian countries and 3 Latin American countries. The first meeting is expected to take place in Paris at the end of March or early April. The SC requested for the final invitation list to the HLF-3.

4. Evaluation process: Mr. Niels Dabelstein of the EVALUNET provided an update on evaluation process of the Paris Declaration. Most of the country and donor studies have been completed and three of four thematic studies have been initiated and will be completed in time for the HLF. Drafts will be fed into preparation of RTs as they come available. There was a request for an early copy of the thematic evaluation on Untying, as input for preparatory work on the R/T on Alignment. Briefs from the evaluation synthesis and thematic studies will be prepared to feed into the preparation of the RTs TORs and scoping note, and Regional Meetings.

5. Reporting on Accra: Among the three options (a single written report, written report & video, interactive website of written summaries and video recordings), the SC agreed that a written report in 2-3 languages is absolutely necessary. Additional videotaping can be decided by co-chairs depending on the format of each roundtable. The SC noted that as part of the communication effort, the recently launched AccraHlf.net website could be used not only for the reporting but also for publicity towards Accra, for example by posting success stories. There was a comment that the decision should be guided by the forthcoming discussion and recommendations by the Communications Coordination Committee (which were to meet in Brussels 5 March).

6. Communications: Mr. Jan Pakulski updated SC on the progress on communication effort towards Accra. Nearly 30 agencies registered to attend the 5 March Communications Coordination

Committee meeting in Brussels. The SC expressed its appreciation to the European Commission DG Development for hosting the meeting. The SC will be updated on communications at the virtual SC meeting on 17 March. There were some comments about the communication channels, proactive use of the website to enable simple and full access to discussions for the RTs as mandated by the Generic TORs and for the AAA consultation.

7. Logo of HLF-3: The HLF-3 logo is finalized and should be used in all public materials including the documents for regional preparatory meetings. The Spanish and French versions are currently under preparation.

8. CSO Process: Mr. Steven Wallace, Chair of the Advisory Group on Civil Society (AG-CS), provided feedback on the International Civil Society Conference (3-6 February in Ottawa) and informed that the synthesis report on the CSO process will be distributed shortly. The agenda for the meeting between CSO representatives and WP-EFF members (1 April) was provided as a room document.

9. Non-DAC providers of development assistance: Japan reported on the first meeting of non-DAC providers of development assistance held on 22 February. The second meeting will be held in Bangkok on 23 April. The SC confirmed that this group is mandated by WP-EFF

ITEM 3: Roundtables and specific terms of reference

10. Chairing arrangements: Mr. Siriboe confirmed that Ghana's State Minister Akoto Osei will co-chair Roundtable 9 on changing aid architecture. The final co-chair arrangement for all 9 roundtables was presented. The HLF-3 secretariat will update the matrix of co-chairs and contact persons and share it with SC members shortly. The roundtables will include a number of panelists and rapporteurs and it is important to have a satisfactory regional and gender balance among participants. The co-chairs (or their representative) of all 9 roundtables will meet in London on 12 March.

11. The Format of Roundtable Meeting: Two options were presented for the roundtable format: option 1) traditional format with panel of speakers, and option 2) TV-debate format with a moderator. The decision between the two options will be left to the co-chairs of each roundtable. But RTs were encouraged to be as lively and interactive as possible.

12. Specific terms of references: The SC is invited to give written comments on general guidelines for the Roundtables to the HLF-3 secretariat by 10 March. The HLF-3 secretariat will prepare a generic instruction paper for the roundtables for discussion by the virtual SC on 17 March. Comments related to specific issues are to be sent directly to the co-chairs. The regional development banks asked for a 1 page summary and questions for regional preparatory meetings to be prepared by each roundtable. There was a general understanding that the roundtables will not automatically feed into the AAA but its preparatory work will inform and influence it including through setting a forward looking agenda for aid effectiveness up to 2011.

ITEM 4: HLF-3 agenda

13. The SC generally agreed with the first draft of the HLF-3 agenda. There were comments on the sequencing of the R/Ts that the R/Ts on Harmonization and on Alignment and the R/Ts on ownership and on CSO not be run in parallel. On the ministerial segment, it was noted that the speakers should be rebalanced in favour of bilateral donors. The next draft will be prepared soon reflecting comments from the SC on sequencing of the roundtables and ministerial segment.

ITEM 5: Negotiation process and zero draft AAA

14. Zero Draft AAA: There was general agreement that the draft provided a good platform for discussion but would benefit from editing that would make it sharper, more concise and focused. There was a comment on preference for maintaining the menu option to provide for an opportunity to scale ambitions (low-medium-high) on the Priority Action Areas. SC members were invited to give written comments on zero draft AAA by 10 March. A revised draft will be shared on 14 March for further comments at the virtual SC on 17 March. The 1st draft AAA will go public on 18 March.

15. Consultation Process: It was agreed that there would be two outcome documents from the HLF-3: the AAA and a Chairman's Summary that would also include discussions of the nine Roundtables. The Chairman's Summary would not be negotiated and is expected to be released after the HLF-3. For the AAA consultation process, it was agreed that the SC will review and supervise the elaboration of various consultative drafts with a view to reaching agreement by the Working Party in July 2008. A document on the consultation process will be prepared and shared with the SC on 14 March.

ITEM 6: WP-EFF agenda

16. The SC generally agreed on the items to be discussed at the next WP-EFF meeting, however, the grouping and order of the items will be re-organized. The secretariat will revise the agenda and share it with WP-EFF members by 18 March.

ITEM 7: Next steps & other business

17. Size of Delegation: The SC briefly brought up the topic of the size of country and donor delegations and the need to limit the size of delegations. This issue will need to be further discussed by the Core Group who will prepare relevant recommendation to the 4 April SC meeting.

18. Side and parallel events around HLF-3: Given the likely number of HLF-3 participants and hotel accommodation and logistical constraints in Accra, the SC recommends to all parties concerned to discourage the idea of convening other events in Accra in conjunction with HLF-3.

19 Next Meetings:

The SC will be meeting virtually on 17 March at 13:00 Paris time to discuss the following items:

- 1) Communication Strategy (update on 5 March Brussels meeting)
- 2) 1st Draft AAA and negotiation process
- 3) Generic advice on Roundtables

The documents for the virtual meeting on 17 March will be sent on 14 March.

The next HLF-3 SC meeting will take place at 13:00 on Friday 4 April in Paris.