

**A FRAMEWORK FOR DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE PROCUREMENT SYSTEMS  
IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES:  
THE JOHANNESBURG DECLARATION**

We, the representatives from developing countries, multilateral and bilateral development institutions and other participants in the OECD/DAC – World Bank Joint Round Table Initiative on Strengthening Procurement Capacities in Developing Countries<sup>1</sup>,

**Recognise** that improvements in the performance of public procurement systems will (i) produce enormous benefits towards efficient use of public resources, contribute to the achievement of the MDGs, and (ii) facilitate harmonisation and aid effectiveness by enabling greater reliance on well performing country systems for delivery of development assistance,

**Recalling** the DAC 2001 Recommendation on Untying ODA to the Least Developed Countries and recognising the benefits of open markets for procurement,

**Hereby agree** to utilise common strategies, approaches and tools for strengthening procurement system capacities by implementing the broader objectives of the Round Table process<sup>2</sup>: *i.e.* to support effective procurement strengthening in developing countries and move towards greater reliance on national systems.

**Consider** that urgent action is needed in the following three main areas:

- Accord public procurement reform a higher strategic priority.
- Improve the effectiveness of the approaches and techniques used to develop procurement system capacity.
- For aid-funded procurement, move towards greater reliance on national systems that conform to internationally recognised standards, or are moving successfully in this direction.

**Commit** to achieve these shared objectives by putting into widespread use the common strategies, approaches and tools we have developed under the Round Table process. Using these recommended strategies, approaches and tools, we will:

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1 . A consolidated list of participating countries and agencies from all Round Table meetings is in the Annex to this Declaration.

2. The Round Table process was launched in Paris, France from 21 to 23 January 2003 and subsequent Round Table meetings were held in Kampala, Uganda from 4 to 6 February 2004 and Johannesburg, South Africa from 30 November to 2 December 2004. Working Group meetings were also held in Paris from 21 to 23 June 2004.

- Work to strengthen country procurement system capacity at the institutional, organisational and professional levels using new approaches and techniques which strongly emphasise country ownership.
- Do this by carrying out careful systems-wide diagnostics at the country level, identifying priority areas of weakness, and designing realistic reform programmes based on the results that are closely and flexibly monitored during implementation.
- Focus on measurable improvements in the performance and impact of procurement systems.

More specifically, implement programmes to strengthen the performance of procurement systems with the goal of making them more effective, efficient, transparent and accountable by:

- Raising awareness and ensuring consistent approaches at all levels in developing country and donor institutions as to the importance of implementing this framework.
- Utilising the approaches and tools prepared under the Round Table processes and providing feedback about quality and areas for improvement.
- Mobilising the financial and other resources needed to strengthen procurement systems.
- Taking due account of the importance of procurement within the context of public financial management and service delivery.
- Progressively utilising well performing country procurement systems to optimise value for money and the effectiveness of development assistance.
- Engaging more developing countries and donors in this process and increasing the involvement of civil society and the private sector.
- Maintaining the network of procurement professionals created by the Round Table to strengthen and disseminate their knowledge base in support of the procurement agenda.

We agree to reconvene in late 2005 to assess progress in meeting the goals set above.

## ANNEX

**Table 1. Table 0.A1 List of countries and agencies involved in the Round Table process**

• Australia	• Ireland	• Spain	• Ideas Centre
• Austria	• Italy	• Sri Lanka	• International Development Law Institute (IDLI)
• Belgium	• Japan	• Sweden	• International Monetary Fund (IMF)
• Canada	• Madagascar	• Switzerland	• International Trade Centre (ITC)
• Dominican Republic	• Morocco	• Tanzania	• Nordic Development Fund
• Denmark	• Mozambique	• Uganda	• Sahel Club of West Africa
• Ethiopia	• Nicaragua	• Vietnam	• United Nations
• European Commission	• Netherlands	• United Kingdom	• U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
• France	• Norway	• United States	• United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
• Germany	• Philippines	• African Development Bank	• U.N. World Food Program (WFP)
• Ghana	• Portugal	• Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations Ltd	• West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA)
• Iceland	• Senegal	• European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)	• World Bank
• Indonesia	• South Africa	• The Global Fund	• World Trade Organization (WTO)