DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

IMPLEMENTING THE ACCRA AGENDA FOR ACTION “BEGINNING NOW” COMMITMENTS - UPDATED COMPRENDIUM

DAC High Level Meeting, 27 (p.m.) and 28 (a.m.) May 2009

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SUMMARY

1. This second, updated compendium on reviewing the implementation of the “beginning now” commitments of the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) highlights progress since the first compendium in November 2008 [DCD/DAC/EFF(2008)34/REV1]. It draws on submissions by 26 members and observers of the DAC (22 DAC members and 4 observers). The compendium also includes members’ views on what use the DAC should be making of the AAA to respond to the developmental challenges created by the global financial crisis (Box 1). Individual submissions are presented after the summary.

GENERAL PROGRESS SINCE NOVEMBER 2008

2. Since November 2008, some progress in implementing general commitments of the Paris Declaration and the AAA has been observed. Several donors have updated or finalised action plans to implement the AAA (Austria, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden). Others have launched a forward-looking process to identify and implement country-specific responses to address bottlenecks in meeting the commitments in collaboration with their field missions, particularly in priority partner countries (Finland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom), revising internal guidelines (Denmark) or are applying the commitments in the framework of their development co-operation programmes at country level (Belgium and France). Stock-taking of current practices and / or detailed analysis of individual donor results of the 2008 Survey on Monitoring the Paris Declaration and other analytical sources have been used to guide such processes.

3. Several countries continue to report that they are in the process of reviewing practices and developing action plans to address the Accra commitments (Australia, Canada, Korea, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Spain, Switzerland). Some are in the process of integrating elements of the commitments into ongoing policy and legislative reforms related to development co-operation (Czech Republic, Poland and Slovak Republic).

Developing plans on using country systems (para. 15 d)

4. As with the findings from the first compendium, most donors are still in the process of taking stock of the main constraints, reviewing lessons and identifying good practices on using country systems for this purpose (Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Korea, the Netherlands, United Kingdom and the United States).

1 Inputs on update on implementing AAA received from: Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States.

2 A comprehensive response to the economic crisis is elaborated in two HLM documents: “Global Development Challenges at a time of Crisis – Issue Note” [DCD/DAC(2009)12/REV3] and the DAC Chair’s note on “Implementing the Accra Agenda for Action as part of the global response to the economic crisis”.
New Zealand, Switzerland and the United States). Others are exploring ways to introduce incentives for field staff (Austria).

5. Several donors have set self-imposed deadlines to develop plans to use country systems, including completing staff guidance or “how-to” notes to assess risks by mid-2009 (Denmark, Ireland), finalising a policy on programme-based approaches in 2009 (Sweden) and drafting a comprehensive proposal to enhance alignment by December 2009 (Germany). Some are benchmarking and monitoring the use of country systems (the European Commission, Sweden) or working towards meeting targets to increase the proportion of aid that uses country systems over time (the Netherlands, Spain).

Making public all conditions linked to disbursements (para. 25 b)

6. An encouraging finding from the first compendium was that a number of donors already fulfil the related commitment (para 25a) on imposing no specific conditions, or setting a limited set of mutually agreed conditions, if any were to be specified (Austria, Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, the European Commission, France, Korea, Norway, Slovak Republic and Switzerland). While only a few specified that such information is made public, information on conditionalities is often stipulated in co-operation agreements, MoUs, country programmes or donor annual reports. These documents are often made public through posting on websites.

7. Donors continue to cite that there is scope for improving the consistency, timeliness and accessibility of information to the public. Some noted that an agreement from partner countries or from other donors is required to make such information public, underlying the importance of joint approaches and the principle of mutual accountability.

Providing full and timely information on annual commitments and actual disbursements (para. 26b)

8. Several donors reported that information on annual commitments and actual disbursements, or at least tentative figures, are (or plan to be) provided through regular policy dialogues, portfolio reviews, websites, or are reported annually to the DAC.

9. However, challenges remain in improving the quality, accessibility and timeliness of information sharing with partner countries. Several donors are currently reviewing practices of communicating with partner countries (Finland, Norway, United Kingdom and the United States), exploring ways to further align the timing of commitment / disbursement with partner countries’ budget and planning cycles (Sweden), or issuing guidance to all embassies to share relevant information (the Netherlands). Several members expressed interest to work towards a common approach through the International Aid Transparency Initiative.

Providing regular and timely information on their rolling three to five year expenditure and / or implementation plans (para. 26c)

10. A number of donors report that they already (or plan to) provide regular information, including tentative figures and best estimates, on their rolling forward expenditure / implementation plans at least for priority countries, priority sectors or for certain aid modalities (Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom). Others are currently exploring ways to share such information, particularly for selected partner countries (Japan). Figures are often subject to annual confirmation. As with paragraph 26b, donors cite there is scope for improving the quality and consistency of practice in sharing information with partner countries.
Box 1. Responding to the global economic crisis – Views of DAC members

Ten DAC members shared their views on what use the DAC should be making of the AAA to respond to the developmental challenges created by the global financial crisis. Responses were around the following areas:

- **Commitment to maintain ODA levels, targets and predictability** – There is cautious optimism that in the short-term, there are no indications that the economic downturn is affecting ODA levels. Despite the economic downturn, members are committed to maintaining ODA levels (Belgium), maintaining commitments to ODA/GNI percentage targets (Denmark, Finland and Switzerland), or continuing an upward trend to increase international assistance (Canada). Members see that predictability is particularly important given that aid is often one of the few reliable sources for partner countries (Finland, Switzerland).

- **Opportunities for stronger partnership and progressing on reforms** – The current crisis is an opportunity to work closer with partners and use the Paris Declaration / AAA as a framework to guide a crisis response tailored to each countries’ context. While the impact of the crisis is expected to differ greatly between partner countries, there is a strong call for a “bottom-up” approach – for partner countries to lead the policy dialogue and plans to mitigate the impact. The short-term crisis response may also contribute to accelerating implementation of longer-term reform priorities – for example building stronger systems for service delivery or strengthening domestic revenue base for partner countries (e.g. national tax regimes).

- **Greater focus on “productive” sectors, while safeguarding the so-called social sectors** – There is increased interest by some members to focus more on the “productive” sector. However, members are conscious that prioritisation of productive sectors may divert much needed resources away from human development such as in health and education. A balance needs to be struck between protecting the poor and the vulnerable and stimulating economic growth.

- **Harmonised approaches towards crisis response** – Members see the need to use common set of indicators and monitoring tools to inform the crisis response. Australia and New Zealand are working together to have a common approach to monitoring and addressing the impact of the crisis in the Pacific region.

- **Increased focus on results and effective division of labour** – There is increased interest for effective division of labour and results-driven approach to translate existing resources to better development outcomes.

**CONCLUSION**

11. The responses show that steps are being taken to address immediate priorities of the AAA. However, it is clear that seeing the impact at country level – by applying new guidelines and addressing bottlenecks that hinder progress on the immediate priorities – may take time. There is considerable conversion of initiatives between donors – collaborative approaches on certain of them could be encouraged to collectively move ahead on the Accra Agenda for Action. The Working Party on Aid Effectiveness will be an important arena for such collaborative action but spontaneous collaboration is also highly desirable.

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3 Responses were received from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, the United States.

1. The Australian government is currently updating its existing aid effectiveness platform. Specific strategies are being developed to enable us to meet our international commitments under the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action and promote and support durable development results.

Developing plans on using country systems (para. 15d)

2. Australia plays a significant role in strengthening partner systems (with an emphasis on PFM systems), and is in the process of identifying a more systematic approach to deciding when and how to increase usage of those systems. To support greater use of partner systems, operational guidance on using country expenditure systems has been developed and is now being trialled. A stock take of Australia’s use of country systems and SWAPs/PBAs is being finalised. The outcomes will inform updated operational guidance and diagnostic tools to support program areas (inc. guidance on assessing and managing fiduciary risk and selecting aid modalities). It is expected that this updated guidance will be in place by mid 2009.

3. Revised guidance for developing Country Strategies and the new Pacific Partnerships for Development (PPD) emphasises the importance of working through partners’ finance, procurement and decision-making systems and strengthening these over time. PPDs were signed with PNG and Samoa in August 2008 and Kiribati and Solomon Islands in January 2009. Australia will finalise PPDs with other key Pacific partners (Vanuatu, Tonga, Nauru, Tuvalu), excluding Fiji, by mid 2009. Existing country strategies will be updated over the next 12-18 months.

Making public all conditions linked to disbursements (para. 25b)

4. While Australian performance-linked aid aims to support and build domestic accountability, where necessary it respects partner government preferences and sensitivities regarding publication of conditions linked to aid disbursements (i.e. in negotiating the Tonga-Australia Performance Partnership Australia agreed to Tonga’s request that detail surrounding performance incentives remain confidential for the first year of the partnership).

5. Australia has published the first of the PPD header documents with Samoa, PNG, Kiribati and Solomon Islands and intends to make public other header documents as they are signed. These documents provide greater transparency around mutual commitments and performance objectives that both governments are working towards. Further details will be developed in working-level documents, ‘implementation strategies’, including details of conditions linked to disbursements. The public release of implementation strategies will be guided by the preference of partner governments. However, the expectation is that these will be shared with other donors.

6. Annual Program Performance Reports have been publicly available on the AusAID website since 2007.
Providing full and timely information on annual commitments and actual disbursements (para. 26b)

7. The new PPDs and Country Strategies provide increased certainty of funding for partner countries, with four year funding commitments affirmed annually. These will be indicative base estimates, with the opportunity for increased aid over time. Under these new arrangements, there will be far greater collaboration with partner countries in setting performance indicators and assessing progress.

8. Australia signed up to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) at Accra. Australia’s reporting systems will be reviewed and updated where necessary once common reporting standards are adopted through the IATI process. Australia already has high adherence to current DAC reporting requirements and, with current reforms, AusAID’s systems will meet most current DAC reporting needs.

9. Australia also reports on ODA through a number of publications including the Annual Review of Development Effectiveness, published around February each year, the Aid Budget Statement, published around May, as well as AusAID’s Annual Report, published in the second half of the calendar year.

Providing regular and timely information on rolling three to five year expenditure and/or implementation plans (para.26c)

10. Aid allocations are determined during the annual budget process, however, Australia does share forward estimates for specific activities and programs with partner governments. As noted above, the new PPDs and Country Strategies will provide increased certainty of funding for partner countries, with long-term four year funding commitments affirmed annually.

11. Australia has commenced a number of sector-focused initiatives (i.e. Education and Health Budget Measures) with, in most cases, multi-year funding commitments. These initiatives provide for more certainty in forward budgetary allocations.

Response to the Global Economic Crisis

12. The potential implications of the Global Economic Crisis in developing countries and, consequently, for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) mean that donors must now, more than ever, work closely with development partners to ensure aid is as effective as possible. Australia is working closely with other donors and with developing partners to achieve this, using the principles of the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action to support and guide our approach in ways that are appropriate to each country context.

13. Australia is working closely with our partner countries to consider the impacts of the global economic crisis, particularly on progress against the MDGs, and to determine how best these impacts can be ameliorated and sustainable, and broad-based growth restored. We have reviewed all our major country programs to ensure they are responding effectively to the dramatic changes in the global economic environment. This 'bottom-up' approach will ensure that our response efforts are carefully tailored to individual country contexts so that they respond to developing country priorities.

14. Australia will support our partner countries to effectively monitor and analyse the path and impacts of the crisis, to support informed policy choices and stronger coordination of development inputs. For example, Australia and New Zealand are working together to produce a comprehensive report on the regional implications of the crisis for discussion at the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting in August. In producing this study, Australia and New Zealand are also working closely with organisations such as the ADB and the Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC) who are already working in this area to avoid placing additional demands on Pacific Island Countries.
15. We will engage our partner countries in dialogue on possible policy responses to support a swift and sustainable recovery from the crisis, led by developing country priorities. Australia continues to negotiate Pacific Partnerships for Development (detailed in our progress report on the AAA Beginning Now issues), which will be the primary tool for policy dialogue with our partner countries in the Pacific on effective responses to the crisis. Pacific Partnerships are founded on the principles of mutual respect and mutual responsibility. Australia believes these principles will reinforce both partner country leadership of development policy and effective development efforts and the maintenance of genuine and practical development partnerships with Australia.

16. A significant element of our response will focus on supporting the delivery of essential services in health, education, and infrastructure. We will build on our current programs in this area so that short-term crisis response efforts are also contributing to reform priorities and stronger service delivery systems for the long-term. We will continue to progress towards delivering more Australian aid through partner government's own systems. For further information on our approaches in this area, see our progress report on the AAA Beginning Now issues.

17. Australia is working closely with other donors, particularly the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, on responses to the crisis. In particular, we are working to ensure a common set of indicators and common monitoring tools are used to inform responses.
AUSTRIA

WP EFF – Self- Monitoring AAA

1. Austria is in the process of preparing a follow-up Action Plan (Phase two) in a transparent and results-focused manner and in line with the Accra commitments. A more detailed concept will be presented after approval of the national budget, due to be presented to Parliament on 21st April, 2009.

2. The Action Plan will concentrate on the following issues:
   - Developing plans for using country systems (para 15d)
   - Regularly make public all conditions linked to disbursements (para 25b)
   - Provide full and timely information on annual commitments and actual disbursements (para 26b)
   - Provide regular and timely information on rolling three- to five-year expenditure and/or implementation plans (para 26c)

3. Since Accra, and also based on the draft recommendations of the 2009 Peer Review of Austria (presentation 29th April), ADC is faced with the challenge to set priorities for Phase II of the Aid Effectiveness Action Plan, especially under not so favourable conditions for scaling-up of aid budgets over the next two years. ADC will concentrate its efforts where it has a comparative advantage at country level and in particular at the local level.

4. The forthcoming Action Plan will therefore
   - encourage greater use of joint programmes and assessment tools,
   - commission an evaluation of the effective use of Budget Support, with a comparative focus on other small donors like Ireland and Belgium,
   - strive for a better mix of aid modalities, with Sector Budget Support intended to become the preferred modality in the longer run,
   - apply assessment tools developed by the DAC and the EC to all development strategies and practices,
   - Introduce incentives for staff in the field as part of a strategy of empowering and decentralising competences to the field, and accompanied by adequate and sufficient training for staff (locals included),
   - adopt strategic guidelines for Budget Support (favouring SBS) which will also include advice for better incentives.
5. ADC does not plan to impose policy conditions arbitrarily; conditions are used only if they are part of a joint memorandum of understanding.

6. ADC already shares yearly programme and disbursement data with its partners through mutual cooperation agreements, but aims at better analysing the best timing of disbursement to better meet partner countries needs, and to improve disbursements according to partners’ planning & budgeting processes.

7. According to Austria’s Peer Review Memorandum, predictability in development co-operation has been improved through indicative budget envelopes for each country strategy. Regular and timely information on yearly expenditure and implementation is provided to partners. The absence of a detailed plan for scaling-up though, and delays in the approval of the national budget for 2009/10 mean that MFA and ADA cannot include medium-term aid forecasts into the current Three-year Programme, which hampers aid predictability. In the absence of a road-map, multi-annual country strategies can only be prepared on the assumption that aid will increase by small steps. The outcome of the ongoing budget discussions for 2009/2010 may be decisive for future predictability of Austria’s ODA as Austria intends to shift from annual budgets to a multi-year budgetary framework.
BELGIUM

1. Belgium uses a four year indicative program. Those programs are discussed in joint commissions held every four years. On this occasion, Belgium engages in a political dialogue with its partner countries. In the recently held joint commissions, Belgium discussed with its partners the concentration of its programs in only 2 sectors. Decisions on concentration have been taken for more than 50% of our bilateral programs. Sector concentration is a long term engagement that will be kept up for minimum 12 years.

2. Additionally, much work has been undertaken to update the format of the instructions on the preparation of the development cooperation programs at country level, so that they take into account the (para.15d, 25b, 26b and 26c) and the lessons learned from recently held joint commissions of 2008. In 2009 a training was organized in the DGCD to facilitate the use of the new instructions. Additional trainings will be provided.

Para 15d and para 25b

3. Belgium designed programming instructions for country representatives to engage in a result-oriented dialogue with our partner countries on how the use of country systems in the chosen sectors will be met best. Dialogue will be based on former and current Belgian development activities and joint donor analysis. Belgium’s main objective is to strengthen partner country’s institutions and their staff (para 15d). The dialogue will be an opportunity to discuss the risk management and disbursement conditions of the identified activities and how to make public conditions linked to disbursements (para 25b).

4. In all the phases of the programming process leading up to an Indicative Cooperation Program, country representatives are required to take into account the cross cutting issues (gender, environment and rights of children) (para 3). These issues will be integrated in the priority sectors so that they contribute to measurable results (outputs, outcomes and impact) with regard to equality between men and women, empowerment of women (autonomy and reinforcement of capacities), sustainable environment and respect for the children’s rights.

Para 26b and para 26c

5. The actual programming uses a system of frontloading commitments in the first two years of the program cycle. These commitments will be discussed, planned and agreed with the partner during the joint commissions and are mentioned in the indicative cooperation programs. Frontloading of commitments will be generalized to all the Belgium partner countries (para 26b).

6. In the case of budget support, annual disbursements are the rule. Conditions linked to disbursements are agreed on in advance, analysis is based on the EC-analysis. Belgium opts for sector budget support. If the partner country is judged eligible, up to 50% of the total allocated envelop will be disbursed via sector budget support. If Belgium engages in general budget support, funds will be delegated to the EC.

Response to the Global Economic Crisis

7. Commitment to keep BEL ODA budget at the same level;
8. Decision to include in future indicative cooperation programmes with partner countries at least one productive sector with possible shift towards economic activities in the bilateral portfolio.
CIDA’s actions to implement the Accra Agenda for Action

1. Since the Accra HLF, Canada has taken concrete steps to make its aid more effective, accountable and transparent. Notably, the Government of Canada announced its policy to fully untie its development assistance by 2012-13 (September 2008) and to focus 80% of its bilateral assistance in 20 countries. These concrete actions deliver on the government’s commitment to make aid more focused, effective and accountable and increase the impact of Canadian aid dollars. Furthermore, based on clear management commitment to implement the reforms agreed in Accra, CIDA is working to finalize an Aid Effectiveness Strategy and guidelines that reflect Canada’s national and international commitments. In the context of the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action, the plan will address seven strategic objectives linked to focus, efficiency, accountability, predictability, alignment, inclusive partnerships, and fragile states.

Developing plans on using country systems

2. Canada’s support for local ownership is complemented by an active commitment to help partner countries strengthen their management capacity and their systems’ transparency and reliability.

3. Canada’s conditions for use of country public financial management systems are largely defined by its Policy on Fiduciary Risk Assessment (Funding Modalities Based on the Use of Public Financial Management Systems of Recipient Countries). This policy also encourages the use of joint assessment tools, in particular the Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) framework.

4. The forthcoming Strategy will include references to the use of country systems, encouraging their use to the maximum extent possible (i.e., where agreed standards of transparency and reliability have been achieved). Under this Strategy, CIDA will: review existing policies and procedures from an aid effectiveness perspective; provide the necessary supports (policy guidance and training) to programme staff to facilitate capacity development in strengthening country systems (e.g. Policy and Operational Guide on Programme-Based Approaches); and link commitments to aid effectiveness to staff performance agreements.

Making public all conditions linked to disbursements

5. CIDA does not use its own conditions within its bilateral development program other than those agreed and transparent conditions that focus on country conditions, results and performance. The same applies to joint efforts to help strengthen country systems, where agreed conditions (pursuant to the Paris Declaration) are linked to progress in implementing reforms to improve their effectiveness and transparency. In multi-donor contexts, these conditions are harmonized to the maximum extent possible.
Providing full and timely information on annual commitments and actual disbursements and on rolling three to five year expenditure and/or implementation plans

6. Canada’s Aid Effectiveness Agenda incorporates multi-year allocation strategies and, as expressed in the Canadian Statement released in Accra, Canada will take concrete steps to improve transparency of multi-year disbursements.

7. To reinforce a new aid relationship for effectiveness, CIDA has approved 3-year comprehensive expenditure plans to 2010-11 for our countries of focus (representing 80% of bilateral assistance).

8. This will also facilitate CIDA’s ability to confirm on an annual basis, by 2010-11, estimated country programme commitments for those countries, and disburse funding in accordance with agreed performance objectives and schedules, as well as in a format and along timelines that respect the individual partner country’s budgeting schedule.

9. New reporting requirements under the recently enacted ODA Accountability Act


Response to the Global Economic Crisis

11. Canada remains committed to supporting developing countries through the economic crisis and will continue to pursue a focused agenda that addresses the state of the global economy. Canada has reaffirmed its commitment of doubling our international assistance to $5 billion by 2010-11 over 2001-02 levels, and preliminary figures indicate that we have met our commitment to double aid to Africa to $2.1 billion over 2003-04 levels, as well as specific regional commitments including those in Afghanistan. In the spirit of the AAA, we will continue to use partner countries’ public financial management systems to the maximum extent possible to coordinate financial support and ensure that it is consistent with locally-identified development needs and priorities.

12. Growth in developing countries is slowing sharply and some of the gains made over the past decade are likely to be lost if measures are not taken to cushion the negative impact. For the poorest countries, there is a real risk that the economic crisis will turn into a development and humanitarian crisis. The scenario of a prolonged economic crisis is also of heightened concern for regional stability, especially in fragile states. G20 countries have taken tangible, coordinated actions to help developing country governments mitigate the impact of this crisis. In the context of local ownership, developing countries will need to draw up their own plans and priorities to contribute towards mitigating the impacts of the crisis.
CZECH REPUBLIC

1. The Czech Republic is committed to the Paris and Accra agenda. Aid effectiveness was one of the main driving forces behind the recent reform to the Czech system of providing development assistance.

2. The reform process was also inspired by the Special review of the Czech development cooperation conducted by the OECD/DAC in 2007 and consisted of:

   - Reduction of redundancies and a centralization of development cooperation responsibilities with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
   - Creation of the Czech Development Agency as an implementation body under the oversight of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
   - Establishment of the Czech Council for Development Cooperation as an advisory body to ensure better coherence and coordination of Czech ODA.
   - Preparation of a draft Law on International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (to be submitted to the Government in May 2009) and subsequent Guidelines for Providing Development assistance and Humanitarian Aid.

3. The Czech Republic does not envisage publishing a separate action plan on aid effectiveness. However, all aspects of aid effectiveness will be analysed and taken into account when preparing the Concept Paper of Czech Development Cooperation for the period 2010-2015.

Policy dialogue on development (para. 13b)

4. The Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs has actively sought and promoted the involvement of Parliamentarians, CSOs, local governments and research institutions in the policy debate on development (e.g. through the Czech Council on Development Cooperation).

5. A Sub-Committee on International Development to the Committee on Foreign Affairs was recently created in the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament.

Capacity development and trilateral cooperation (para. 14b and 19a)

6. The Czech Republic has continually supported the engagement of emerging donors into the aid effectiveness agenda through DAC Outreach and other processes.

7. The Czech Republic has taken an active part in trilateral arrangements which are particularly conducive for capacity building both in emerging donor and partner countries. Trilateral cooperation was presented at the Marketplace in Accra as a contribution by the Czech Republic to the ongoing debate on best practices.

8. The Czech Republic supports capacity-building in partner countries in a number of ways including public financial management, which is itself a prerequisite for strengthening and using country systems of partner countries.
Country systems (para. 15d)

9. As part of the draft Law on International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (to be submitted to the Government in May 2009), the Czech Republic intends to create a legal and institutional framework for providing financial support to partner countries (including sector and general budget support).

10. The actual use of partner country systems and new modalities such as budget support will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Such considerations (including criteria for financial support) will be taken into account when preparing the new Concept Paper of Czech Development Cooperation for the period 2010-2015.

Division of Labour (para. 17)

11. The Czech Republic substantially reduced fragmentation of its ODA in 2005 by selecting 8 priority partner countries (compared to support given to about 40 countries in the previous period). No more than three focal sectors are supported in each country. The forthcoming Concept Paper for the period 2010-2015 may consider recommending further concentration based on territorial and sectoral priorities and Czech comparative advantages.

12. As part of the draft Law on International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, the Czech Republic intends to create a legal and institutional framework for providing and receiving delegated cooperation and for various co-financing arrangements. The actual use of these arrangements will be considered when preparing the forthcoming Concept paper on Czech ODA.

13. The Czech Republic supports implementation of the EU Code of Conduct on Complementarity and Division of Labour and has volunteered to facilitate the process in Moldova and Mongolia.

Conditionality (para. 25b)

14. Except for certain general criteria for selection of priority partner countries (including GNI per capita, good democratic and macroeconomic governance, and historic relations to the donor country), the Czech Republic does not use any conditionality in providing development assistance.

15. If new aid modalities were adopted in the future (see para 8), the Czech Republic would apply transparent criteria (e.g. for the provision of budget support etc).

Transparency and predictability (para. 26b and 26c)

16. The Czech Republic has substantially increased its statistical and reporting capacity on ODA flows. Annual plans for development cooperation projects as well as ex-post ODA reporting are regularly published on the MFA website.

17. The Czech Republic also provides regular and updated information on its rolling three year expenditure plans as part of the annual plans for Czech ODA and medium-term budgetary outlooks.
DENMARK

Status of the implementation of the Accra Agenda for Action

1. Denmark’s development cooperation policies, its performance management framework and the guidelines and procedures have to a large extent already taken account of the needed actions identified in the AAA. It has however been decided to use the opportunity of the AAA to review the aid management guidelines to ensure greater consistency, explicit reference to the AAA and enhance the usefulness of the guidelines for staff who are to implement them.

2. This “post Accra reform” of Danish guidelines covers the full AAA agenda. A participatory process, involving all Danish representations (e.g. through a post-Accra blog), seeks not only to integrate the AAA fully in the guidelines, but also to use the opportunity to make the guidelines an even better operational tool for practitioners. It is expected that the updated guidelines will be published within first half of 2009.

3. In the AAA four areas have been identified for ‘immediate start’. Denmark has taken the following specific steps to meet these commitments:

   Developing plans on using country systems (para. 15d)

4. Denmark adheres to the overall Nordic+ Joint Action Plan on harmonization and alignment which was established in 2003 in order to ensure operationalisation of the principles of aid effectiveness at country level. Nordic+ DGs have agreed to request representations to make use of the DAC Guiding Principles on Aid Effectiveness and Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment to improve gender equality results at country level. At country level each Embassy has over the course of the last years developed a ‘Harmonisation and Alignment Action Plan’ which include furthering alignment through specific actions for using country systems.

5. Denmark has in June 2008 established the use of sector budget support as the default modality for programming of Danish development assistance (this implies maximum use of country systems, ref. AAA para.15.a). Should sector budget support not be used as a modality, the reasons should be made clear and a plan for furthering alignment (para. 15.b) should be made. Whilst this principle has been established in Danish programming, a concrete tool for guiding the assessment of the risks involved is still in the making. A task group works on this issue to establish a concrete proposal (“how to note”), which should provide an interim yardstick for embassies in their risk assessment. It is evident, however, that joint work should be pursued to establish an agreed standard (para.15.d), which eventually will replace the Danish system.

6. Revised guidelines for programme management and an accompanying “how-to note” are the main tools in ensuring that Danish aid will make maximum use of country systems. Both will be ready within the first half of 2009.

Making public all conditions linked to disbursements (para. 25b)

7. Any conditions linked to development disbursements are either embedded in the underlying government agreement or in such documents as policy matrixes related to general budget support.
Providing full and timely information on annual commitments and actual disbursements (para 26b)

8. Danish representations are, through the Action Plan for fighting corruption (2004), required to provide information through their websites on the development activities, including financial information. The monitoring of the Action Plan as well as performance reviews indicates that most representations to some extent provide this information.

Providing regular and timely information on their rolling three to five year expenditure and/or implementation plans (para 26c)

9. Danish disbursement and commitment data are published in the national budget and five-year rolling plans. Danish representations provide quarterly disbursement data through their websites and rolling five-year commitment plans in connection with high level consultations.

Response to the Global Economic Crisis

10. In respect of the global financial crises and the related developmental challenges a letter dated 3 December 2008 from the Danish Prime Minister to the Secretary-General, OECD and the Chairman of DAC, Denmark is committing herself to maintaining her development assistance at a level of at least 0.8% of GNI. With the 2009 budget the Danish Government is expecting the Danish assistance to rise to 0.82% of GNI. Denmark is strongly urging other countries to also honour their pledges of increased development assistance to reach the 0.7% GNI commitment in no later than 2015.
EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Progress by the European Commission (EC) against the DAC priority areas of the AAA

Priority 1: Developing plans on using country systems

Action implemented

1. The EC is on track to achieve the Accra target of channelling 50% of government to government assistance through country systems. To meet the Paris targets on use of country systems, the EC approved a strategy in September 2007 to increasingly use country systems for its development assistance. For example, we have already:

- Instituted an internal information system to annually monitor progress on use of country systems across all our country offices;
- Examined the legal possibilities of extending the use of partner country budget execution, procurement, reporting and auditing systems;
- Assessed budget support projections to 2013; and
- Ensured a high level of staff awareness about the objectives of increased use of country systems.

Action to be implemented

2. Major actions are ongoing and will be implemented in 2009 to implement the remaining areas of the strategy as well as to clarify concepts and develop approaches and tools for implementing decentralised management where applicable, in order to increase use of country systems.

Priority 2: Making public all conditions linked to disbursements

Action implemented

3. It is already the EC's general practice to agree with the partner country on a set of mutually agreed conditions based on national development strategies. The Commission is also jointly assessing donor and developing country performance in meeting commitments.

Action to be implemented

4. All Financing Agreements dealing with EC-funded budget support programs should be made available to the public via internet. General Conditions of the Financing Agreements need to include a provision stating that both parties agree to the publication of the Financing Agreement. As soon as the modification is in force, the EC will ensure the systematic publication on EuropeAid's website.
Priority 3: Providing full and timely information on annual commitments and actual disbursements

**Actions implemented**

5. The EC delivers on an annual basis (July N+1) Official Development Aid statistics to OECD through reports covering bilateral and multilateral flows financed through EC Budget, European Development Funds and the European Investment Bank. These reports are composed of: 1) Aggregate figures of Official Development Aid (through 7 OECD forms); 2) Project-level reporting following new converged reporting system.

6. The EC performed a scaling up survey by reporting on end 2007 and in the first quarter of 2009, the country programmable aid covering the three years' forward period (2008, 2009, 2010). This report is an estimate of ODA disbursements by all beneficiary countries and by thematic lines based on Financial Programming 2007-2013 and on the programming documents per country/region (National and Regional Indicative Programmes).

**Action to be implemented**

7. Draw the lessons from the last scaling up survey to enhance predictability over the medium term and explore the possibilities to extend the MDG contracts as a longer term, more predictable form of Budget Support for all EC instruments.

Priority 4: Providing regular and timely information on their rolling three to five year expenditure and/or implementation plans

**Action implemented**

8. EC bilateral cooperation worldwide is already implemented through multi-annual programming documents whose sectoral priorities are defined jointly with each developing country. These documents are available on the Internet. National Indicative Programmes funded through the EC Budget set out the indicative budget for the forward three years period 2007-2010; National Indicative Programmes for the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, funded through the European Development Fund set out the indicative budget for 2008-2013. Within these periods, regular and timely information on expenditure is secured, as will be the case also during subsequent programming periods.

9. The scaling survey described previously made a summarised estimate of all EC disbursements by the beneficiary countries over the period 2007-2010.

**Action to be implemented**

10. For countries funded through the EC Budget the bilateral programming documents covering the next period 2011-2013 are being prepared by Commission's services and will be made publicly available through internet once approved.

11. The next scaling up survey, similar to the one performed in 2007, and addressing the period 2011-2013 will be conducted by OECD in the first quarter of 2009.
FINLAND

Reviewing key steps in implementing the AAA, Finland

General

1. An inter-departmental working group on aid effectiveness (set up in 2005) plays a key role in implementing our commitments on harmonisation and aid effectiveness. All departments working with development policy and cooperation are represented in the working group, which is led by the Department for Development Policy.

2. Finland's results in the second monitoring exercise of the Paris Declaration have been carefully analysed, and we are currently drawing up country specific responses and action plans. These will be reviewed and discussed in our working group on aid effectiveness during 2009 to ensure open dialogue and coordinated efforts to integrate the spirit and commitments of the Paris Declaration and the AAA into all our operations.

Developing plans on using country systems (para. 15 d)

3. A central tool for implementing our AAA commitments on a practical level is our project management manual, which we are currently updating. Identified issues and bottlenecks critical to the use of country systems will be addressed systematically in the review process to ensure maximum use of country systems. Also staff training will be provided. Efforts will be made to enhance the use of country systems on all fronts, not only Public Financial Management and Procurement, but also for example environmental and social assessments.

4. To enhance progress at country level, Finland is planning to actively draw on the prospective Country Systems Forums, which are to be set up by Cluster B of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness.

Making public all conditions linked to disbursements (para. 25 b)

5. Finland's conditions related to disbursements as such are already public (the mentioned documents are public). We are currently reviewing our conditionality practices in connection with updating our guidelines on budget support. Based on this analysis, we will conduct an overall review of conditionality issues to identify any remaining bottlenecks related to this commitment.

Providing full and timely information on annual commitments and actual disbursements (para 26b) and providing regular and timely information on rolling three to five year expenditure and/or implementation plans (para 26c)

6. In terms of increasing the medium-term predictability of aid, we are in the process of mapping current practices related to informing partners of commitments, disbursements and forward-looking plans.

7. Technically, Finland's multiannual ODA spending limits and the application of contract and commitment authorities provide an excellent framework for effective forward looking expenditure planning. Based on the mapping exercise currently underway, we will seek ways to better utilise this
framework to make more open and more forward looking communication to our partners a standard procedure in our cooperation.

**Responding to the financial crisis within the context of AAA**

8. Developing countries, in particular the poorest countries and countries in fragile situations, are most adversely affected by the global financial crisis. The challenges and needs of developing countries must therefore be fully taken into account in all international efforts aimed at finding solutions to the current situation.

9. Finland recognises the increased importance of aid effectiveness within the context of the current crisis. Concrete results in the implementation of all Paris Declaration and Accra commitments are needed now, if we are to maintain achieved development results and reach the MDGs. Finland promotes the effective use of development resources to generate development which is sustainable in all dimensions of the word. Urgent responses of both Donors and Development Partners should be directed to supporting the poorest and most vulnerable populations and to maintaining sustainable economic growth, which is of particular importance in times of economic crisis. Increased support should be channelled to partner countries' private sector, infrastructure, trade capacity, agricultural productivity and rural development.

10. At a time when aid flows represent one of the few reliable sources of funding to partner countries, predictability of aid becomes ever more important. To effectively achieve development results, also division of labour deserves increased attention. Alongside continued efforts to enhance the quality of aid, Finland confirms its commitment to achieving the ODA targets adopted by the European Union in 2005.
Éléments de réponse de la France aux Engagements particuliers du Programme d’action d’Accra (AAA)


2. La troisième des douze propositions de ce Plan concerne l’utilisation des systèmes nationaux.

3. Le plan recommande dans la mesure du possible le recours aux systèmes nationaux et les systèmes locaux de passation de marché. En appui à la maîtrise des systèmes nationaux de finances publiques, la France promeut un appui au renforcement des capacités nationales. Dans cette logique, un document d’orientation stratégique sur le renforcement des capacités applicable à l’ensemble de l’aide publique au développement (APD) française est en cours d’élaboration ; deux études préalables sont en cours de finalisation par le Ministère des Affaires étrangères et européennes (MAEE) et l’Agence française de développement (AFD).

4. La France a élaboré deux notes de doctrine, une sur les aides budgétaires globales, l’autre sur le risque fiduciaire.

5. Par ailleurs, la mise en place des financements de l’AFD se fait en utilisant les procédures nationales : maîtrise d’ouvrage locale des marchés, utilisation du code national des marchés publics (quand il est pertinent), déboursements sur demande du bénéficiaire, ….


7. Concernant la publication régulière (et immédiatement applicable) de toutes les conditions intéressant les versements (AAA, §25 b’), l’AFD, qui est soumise à la réglementation bancaire française, examine actuellement, dans le cadre de sa politique de transparence, les modalités de publication de toutes les conditions intéressant les versements, notamment :

- les conditions générales relatives à la gouvernance, au respect des droits de l’homme etc.

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5 http://www.afd.fr/jahia/Jahia/site/afd/lang/fr/pid/1679
7 http://www.afd.fr/jahia/Jahia/home/PolitiqueTransparence
• toute conditionnalité faisant l’objet d’un accord avec le gouvernement concerné, à l’instar des Mémoires d’entente qui sont accessibles au public (cas du Mémoire d’entente sur l’ABG au Mozambique), conformément aux principes du AAA auxquels ont souscrit donateurs et pays en développement.

8. Il nous paraît important d’entreprendre cette démarche dans le respect des principes d’efficacité, en particulier

• de manière harmonisée : en s’efforçant d’approcher le gouvernement de manière conjointe sur un même sujet ;

• en favorisant l’appropriation et en respectant dans cet esprit le rythme et les procédures de dialogue avec les autorités locales.

9. Concernant la communication des informations complètes et à jour sur les engagements annuels et les versements réellement effectués permettant aux pays en développement de procéder à leurs estimations budgétaires et à alimenter leurs systèmes comptables (AAA, §26 b/), la France consolide la mise en œuvre de l’une des recommandations sur la prévisibilité de l’aide de son plan d’action

• A travers les Documents cadres de partenariat (DCP), la France s’engage à améliorer les prévisions de versement pour l’année en cours et sur 5 ans ;

• l’AFD met en ligne sur son site institutionnel les projets approuvés par son conseil d’administration. L’Agence s’efforce de faire en sorte, notamment pour les aides budgétaires, que les décisions d’octroi soient suffisamment anticipées par rapport au cycle budgétaire du pays bénéficiaire.

10. Concernant les plans pluriannuels de dépenses et de mise en œuvre sur trois à cinq ans (AAA §26 c/), les Documents cadres de partenariat s’inscrivent dans une démarche de prévisibilité à moyen terme sur la base d’une annexe de programmation indicative sur 5 ans incluant une procédure de révision à mi-parcours. La France a initié la révision à mi-parcours de plusieurs DCP, dont les modalités seront réexaminées pour répondre à la fois au bilan de leur mise en œuvre à mi-parcours, à la réponse à court terme aux nouveaux besoins engendrés par la crise et aux engagements pris à Accra. Par ailleurs, la France a adopté une Loi de programmation budgétaire pluriannuelle (2009-2011) qui donne désormais à la politique d’ADP une perspective budgétaire à moyen terme.

Avis des autorités françaises sur les mesures en lien avec l’Agenda d’Accra en réponse aux enjeux de la crise

11. La crise crée à la fois des besoins urgents et nous offre l’opportunité d’accélérer des réformes dont la nécessité est renforcée par ses effets.

La crise accélère la différenciation des pays en développement

12. Elle met en évidence la différenciation croissante au sein du groupe des pays en développement :

• de nombreux pays ont connu des progrès rapides de leur niveau de développement et disposent de marges de manœuvre pour atténuer les chocs, tandis que d’autres continuent à éprouver les plus grandes difficultés à assurer la paix, la stabilité et l’accès aux services essentiels et leurs populations sont immédiatement affectées par les variations de conjoncture ;
• la taille des pays joue un rôle important : la capacité à gérer la crise est généralement plus forte chez les pays bénéficiant d’économies d’échelle du fait de leur taille et de leur importance systémique, qui leur vaut une attention particulière de la communauté internationale, tandis que les petits pays sont particulièrement vulnérables ;

• les économies se sont fortement différenciées, avec des niveaux d’ouverture extrêmement variables que ce soit par les importations, les exportations voire par les migrations, et sont à ce titre diversement affectées par la crise ;

• Enfin, la place qu’occupe l’aide au développement dans l’ensemble des flux financiers et des ressources publiques varie très fortement d’un pays à l’autre. Les flux liés au commerce, aux investissements étrangers ou aux envois de fonds des migrants ont progressivement pris une ampleur supérieure ou égale aux flux d’APD.

13. L’approche uniforme des questions de développement ne permet pas d’aborder de façon satisfaisante cette diversité et doit laisser la place à des analyses et des réponses adaptées à la réalité de chaque pays, sous-tendus par des principes communs. C’est dans ce cadre que la France s’est mobilisée pour une approche de l’aide aux pays fragiles répondant aux spécificités de ces pays. Elle est activement engagée auprès de pays « orphelins de l’aide » et encourage une meilleure répartition des bailleurs de fonds dans les divers pays en développement.

14. La France salue à ce titre les conclusions du G20 de Londres et la décision prise de renforcer les ressources des institutions financières internationales, ou de permettre une revue de leur capital lorsque c’est nécessaire. Elle participe pleinement aux travaux entrepris dans le cadre de l’UE, du FMI et des banques multilatérales de développement pour concevoir et apporter une réponse ciblée aux besoins des pays les plus vulnérables.

L’aide doit s’insérer avec pragmatisme dans des flux économiques complexes et diversifiés

15. Le cadre défini par le consensus de Monterrey et revu à Doha en 2008 propose la vision globale des flux de financement nécessaires pour valoriser les interventions publiques (qu’elles soient, ou non, comptabilisables en APD) de façon optimale. Ce cadre rappelle que la première ressource du développement est la mobilisation des ressources nationales. A ce titre, la France appuie le renforcement des capacités des administrations nationales et notamment des administrations financières et participe activement aux initiatives internationales visant à réduire la fraude fiscale, véritable hémorragie pour les pays en développement.


17. La France encourage et pratique une diversification des instruments d’intervention, y compris hors du champs de l’APD : ainsi les garanties ou prises de participations proposées par les établissements financiers publics (AFD pour la France) sont un élément de la réponse à la crise bien que non comptées au titre de l’APD. La facilitation des envois de fonds des migrants (amélioration de la transparence et de la concurrence, bonifications fiscales notamment pour encourager l’investissement productif), en est un autre exemple.
18. La crise nous encourage à faire preuve de créativité dans le mixage des instruments d’APD (dons et prêts concessionnels) avec les autres flux, à l’instar de ce qui se fait pour l’aide au commerce. De même, des projets de plus en plus nombreux rassemblent des acteurs d’origines diversifiées : public, fondations, entreprises... L’aide doit se situer dans ce paysage complexe et identifier avec souplesse les domaines où elle apporte la plus grande valeur ajoutée.

**La crise nécessite d’apporter une réponse quantitative aux besoins financiers massifs**

19. La crise a augmenté les besoins de transferts financiers. La France est particulièrement mobilisée sur la réponse macro-économique à apporter à cette situation. Au sein du G20, elle a animé avec l’Indonésie l’élaboration de propositions ambitieuses sur la réponse que les Banques de développement doivent apporter à cette situation, notamment par la fourniture de 100 Mds USD de financements additionnels sur trois ans.

20. La France est engagée dans la dynamique d’augmentation de l’aide publique internationale qui reste une ressource essentielle pour l’appui aux pays en développement, notamment les plus pauvres. Elle se félicite du niveau historique atteint par l’APD en 2008 et poursuivra ses efforts dans le cadre de la loi de programmation triennale qui améliore la prévisibilité de son aide.

21. Le Président Sarkozy s’est engagé au Cap en 2008 à porter les concours financiers de la France à l’Afrique à un total de 2.5 mds d’euros sur les 5 prochaines années en mobilisant une panoplie diversifiée d’outils financiers.

22. La France a soutenu le processus de réduction de la dette des pays pauvres très endettés, et encourage un développement durable des prêts par l’application collective du cadre de sustentabilité de la dette, pour ne pas priver les pays qui en ont besoin de la ressource essentielle fournie par ces prêts. Elle appelle l’ensemble des acteurs financiers à respecter ces critères du CSD.

23. Enfin, la France joue un rôle actif dans le développement des sources innovantes de financement, à l’instar de la taxe sur les billets d’avion, de l’IFFIm. Elle plaide pour le changement d’échelle de ces financements, à la fois par la généralisation des mécanismes existants et par le développement de nouvelles sources.

**La crise nous appelle à accélérer les déboursements et renforcer le rôle contracyclique de l’aide**


25. La France plaide également pour l’élaboration d’outils de réponse ad-hoc aux situations de vulnérabilité engendrées par la crise. Elle salue la décision du FMI de diversifier et de rendre plus flexibles ses outils d’intervention afin de mieux répondre à la diversité des situations et participe activement aux réflexions menées sur le même sujet dans le cadre européen. Elle plaide pour une réponse par la voie d’une aide budgétaire permettant de cibler les secteurs vivriers et sociaux, déterminants pour amortir l’impact social de la crise.

26. La France entame avec ses partenaires européens une réflexion sur les possibilités d’une accélération du calendrier et sur les modalités de versements de l’aide. La Communauté a déjà devancé une part importante de ses engagements au titre de l’aide communautaire aux pays ACP en 2008. L’Agence française de développement a développé une offre de prêt contracyclique très concessionnel qui permet d’amortir les chocs externes auxquels sont soumis les pays les plus vulnérables. Elle développe son offre de garanties et de participations.
27. En contribuant activement à la division du travail entre pays européens et aux coopérations déléguées, en concentrant son action sur un nombre limité de secteurs dans le cadre des « documents-cadres de partenariat » la France contribue à réduire la fragmentation et les coûts de transaction de l’aide pour les pays bénéficiaires et donc à accélérer sa mise en œuvre.

28. Stables et prévisibles, les financements innovants apparaissent également comme une précieuse opportunité pour compléter l’aide publique traditionnelle et jouer le rôle contra-cyclique nécessaire à la protection des pays en développement. Il nous paraît essentiel que tous les Etats membres s’engagent dans la mise en œuvre de financements innovants et se joignent aux travaux du Groupe pilote dont la conférence plénière aura lieu à Paris les 28 et 29 mai prochain.

**La crise est l’occasion de travailler sur la qualité du développement**

29. Au-delà des équilibres financiers, l’impact de la crise sur les populations les plus vulnérables exige qu’on lui accorde une attention toute particulière. La crise - et la contribution de la communauté internationale - peut être l’occasion d’infléchir les modèles de développement dans le sens d’une croissance inclusive accordant plus d’attention aux personnes, à la cohésion sociale et à un usage durable des ressources naturelles.

30. Dans ce cadre, la France souligne que l’urgence de la crise ne doit pas faire perdre de vue la nécessité de progresser dans la mise en œuvre des normes sociales et environnementales internationales ; elle doit conduire à renforcer les organisations de la société civile et les collectivités locales qui jouent un rôle crucial dans l’amortissement de la crise et la prise en charge locale des problèmes sociaux. La France est notamment partenaire de la Charte européenne d’appui à la gouvernance locale, qui vise à améliorer l’efficacité collective de l’aide apportée aux institutions locales par l’ensemble des acteurs locaux.

31. Elle se mobilise particulièrement pour soutenir les PME et la relance du développement rural, deux secteurs ayant de fortes retombées en matière de création d’emploi. Elle poursuit son appui aux filières de production agricole, a contribué à la mobilisation européenne pour l’adoption d’une facilité alimentaire de 1 md d’euros et a contribué au lancement récent d’un fonds d’investissement pour l’agriculture en Afrique. Elle soutient enfin une approche inclusive de la sécurité alimentaire par la mise en place d’un partenariat mondial.


33. Le développement des marchés régionaux par des politiques adaptées, et son accompagnement par la création d’infrastructures et l’appui aux organisations régionales est un axe de coopération essentiel pour une relance durable basée sur le marché intérieur.
Key Steps Taken on “Beginning now Issues” of the AAA: Germany

1. Since Accra, German Development Cooperation has drafted an implementation plan to put the Accra Commitments into action. This plan is not only based on the AAA but on the results of the Paris Declaration Monitoring Process and the Results of the OECD DAC Evaluation on implementing the Paris Declaration in the German Aid System as well. The plan, which has been shared with representatives of civil society in Germany, contains a set of ambitious actions and time limits. With respect to the four priority themes of the AAA, the following actions will be undertaken:

Art. 15d: Developing plans on using country systems

2. Until September 2009, Germany will identify the main impediments and best practices as regards the use of country systems in financial management, procurement, auditing, monitoring and evaluation, gender assessment, and social and environmental assessment. A comprehensive proposal for alignment, based on the results of this analysis, is planned to be available in December 2009.

Art. 25b: Making public all conditions linked to disbursements

3. Germany will endorse processes which support the publishing information on the conditions set out in Performance Assessment Frameworks (PAF). However, public disclosure is only feasible if partner countries and other participating donors agree in line with the principle of mutual accountability. Germany will promote respective good practices on international level.

Art. 26b: Providing full and timely information on annual commitments and actual disbursements

4. Germany committed itself to strengthening and promoting transparency by co-founding the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI). Germany will share with partner countries information on commitments, actual disbursements and, if existent, achieved results from mid-2009 on. As the IATI points out, it is imperative to develop common standards and format on the provision of information. Germany is committed to work in the Steering Committee of IATI, in respective working areas of Cluster C under the WP-EFF and with the OECD DAC statistical units.

Art. 26c: Providing regular and timely information on their rolling three to five year expenditure and/or implementation plans

5. Germany will improve the predictability of aid by providing data - timely, regularly, and on a rolling basis - about projected disbursements and their intended use in the next 3 to 5 years. Until June 2009, it will be analysed how to generate and share this information and how existing planning procedures will have to be adapted. The data will be made available to partner countries as from 2010. Furthermore, Germany will work for similar standards of data provision on projected expenditures within multilateral institutions.
GREECE

HLF-3/ Key steps taken to implement the AAA

Developing plans on using country systems

1. Firstly, it is worth mentioning that a thorough study and analysis of the AAA took place in Hellenic Aid with the involvement of all competent services. The highlights of the important issues, of special concern for Greece and its development cooperation policy, were communicated to all other Greek agencies dealing with development cooperation as well as to our diplomatic missions in priority countries.

2. Secondly, regarding our plans for country systems use, although Greek development cooperation system is still very centralized - in the sense that not only all decisions are taken in Athens but also that Greek systems are used for the implementation, management and monitoring of all projects - we are gradually moving towards a further involvement of our diplomatic missions in the development cooperation policy. According to the new five year plan under examination by the political authorities, a number of development officers are scheduled to be established in selected priority countries, which we will allow us to make progress on this really very important commitment.

3. Lastly, we underline the increased importance attached to our cooperation with other donors, states and multilateral organizations, so as to continuously multiply the opportunities for division of labour, thus managing, by joining forces, to further fulfill the challenging commitment of using country systems.

4. Making public all conditions linked to disbursements

5. Referring to the equally important issue of conditionality, Greece does not impose any unilateral conditions regarding the financing of projects. Direct budget support or sectoral budget support have not been frequent used practices up to now. In all existing bilateral agreements with partners, all conditions mentioned are based on mutually agreed development goals, and performance targets, mainly drawn from partner countries own strategies and policies.

6. Providing full and timely information on annual commitments and actual disbursements

7. Providing regular and timely information on their rolling three to five year expenditure and/or implementation plans

8. A new Five-Year Development Cooperation Programme 2008-2012 is in the process of political adoption. This Programme constitutes a strategic framework for the delivery of aid, containing basic principles and guidelines, priority countries and sectors and annual allocation of funds. More importantly, the draft in question incorporates the 2006 DAC Peer Review recommendations. In all, the draft Programme strives to facilitate the implementation of the Paris Declaration commitments.
9. Furthermore, eight Country Strategy Papers, operationalising the above Programme, have been prepared with a view to better integrating the Aid Effectiveness Agenda into Greece’s system of development cooperation.

10. Programming as such, especially in the above mentioned new Five-Year Development Programme follows basic choices such as concentration of aid in order to avoid dispersal of aid and, thus, to ensure development results. Focal countries have been reduced to eight and priority sectors per country have been limited to maximum three. The fact that the 5-year programming sets clear intervention areas to be financed with allocations, albeit indicative for flexibility purposes, covering the total of the programming period increases predictability of aid.
IRELAND

Ireland’s follow-up on the Accra Agenda for Action

1. Irish Aid has developed a plan of action to guide implementation of its commitments in the AAA. The plan identifies the key commitments in the AAA and actions Irish Aid will take at an International / EU level and at HQ/ Programme Countries level. The plan follows the structure of the AAA and highlights the relevant Paris Declaration Survey indicators.

2. A Policy, Planning and Effectiveness Section has been established and mandated to lead on the oversight of the implementation of the Accra Agenda for Action and is working with other Sections within Irish Aid to ensure that annual business plans address and monitor implementation of the commitments in the AAA.

3. New guidelines for Country Strategy Papers provide guidance on aid effectiveness and training on these (which includes the implications of the AAA), is being rolled out at HQ and field level. Further work is planned on developing guidance notes on the key commitments in the Accra Agendas for Action, in particular on use of country systems, capacity development and division of labour.

Specific Areas for immediate action:
Developing plans on using country systems (para. 15d)

4. New requirements for Country Strategy Papers stipulate that all programmes must adhere to the principles of the Paris Declaration. Issues such as alignment with country systems and how Irish Aid can contribute to systems development and strengthening is then analysed and discussed as part of the planning and approval process. Work has begun on the development of a guidance note for staff on use of country systems and will be completed by mid 2009. This will inform the Irish input to the Use of Country Systems cluster of the WP on Aid Effectiveness.

Making public all conditions linked to disbursements (para. 25b).

5. Conditions for disbursement are contained in the joint memorandums of understanding between donors, including Irish Aid, and partner countries and will be outlined in Country Strategy Papers which are published documents on the Irish Aid website. A policy note on conditionality will be published on the website by the end of 2009.

Providing full and timely information on annual commitments and actual disbursements (para 26b).

6. Indicative figures for 3 to 5 years are provided to the partner government in the Country Strategy Paper. Annual figures are provided in time for inclusion in the budget of the partner country. Ireland is supporting the development of the International Aid Transparency Initiative led by DFID and may support the piloting of the initiative in one of our programme countries. Work is ongoing to improve Irish Aid’s financial and programme management systems which will make information more accessible and timely.
Provide regular and timely information on their rolling three to five year expenditure and/or implementation plans (para 26c)

7. Ireland’s global aid budget is published in the national budget and expenditure accounts. Country Strategy Papers for Programme Countries are now extended to five years. These set out indicative five year budget projections which are firmed up on an annual basis.
ITALY

1. Since Accra Italy has further enhanced its efforts to implement the Paris Agenda. Following are key steps taken by Italy to address priority actions outlined in the Accra Agenda or Action.

2. The “Working Group on Aid Effectiveness” (WGAE) headed by the Director General for Development Cooperation composed of senior officials from the different offices of the General Directorate for Development Cooperation (DGCS) and with the participation of a representative of the CSOs has drafted an Action Plan on Aid Effectiveness. After an open consultation process, the Action Plan on Aid Effectiveness defines a road map of a set of management reforms with the deadlines and responsibilities to achieve the 2010 targets, taking into account the Italian performance in the Monitoring Survey. In particular, the Plans sections are: i) Policy coherence ii) mainstreaming Aid Effectiveness in sector guidelines, while developing specific guidelines on General Budget support and Use of country systems; iii) Multi-year country strategy papers, to tackle aid predictability/ transparency and engaging civil society; iv) Multilateral organization, including reference to the participation to coordinated aid effectiveness assessments; v) Fragile states and good humanitarian donorship; vi) procedural streamlining to ease the use of national financial and procurement systems, to reduce parallel implementing units and increase joint donors missions; vii) updating evaluation guidelines to encourage joint and mutual evaluations; viii) civil society organizations and democratic ownership; ix) untying of aid and local procurement of goods and services; x) training of human resources; xi) ongoing monitoring, including stakeholder surveys, increased role of field offices, enhanced institutional coordination.

3. Establishment of a “cross-ministerial Technical Working Group” coordinated by the General Directorate for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Economy and Finance and with the participation of the main Italian development institutional stakeholders. Its main objective is to define a roadmap for whole Italian ODA to foster transparency and predictability of aid. Its mandate is planned to be enlarged to channelled aid effectiveness Action Plan principles towards other institutional shareholders and regional development banks.

4. Increased predictability of aid flows through approval by the Steering Committee for Development Cooperation (cross-ministerial body presided by the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs) of the “2009-2011 Programming Guidelines and Directions” which indicate funding allocations for development cooperation activities for the period 2009-2011, as well as percentages of bilateral aid that will be allocated to each of the four geographic areas of intervention.

5. Drafting of multi-year planning documents for priority countries, which will allow to provide full and timely information on annual spending plans. The country planning is to take into account civil society perspective.

6. Decision to increase allocation for programme based aid, in particular budget support. Task group in place to develop guidelines and review procedures. In some countries (e.g. Serbia, Ethiopia) establishment of aid mechanisms for direct transfer to Local Authorities.

7. Work is in progress for a comprehensive revision of operational procedures for the use of country systems (art.15 of Italian Development Cooperation Law) to streamline procedures and to allow the
definition of country specific agreements for the use of country systems for the overall Italian programme in partner countries.

8. Formal decision to extend the coverage of 2001 DAC Recommendations on Untying Aid to non-LDC HIPC, and to extend the percentage for local procurement for goods and services from concessional loans.

9. The Evaluation Unit has been re-established and provided with an annual budget. It is currently working to update evaluation guidelines to allow mutual and harmonized evaluations.

10. A pilot training module on aid effectiveness for experts and young diplomats has been agreed.

11. A brand new multilateral strategy has been approved sketching out the criteria for organizations selection, and the commitment to concentrate the Italian contribution on fewer organizations. The documents plans to develop single organizations specific strategy and to participate into harmonized assessment of MO effectiveness – i.e MOPAN.

12. Steps have been taken to decrease the number of Project Implementation Units reducing existing PIUs to one single sector/country unit, while gradually shifting to direct secondment of experts to the partner country system in close coordination with other donors.

13. Commitment to the implementation of the EU Code of Conduct on the Division of Labour, and to the International Good Practice Principles on Division of Labour approved by the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness in March 2009. In this context Italy is working on the reduction of the sectors of intervention in all countries where it supports development cooperation programmes. The process is almost completed in Albania, Ethiopia, Lebanon and Mozambique. Specific instructions on implementation of Division of Labour have been sent by DGCS to all Embassies and UTLs (Decentralized Offices).
JAPAN

Following Up Accra Agenda for Action Japan’s Actions

Implementation at ground level

1. Japan places great emphasis on implementation at the regional/country level. Japan, along with the ADB, UNDP, and the World Bank, supported the establishment of a capacity development facility for development effectiveness in the Asia Pacific region, which aims to accelerate the achievement of the Paris Declaration and AAA commitments.

Capacity Development (para14)

2. Japan is committed to supporting capacity development in partner countries. Japan focuses on capacity development, not only for aid effectiveness, but also to enable the “graduation from aid” and “self-reliance” of partner countries.

3. Japan continues to reinforce its support for the work of partner countries concerning the implementation of the recommendations made by the CD Joint Study which was conducted by partner countries, JICA, and other donors prior to the Accra HLF.

4. Furthermore, Japan will continue to facilitate South-South Cooperation, and is a member of the South-South Cooperation Task Team, established under the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness.

Country Systems (para15d)

5. Japan is at the fore in its use of country systems and has already achieved the target stated in the AAA. Japan will continue its efforts in this area, as well as working to strengthen country systems to improve their future use.

Conditionality (para25b)

6. Japan imposes no conditionality linked to disbursements except for budget support and limited cases of policy lending. The conditionality for these projects is drawn from national development strategies, and jointly assessed by donors and partner countries.

Information on Annual Commitments and Actual Disbursements (para26b)

7. Japan provides disbursement information through the existing Creditor Reporting System (CRS).

Information on rolling three to five year expenditure and/or implementation plans (para26c)

8. Japan is working hard to find a way of providing information on rolling three-year forward expenditure and/or implementation plans, with at least indicative resource allocations. The information will be provided to selected countries in the first year in response to requests.
KOREA

Implementing the Accra Agenda for Action

General Comments

1. The Korean Government has taken its first step toward implementing the AAA with a focus on spreading the key messages of the Paris Declaration (PD) and the AAA and promote public awareness on the need for the immediate implementation of the PD and AAA. The government has also established a working-level network within major relevant Ministries and agencies to facilitate discussions on the implementation of the PD and AAA.

2. Korea’s implementation of the AAA is taking place along with the procedures needed for its accession to the DAC. In addition, Korea will promote fulfilment of the AAA by establishing a comprehensive implementation plan, with its accession to the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness.

3. As a first step, the Government will launch a Pilot Country Project for overall implementation of the AAA in a specific partner country. Relevant ministries and agencies will take part in the Pilot Country Project, and will gradually apply the lessons learned to other partner countries.

   • We expect the AAA Pilot Country Project to contribute to providing new momentum to the coordination of mechanisms required for the implementation of the AAA.

Using Partner Country Systems

4. We are in the process of establishing plans to increase the use of partner countries’ procurement systems.

5. We are also carrying out feasibility studies on using other partner country systems such as partner countries’ PFM (Public Financial Management) systems.

Conditionality

6. Currently, Korea does not impose any conditions on disbursement.

Mid-term Aid Plans

7. Korea is devising mid-term aid plans with a focus on priority partner countries.

8. In order to strengthen the mid-term predictability of aid and the ownership of partner countries, Korea pursues to increase the number of the partner countries with multi-year plans.
LUXEMBOURG

Etat des travaux en matière de mise en œuvre de la Déclaration de Paris et du Programme d’action d’Accra

1. Un plan national de mise en œuvre de la Déclaration de Paris et du Programme d’action d’Accra est en préparation. Le début de la mise en œuvre est prévu en cours d’année au siège et dans les bureaux régionaux. La présente note d’information fait le point sur l’état des travaux. Suite à une circulaire du Directeur de la Coopération au Développement du 23 décembre 2008 à l’attention des chefs de bureaux de la coopération, le Siège a reçu des analyses du terrain, ainsi que de nombreux documents d’appui. Sur base de ces analyses et documents, le Siège a préparé une première évaluation et un programme de travail spécifique pour les différents bureaux. Parmi les conclusions et les recommandations générales s’appliquant à tous les bureaux il faut souligner les points essentiels suivants :

- Le besoin d’intensifier les contacts et le dialogue permanent avec les autorités nationales afin d’améliorer le score de la Coopération luxembourgeoise dans le monitoring périodique de la mise en œuvre des principes de la DP, par l’OCDE/CAD. Dialoguer, adapter la manière de faire et se mettre d’accord avec les partenaires.

- Un des principaux objectifs de la Coopération luxembourgeoise doit être le renforcement des capacités des états partenaires pour une prise en charge de leurs obligations par leur propre organisme. Chaque action de coopération nécessite donc une stratégie de désengagement et de durabilité.

- Les chefs de bureau doivent apporter dès maintenant les éléments en vue d’élaborer des stratégies spécifiques par pays partenaire pour le programme futur, en prenant en compte le « Code de conduite de l’UE » et les conditions locales. Pour ce faire ils doivent pouvoir compter sur une expertise appropriée du bureau de Lux-Développement (l’agence de mise en œuvre de la coopération bilatérale luxembourgeoise).

- Il faut renforcer dans tous les pays partenaires les contacts et le dialogue avec les ONG sur place dont les projets sont cofinancés par la Coopération luxembourgeoise.

2. Le programme de travail qui est proposé aux bureaux de la coopération se limite à quelques tâches urgentes initiales, qui paraissent réalisables dans des délais acceptables. Eventuellement, de futurs programmes présenteront d’autres tâches soulevées dans les analyses et documents transmis par les chefs de bureau, qui ont généré en parallèle aussi un plan de travail pour le Siège. Tous les documents annexés seront prochainement discutés au Siège avec Lux-Development. L’avis des chefs de bureau et le résultat de leurs concertations consolidées avec le bureau de Lux-Development est attendu pour le 1er juin 2009. Les chefs de bureau sont invités à considérer les quatre points essentiels précédents, ainsi que la liste de leurs tâches en y incluant des propositions de délais. Le Siège reste à la disposition des bureaux pour toute clarification additionnelle.
NEW ZEALAND

Key Steps to implement the AAA – Actions of immediate priority

General:

NZAID is revising its practices and procedures in order to more effectively fulfil its commitments under the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action. More effective aid and strengthened management for results are two key themes of NZAID’s business model. Current activities include:

- An Aid Effectiveness Advisor is being recruited in the Strategy, Advisory and Evaluation Group in order to ensure NZAID’s tools, systems and processes support the AAA.
- NZAID is developing an aid effectiveness action plan to implement the principles of the Paris Declaration and the priorities of the AAA.

Specific:

1. Developing plans on using country systems (para. 15 d).

   Internal:
   - Under development:
     - Budget support and institutional assessment tools.
     - Monitoring process to enable tracking of progress of NZAID in utilisation of country systems.
     - Programme review process
   - Awareness-raising within NZAID

   Working with others:
   - Discussions with several partner countries and other donors on use of country systems including combining resources with other donors to support assessments; review of country strategies;
   - Regional events utilised to discuss and advance aid effectiveness principles (regional workshops; donor coordination meetings);

2. Making public all conditions linked to disbursements (para. 25 b)

   - NZAID is participating in the International Aid Transparency Initiative, which commits donors to work together with partner county governments, civil society and other users of aid information to make aid more transparent by building on existing global and country systems and standards.
   - Planning to investigate what system(s) would be needed to post disbursement and condition information on the web.
3. **Providing full and timely information on annual commitments and actual disbursements** (para 26 b)
   - NZAID has multiyear appropriations which enables it to provide partners with 3 year forward aid expenditure plans.
   - Information about disbursements is regularly disclosed but there is scope to create more consistency in practice including around timeliness.

4. **Providing regular and timely information on their rolling three to five year expenditure and/or implementation plans** (para 26 c)
   - This is in place within NZAID with a 3 year rolling forward aid programme budget and regular programme talks.
   - There is scope to create more consistency in practice through clarification of process and expectations. Also scope for looking at what else could be made public through our website.

**Response to the Global Economic Crisis**

5. The current global economic recession threatens the economic development progress that has been made in the Pacific by having a negative impact on countries’ export efforts, access to finance and investment, and income from both tourism and remittances. However, the global financial crisis can also provide a strong incentive for countries to form genuine partnerships and to work in partnership other development actors, such as bilaterals and multilateral donors and the private sector, in creating an enabling environment to address constraints and to capture opportunities.

6. In response to the financial crisis, New Zealand will look to areas of work that will leave Pacific island countries better placed to take advantage of the global recovery.

**Strengthening Country Ownership over Development**

7. Support the efforts through stepped-up policy engagement with partner Pacific countries for economic, fiscal, and monetary policies conducive to economic growth. New Zealand will also work with bilateral and multilateral partners and other donors, especially Australia, to strengthen dialogue on economic policy, improved public financial management systems, sound banking regulations and transparent and efficient tax administration systems.

**Building More Effective and Inclusive Partnerships for Development**

8. Increased engagement with the private sector. NZAID will step up its engagement across three key areas:
   - Increasing private sector access to business support, innovation and information, and financial services. Increased quality, coverage and reach of business services and strengthened domestic and international business networks. Improved range and accessibility of financial services, including in rural areas.
   - Increasing access to quality livelihoods training, particularly for young people. NZAID will review and then increase support for practical training to increase livelihood opportunities in rural and urban settings in both the formal and informal sectors, including the training being provided through formal basic education and non-state actors (e.g. church-based).
   - Increased value to Pacific people from key sub-sectors and product market chains. Attention will be given to domestic (including tourism-related) as well as export market opportunities, as
successfully meeting domestic demand is often a good first step towards meeting the more demanding requirements of export markets.

9. Coordination with Australia will be increased at both the bilateral and regional level, as will the level of direction given to multilateral partners regarding priority areas for their interventions.

Achieving development results

10. NZAID focus will be on those activities likely to begin delivering results in a three year time-frame (three years in preparation for and to take advantage of the global recovery). Prioritisation and sequencing will be important. Prioritised activities are proposed which will have a broad multiplier effect or contribute to a longer-term step change in economic performance; achieve measureable results within a three year timeframe; build wherever possible on existing partnerships and programmes; and have the support of both partner governments and the private sector.
NETHERLANDS

One-pager by The Netherlands on the ‘beginning now’ actions – May 2009

1. After finalising the Netherlands Action plan for the implementation of Paris and Accra (NAPA), we will continue to define the best approach and set priorities in each of the 24 partner countries with which (a) we have a long term development relationship and (b) that endorsed the PD / AAA. These will be adapted to local circumstances and can contain elements of (a) how we can intensify support to our partner countries for them to achieve their Paris commitments, (b) what extra efforts we can make ourselves for better performance (at embassy or HQ level), and (c) what we can do to better connect those two, within our own organisation or and through interaction with other agencies.

Developing plans on using country systems (para. 15d).

2. This is one of the major points of focus both in NAPA and the country specific approaches we are defining. Main issues:
   - maintain the 80% target (we consider the 50% in AAA 15e to be a threshold for those donors that had a very low percentage of use of country systems in the 2005 baseline;
   - analysis of why country systems are not used more when PFM systems receive a fair score, and of how PFM systems with insufficient scores can be strengthened;
   - being transparent on reasons and solutions;
   - looking into training needs - preferably in multi donor context (train4dev);
   - constraints for timely disbursement, alignment of disbursement with the national budget cycle, use of Government generated reports without requests for additional information, and for providing information on planned disbursements in time and in a suitable form for budget planning.

Making public all conditions linked to disbursements (para. 25b).

3. Looking into the exact modalities; strong preference for internationally harmonized approach.

Providing full and timely information on annual commitments and actual disbursements (para 26b).

4. For the short term, all embassies have been instructed to share relevant information, including summaries of the multiannual strategic planning, with partner countries government and parliament and to publish it through their websites. We are supporting IATI and DAC to end up in the longer term with joint mechanisms for consistency and efficiency reasons.
Providing regular and timely information on their rolling three to five year expenditure and/or implementation plans (para 26c)

5. Included in NAPA: timely communication of country allocation and sector over a four year period on indicative basis; increased use of forward rolling commitments in the case of budget support and, in the future, other aid modalities.
Norway and the Aid effectiveness agenda – follow up of Accra

1. Norway is continuously implementing the aid effectiveness agenda through dialogue with partner countries and, increasingly, interaction with multilateral partners and global funds. At the country level, the Norwegian follow up on AAA is anchored with the embassies. A recent analysis commissioned from the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) provided more profound information about the results from the 2008 Survey with regard to Norwegian performance. The MFA, in close cooperation with Norad, is now in the process of translating this knowledge into practical advice towards the embassies.

2. In February 2009 the MFA submitted to the Parliament a new White Paper on development policy titled “Climate, Conflict and Capital”. Norway will focus on the comparative advantages of the various channels. The policy is closely aligned with AAA as it seeks to reduce the fragmentation of aid by improving the complementarily of donor’s efforts. In 2008 the Ministry and five embassies in Africa initiated a process of streamlining their project portfolios.

3. Norway continuously seek to improve management for results and has during recent years made additional efforts to document results and make findings known by the Norwegian public. In December 2008 Norad published a comprehensive guide on practical result management.

Follow up on “beginning now” actions:

Developing plans using country systems (15 d)

4. All embassies are actively exploring possibilities to increase the use of country systems, both in the implementation of their 2009 work plan, and to elaborate a long term approach in the updating of their rolling three-year plans. Further, country ownership is actively being addressed in development assistance channelled through multilateral partners and global funds. Civil society partners are encouraged to align their operations with the aid effectiveness agenda. The approach will be elaborated in an overall country plan prepared by MFA in collaboration with Norad.

Making public all conditions linked to disbursement (25 b)

5. Conditions linked to disbursement are specified in the formal agreements. These refer to objectives and indicators emerging from the development partners’ own policies and strategies. Embassies are publishing summaries of the agreements on their websites, and are presently exploring practical ways of making additional information easily available. A more uniform approach may emerge through the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI).

Providing information on annual commitments, actual disbursement (26 b), and indicative long term figures (26 c).

6. Annual commitments are agreed and made known though the formal agreements and the ongoing consultations between the embassies and the partner countries. The embassies are actively informing the partners about disbursement, and are pro-actively seeking ways to establish reporting mechanisms when
aid information management systems are absent. Furthermore, the embassies share, when available, indicative estimates for long term resource allocations (mainly general budget and sector support), but with the provision that this is subject to parliamentary approval. Efforts are made to improve predictability within other areas of cooperation as well.

Response to the Global Economic Crisis

7. Reference is made to letter from DCD of March 18th 2009 which inquire how the AAA and the global financial crisis may relate to each other. Based on contributions from head quarter level and missions abroad, we offer the following perspectives:

In the short run

8. The crisis seems to have had little or no influence on strategic decisions related to development co-operation at country level. In most countries consulted, ODA levels remain stable – there are no forecasts of reductions for the coming years, quite on the contrary – in some countries ODA is predicted to grow. It is therefore reasonable to assume that the impact of the crisis has either not yet reached all our development partners with its full weight, and/or that the capacity to temporarily cushion the immediate effects has allowed several of these countries to proceed up to now with business as usual. The follow up of AAA seems therefore not (yet) directly influenced by the crisis.

9. There are no signs of a general resurgence of unilateral conditionality being imposed on the partner countries in recent contract negotiations. This serves to strengthen an important PD principle.

In the long run

10. With the crisis that maintains its grip on the global economy, it will almost certainly lead to increased competition for resources that can be deployed for development activities in most of our partner countries. If ODA is kept at its current level, it is the partner countries that will have to carry the main burden when own resource base is drying up, due to fall in domestic and export revenues. Hence, an even tougher prioritization of resources may disfavour budget allocations to soft sectors such as health and education. Such a situation will inevitably carry long term consequences in terms of equitability and fair access to development. This situation may pose a serious threat to the implementation of AAA at country level.

11. We see evidence of that development cooperation in several of our partner countries is gradually gravitating towards the BRICS. China, not the least, have actively forged new alliances – apparently positioning itself in times when the resource thirst is on the way up, and the traditional resource flow is showing signs of diminishing. A strong emphasis on projects (f ex related to infrastructure development), not necessarily guided by the PD principles and the AAA commitments, can indeed result in a shift in emphasis which could seriously challenge gains so far, and tilt the aid effectiveness agenda to becoming a DAC - donor driven priority. The outcome of DAC’s Reflection Exercise and the forthcoming new mandate for DAC may offer constructive responses to this situation.

Possible synergies between PD/AAA and the global financial crisis

12. As the crisis is felt strongly among the donors, the situation at the same time offers new opportunities to deepen the partnership and promoting increased aid effectiveness in times of crisis. With a growing scarcity of resources due to negative growth in most donor countries, the quest for measurability and result-driven cooperation may actually contribute to advancing the effectiveness agenda. This is a welcome spin-off from a very potent crisis situation.
13. Similarly, the flip side of the coin is that the crisis may push for an acceleration in implementation of necessary government reform programmes in general, and of national tax regimen in particular – where most of the rapid gains can be found. An expansion of the domestic revenue base can serve to strengthen the national development efforts – and hence support to the AAA commitments and the MDGs.
POLAND

Develop plans on using country systems (§15d of the AAA).

1. Work to implement the Accra Agenda for Action has already begun in the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Consultation process regarding both the draft Polish Development Strategy 2010-2015 and the draft Law on Polish Foreign Assistance (with other governmental bodies and Polish NGOs) is under way. Both drafts include as point of reference Polish commitments under the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action and ensure updating existing procedures and guidance.

Make public all conditions linked to disbursements (§25b).

2. Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Development Co-operation Department), since 2005, provides information through its website on all development activities, including all disbursements. We plan to further strengthen 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.

Provide full and timely information on annual commitments and actual disbursements (§26b).

3. 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.

Provide regular and timely information on rolling three to five year expenditure and/or implementation plans (§26c).

4. So far aid allocations are still determined during the annual budget process. Poland needs to change its internal regulations to make legally possible using the mechanism of budget support and multi-year planning (existing regulations, especially budget regulations, do not allow us at the moment introduce multi-year expenditure and planning system). All needed changes are taken into account in the draft Law on Polish Foreign Assistance.
PORTUGAL

ONE-PAGER ON “BEGINNING NOW ISSUES” – Accra commitments

Developing Plans on using country systems (parag. 15d):

1. Portuguese Cooperation is committed to use country systems as its first option. That means making more use of public financial management systems, including national procurement procedures and to avoid Parallel Implementation Units (PIU). We are already in a process of “putting aid on budget”, and that does not only concern budget support and sectoral support modalities but project support also. This work has already been initiated in Mozambique and East Timor and we plan to extend it to other partner countries. Where conditions do not allow it, since some of our partner countries are in a “situation of fragility”, we are committed to work on the capacity building of national institutions and human resources in order to make a greater use of partner systems.

Making public all conditions linked to disbursements (parag. 25b):

2. Our “conditions” to disbursements are public and are only based on partner Government commitment, and its outcomes, on Poverty Reduction.

Providing full and timely information on annual commitments and actual disbursements (parag. 26b)

3. Portugal has already initiated work on this. We are recording disbursements by country on a regular basis in order to allow us to provide detailed and timely information to partner Government aid recording systems. For instance, this has allowed us to fully participate in the ODAMOZ database system by sending accurate information on actual disbursements on a quarterly basis, as requested by the ODAMOZ system.

Providing regular and timely information on their rolling three to five year expenditure and /or implementation plans (parag.26c)

4. Portuguese Cooperation Programmes (Indicative Cooperation Programmes) with individual partner Governments are conceived on a 3-4 years basis in order to be harmonised with partner Government’s PRSP or similar frameworks. Our plan is to have these Programs ready in advance it order to allow partner Governments to integrate aid flows in their budget cycle. Work is already being carried out in order to make these Indicative Programmes as exhaustive as possible, which means capturing all aid flows that should in the end be disbursed.
SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Key Steps to Implement the AAA

1. The Slovak Republic is continuously updating its existing aid system. Specific strategies are being developed to enable it to meet its international commitments under the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action and promote and support durable development results. Recently the government of the Slovak Republic has approved the five year Medium Term Strategy for 2009-2013 planning document stressing the need to make the ODA more effective. Goals of the strategy are further detailed in one year programming documents National programme of the Official Assistance (NPODA) and to be prepared Country Strategy Papers in cooperation with governments of the three priority countries. Further strategies like e.g. aid for trade strategy, communication strategy are planned to be drafted.

Developing Plans on Using Country Systems

2. Being aware of the needs to use country systems of recipient countries Slovakia supports local ownership and tries to help partner countries strengthen their management capacity and their systems’ transparency and reliability. In the priority countries of the Slovak development assistance (Eastern Europe and Central Asia) the Slovak Republic plans to strengthen Public Finance Management Systems. It will be done through implemented bilateral projects. The whole activity will be carried out in cooperation with the created UNDP Trust Fund and financed by the Slovak Republic.

Making Public all Conditions Linked to Disbursement

3. The Slovak Republic provides full and timely information on annual commitments and disbursements of the ODA through the General Budget Statement published around November each year and an Annual Summary Report on ODA implemented in the previous year published around February each year. The government approves both documents.

4. No special conditions are imposed or linked to the disbursements, save the general conditions attached to a contract.

Providing regular and timely information on rolling three to five year expenditure and/or implementation plan:

5. The Slovak Republic has a three-year budget programming. Each year a general budget proposal for the next year with indicative figures for another two years is approved. Then the following year the indicative figures are updated and approved again. All approved and indicative figures for another two years are made public e.g. at the web page of the Ministry of Finance. Plans are to incorporate those figures as far as the development assistance is concerned into the annual programming documents of the development assistance so it would be easier for partner governments to get oriented and insure better planning. The National programme of the official development assistance (NP ODA), which is a programming document for one-year development assistance implementation should contain a three-year indicative figures plan. For the first time it should happen in NP ODA 2010 to be published at the beginning of 2010.
Implementation of the PD and the AAA

1. The III Master Plan for the Spanish Cooperation system, that reflects the main political commitments and the key issues for the Spanish Development Policy for 2009-2012, was recently approved by Ministers Council (February 2009). In this four-year plan, aid effectiveness principles and commitments are considered a strategical axis to be applied in the Spanish cooperation program with every partner country. At the operational level, the III Spanish Cooperation Master Plan, defines a set of short, medium and long term goals in order to allow Spanish ODA to be more predictable, to make better and more extensive use of country systems, to reduce conditionality and to be more transparent.

2. An Aid Effectiveness Action Plan will also be developed and applied from 2009/2010 for all the Spanish Cooperation System. This plan will deepen in the incentives, changes, reforms and means needed to achieve the aid effectiveness goals and will include the perspective of every actor in the complex Spanish system. Part of the action plan will be a self assessment of Spanish performance against Paris Declaration Principles, in order to identify bottlenecks and create a base line to measure the impact of the actions to be taken.

Para. 15 Use of country systems

3. The new Marcos de Asociación (former Country Strategy Papers of the Spanish Cooperation System) will be defined from 2010 with every partner country. This strategic process will align with the national budget cycle and will allow better support of country led initiatives and use of country systems. The Marcos de Asociación will in every case be consistent with the aid effectiveness principles.

4. In 2009, Spain will define criteria to identify parallel implementation units and from 2010 new PIUs will not be established. At the same time, a strategy for progressively diminishing the number of existing parallel implementation units will be put in place.

5. Spain will participate in common assessments of quality of country systems and will give priority to capacity development initiatives at country level in every partner country.

6. Spain will actively participate in the Task Team on South South Cooperation (within the WP EFF framework), where good practices in using and strengthening country systems will be identified.

7. Among other actions, these mentioned above should contribute to reach the goal set in the Spanish Cooperation Master Plan: In 2012 Spanish Cooperation will channel at least 50% of its ODA through local systems and procedures. In 2015 the Spanish Cooperation will channel at least 75% of its ODA through local systems and procedures.

Para. 25 b. Regularly make public all conditions linked to disbursements

8. Spain will participate in the International Aid Transparency Initiative, which commits donors to work together with partner country governments, civil society and other users of aid information to make aid more transparent by building on existing global and country systems and standards.
9. Regarding this particular issue, it is important for Spain to address it with an internationally harmonised approach to achieve its individual targets, set in the Spanish Cooperation Master Plan:

10. In 2012 Spain will provide timely and transparent information regarding its ODA flows

11. In 2012 Spanish Cooperation will link its funding to an agreed set of conditionalities (performance-based conditionalities linked to progress in reducing poverty and human rights). In 2015 Spanish Cooperation will use no economical or political conditionalities for its funding.

Para. 26 b. Provide full and timely information on annual commitments and actual disbursements

12. Annual commitments and indicative annual disbursements are currently provided every year through the PACI (Annual Plan for International Cooperation). Three to four year commitments are also reflected in bilateral agreements with every partner country (Comisiones Mixtas). However, further steps to ensure that funds are disbursed as committed will be taken, in order to achieve the goal set in the Spanish Cooperation Master Plan: In 2012 Spanish Cooperation disburses its funds at the committed time in 100% of its partner countries.

13. The PACI will also be adapted to be consistent and useful for a system that manages for and reports development results.

Para 26 c Provide regular and timely information on rolling three-to-five year forward expenditure and/or implementation plans, with at least indicative resource allocations. Address any constraints to providing such information.

14. Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID), along with the General Directorate for Development Policy of the Spanish MFA and Cooperation, are currently going through their planning and programming methodology for bilateral and multilateral aid. This process will lead to a better way of planning and programming aid for every partner country, based on expected development result, and will set the basis for rolling three-to-five year forward expenditure and implementation plans.

15. In 2010 Spanish Cooperation will have a multiannual plan (at least 4-5 years) of budget and disbursements linked to development results for 80% of its partner countries. In 2015 the Spanish Cooperation will have a multiannual plan (at least 4-5 years) of budget and disbursements linked to development results for 100% of its partner countries.
SWEDEN

Note for Working Party on Aid Effectiveness
“One Pager” - Key steps taken in Sweden to implement the Accra Agenda for Action

1. The Swedish MFA and Sida will soon launch a joint Action Plan for implementing the Accra Agenda for Action, with the aim to identify key gaps in implementation. The Action Plan sets seven prioritised objectives for an effective Swedish Development Cooperation – including the four commitments from AAA. Some specific information on the four commitments are:

Developing plans using country systems

2. In 2009, each country team in our 33 priority countries, regional, global, CSO and multilateral programmes will set a base-line and objectives on aid effectiveness (of which use of country systems are two of the indicators) that will be measured yearly in Sidas ordinary follow-up. Through the exercise Sweden will gather information of the underlying factors on aid effectiveness implementation at country level. The analysis will a) be carried out from an aid effectiveness perspective b) identify main obstacles for moving the AAA forward and c) make a concrete plan for aid effectiveness incl. increased use country systems and PBAs.

3. An assessment of the possibility of using country systems for the entire state-to-state cooperation in the country will be conducted in all new Country Strategies.

4. Each Team Director will be responsible for the commitment in AAA to use country systems as the first option for aid programmes is realised in all new aid programmes.

5. The Swedish Action Plan also implies to increased use of country Monitoring and Evaluation systems (ie. not only PFM and Procurement systems).

6. The Swedish MFA plans to produce a policy on PBAs during 2009 that is expected to steer Swedish development cooperation towards a default use of PBA and, as a consequence, contribute to a significant increase in use of country systems over time.

7. During the past four years, Public Finance Management (PFM) capacity development has been a priority for Sweden. A number of training events have been held and a PFM handbook is available with practical advice on using country systems. Consultancy services have been used in various field offices and regions about PFM and public sector reform. The increased understanding of PFM issues, including public sector reform, is expected to improve Sida staff understanding of how to design and negotiate support that is aligned with country systems.

Making public all conditions linked to disbursement

8. Conditions linked to disbursement are specified in each bilateral agreement. The agreements are publicly available.
Providing full and timely information on annual commitments and actual disbursement

9. The annual financial frameworks are already made public through our cooperation strategies, but Sweden aims at improving the timing of commitments and disbursements to fit better with the budget and planning process and planning of the partner country. Regular reporting to the partner country of these numbers should also be made to increase transparency and facilitate budgeting and planning.

Providing regular and timely information on their rolling three to five year expenditure

10. The contribution management system used by Sida obliges Sweden to manage a three year planning cycle with defined total and annual contributions. The agreements between Sweden and our counterparts include expected disbursements for each year.

11. A new three-year management planning cycle at Sida is expected to contribute to predictability. The management signal for 2009 stressed the importance of planning for longer term agreements with higher volumes.
Key steps taken and planned to implement the AAA

1. The 2008 Bill introduced by the Federal Council to Parliament on the pursuance of ODA to developing countries makes explicit reference to the Paris Declaration and gives mandate to SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation) and SECO (State Secretariat for Economic Affairs) to achieve its objectives so as to enhance aid effectiveness. Accordingly, Switzerland has set itself an objective for 2009 and beyond, which is to apply the PD and the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) in a way that ensures that Switzerland’s specific areas of expertise, experience and thus comparative advantage are made best use of.

2. Switzerland’s approach of the PD and the AAA is contextual, country-based and inclusive. PD and AAA are seen as proposing means to an end, which is aid effectiveness, and beyond, development effectiveness towards achieving the MDGs.

3. Switzerland is in the process of elaborating an AAA implementation plan that will focus in particular on broad based ownership and accountability, the use of country systems, predictability, multi-stakeholder approaches, capacity development and countries in fragile situations. By early 2010, Switzerland expects to have identified ways and means to consistently implement the AAA in these critical areas.

4. Both SDC and SECO are in the process of adapting their instruments and procedures so as to meet MfDR standards. For instance, SDC field offices will from now on produce annual reports on results achieved (rather than annual programmes).

5. On 19 and 20 March 2009, representatives from the UN, the OECD, the World Bank, and Nation have met in Geneva at a conference hosted by the Government of Switzerland. This “3C” Conference, standing for coherent, coordinated, and complementary, brought together for the first time some 250 decision-makers from 40 countries – representing such domains as foreign affairs, security, development cooperation, finance, trade, justice, and law enforcement – to discuss ways to achieve security, development, and peace objectives in fragile situations. Using lessons learned in Afghanistan, Haiti, Liberia, and Sudan, conference participants discussed the benefits, challenges, and operational requirements for a coherent, coordinated, and complementary (3C) approach among the various actors.

Developing plans on using country systems

6. This task is delegated to Swiss Country Offices, with the support of Head Offices. Stocktaking and assessment of potentials as well as obstacles are ongoing. They will feed into the elaboration of the Swiss AAA implementation plan.

Making public all conditions linked to disbursements

7. Any conditions linked to projects and programme support (including budget support) are transparently stipulated in the agreements between Switzerland and the partner country. Swiss Field
Offices make conditions – if any exist – public, in an appropriate way and subject to the partner government’s agreement.

Providing full and timely information on annual commitments and actual disbursements

8. Switzerland – through its Country Offices - provides this information from 2009 onwards in a timely manner. Figures are tentative when and where parliamentary approval is pending in Switzerland.

9. Switzerland is in the process of adapting its financial management and planning systems at Head Offices level so as to provide swifter and more accurate information.

10. Switzerland envisages joining the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI).

Providing regular and timely information on their rolling three to five year expenditure and/or implementation plans

11. Switzerland – through its Country Offices - provides this information from 2009 onwards in a timely manner. Figures are tentative, especially when and where parliamentary approval is pending in Switzerland.

Response to the Global Economic Crisis

12. The impact of the world-wide financial crisis is likely to be considerable on the developing countries. The consequences for their economy will be important in the future especially in light of lower prices for commodities, weaker demand in the developed world for their exports, and reduced investment flows. This will almost certainly slow down economic growth in these countries.

13. Together with other partners Switzerland is assessing the impact how the financial crisis is affecting partner countries, and examining to what extent it can support measures to help these countries mitigate the impact. Switzerland will try to dynamically respond to possible partner countries initiatives towards reorienting programs and development priorities in response to the crisis. Switzerland will also take all possible measures to ensure the greatest possible level of predictability as regards its ODA commitments and disbursements.

14. Switzerland has fully committed itself to the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Next to the commitments on development assistance given at the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development Switzerland also sees enhancing aid effectiveness, as stated in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action, as an essential contribution to achieve the MDGs. Switzerland considers that the PD and AAA commitments are of special importance in the context of the crisis: There is a need to translate the existing resources into better development outcomes and it is therefore important to ensure the highest possible effectiveness in the their use.

15. The Federal Council of Switzerland and the Swiss parliament confirmed recently to keep up the already met ODA-target of 0.4% of the Swiss GNI stated at the Conference in Monterrey and confirmed on various occasions thereafter. Switzerland therefore plans to be consistent with its existing commitments. At the same time there are no signs or indications for the moment that in spite of the actual financial and economic crisis the existing ODA Level will be questioned. Moreover, the Parliament has requested a report on options for accelerating the pace of ODA increase over the coming years.

16. Switzerland agrees with recommendations made on the need to strengthen the multilateral system, which plays a crucial role in view of financing and coordinating measures for crisis response. Switzerland is already making a significant contribution in strengthening the international financial system.
but the deterioration of the situation in the developing countries and emerging economies may call for further action. In this context Switzerland is ready to contribute to increasing the IMF's resources by up to USD 10 billion, subject to parliamentary approval. With regard to the IFI reform, Switzerland will emphasize strengthening the quality of the regulations of the global governance.
UNITED KINGDOM

How DFID is planning to implement the Accra Agenda for Action

General Actions

1. Since Accra, we initiated a review of our mandatory procedures (Blue Book), policy and guidance to identify areas where current practice does not meet the commitments made in the AAA or where we have not yet met the Paris targets. We analysed our results in the 2008 Paris Monitoring Survey, to identify key bottlenecks to meeting the Paris targets and how they can be overcome, particularly where we have not yet met the Paris targets: (a) putting aid of budget, (b) within-year predictability. DFID has met or is very close to meeting the remaining targets.

2. DFID has identified three priority areas in which we will need to take further action to ensure that Paris and AAA commitments are met:
   - Improving predictability of aid and providing countries with 3-5 year forward expenditure and implementation plans;
   - Improving the transparency of our aid and ensuring all government-to-government aid is shown on partner country budgets.
   - Increased promotion of and participation in mutual accountability mechanisms at country level.

Specific Areas for Immediate Action in the Accra Agenda for Action

Using country systems

3. We already meet the Accra target of 50% of government- to-government assistance to be channelled through country fiduciary systems.

Making public all conditions linked to disbursements

4. DFID’s Publishing Project Information (PPI) project, due to commence shortly, will publish details of projects, including conditions, once it is fully implemented. DFID’s Annual Report to the UK Parliament reports all cases where DFID has delayed or reduced aid disbursements due to breaches of these conditions.

Providing information on annual commitments and actual disbursements

5. We plan to give country offices clearer guidance about what to communicate to partner governments and when. We will encourage them to work with partner governments, in the context of locally-owned Public Financial Management reform programmes, to help ensure that a greater proportion of aid is shown on the government budget.
Providing information on rolling 3-5 year expenditure plans

6. We already publish, in DFID’s Annual Report, indicative country allocations for DFID country programmes for the three years of the current UK Spending Review period. However, this does not operate on a rolling basis, but rather for three years at a time. We make rolling commitments where we provide budget support (15 countries out of our 23 focal countries in 2007/08). We are assessing what further action we need to take to meet our commitments.

7. The UK-led International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), launched in Accra, re-emphasises the importance of transparency and has committed donors to improve transparency, including 'sharing more detailed and more up-to-date information about aid in a form that makes information more accessible to all relevant stakeholders.'
UNITED STATES

Implementation of the Accra Agenda for Action


1. The Administration of President Barack Obama began on January 20, 2009. The United States Congress began its 111th Session in the same month. Both branches of the government have given strong, early indications of their support for the international aid effectiveness agenda.

2. The Administration has constituted the International Development and Humanitarian Assistance InterAgency Policy Committee (IPC) to facilitate policy coherence across the U.S. Government. The IPC is co-chaired by the National Security Council and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Beginning-now commitments are being addressed at both interagency and individual agency levels.

3. USAID established an Agency Policy Coordination Committee (APCC) in January 2009 to implement aid effectiveness commitments and propose critical reforms to Obama Administration appointees.

4. The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) has published working papers on country ownership and results.

Developing plans on using country systems (para. 15d)

5. USAID is preparing guidance to reiterate to its field posts existing means by which country systems can be used, and to urge collaboration at country level on plans to strengthen and use specific systems. At the same time, it is developing new, clearer guidance on use of country public financial management systems.

6. The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is undertaking an internal review of its use of country systems and is developing a working paper that will transparently describe how MCC determines whether or not to use country systems, identify existing constraints to use of country systems, and explore opportunities for expanded use of country systems.

7. The Aid Effectiveness sub-IPC continues to work on compiling information on U.S. departments’ and agencies’ guidance, legal and regulatory requirements, etc. for use of country systems to enable coherence.

8. The United States has assumed the co-coordinator role with Ghana for the Country Systems cluster of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness’s 2009-2010 work programme. This is expected to inform and give greater incentive to U.S. business model and policy reforms.


Making public all conditions linked to disbursements (para. 25b)

9. The U. S. Government undertakes very few bilateral conditioned assistance operations. In rare cases when grants of local currency are made to local governments (sometimes called "Cash Transfers"), since they usually involve the release of funds to a government in advance of, or in the absence of requirements for, documentation evidencing actual use of funds, certain conditions may be required by law (see for example, Section 7027 of the 2009 Department of State and Foreign Appropriations Act (Public Law 111-8) and regulations. There are a set of standard conditions related to the management of funds, and ineligible uses of funds (e.g. for terrorist organizations, military or police equipment). In other cases, such as MCC agreements, certain disbursements may be conditioned upon policy reforms.

10. All U. S. Assistance Agreements, and the standard conditions, are available to the public, and, in most cases, published on the internet, with limited exceptions. For example, certain agreements may be classified for national security reasons. This classification occurs in a majority of such (few) cases upon the recipient country's stipulation.

Providing full and timely information on annual commitments and actual disbursements (para. 26b), and providing regular and timely information on rolling three to five year expenditure and/or implementation plans (para 26c).

11. USAID’s APCC has completed a review of legislative authorities and current policy. It has reaffirmed that guidance issued on the eve of the HLF3 on signing multi-year bilateral agreements including indicative planning figures is consistent with the AAA commitment. The APCC is in process of querying its field missions to establish best practice in providing annual and multi-year information.

12. Full five year compact amounts, broken down by project, are made public at time of compact signing. Partner countries, which implement MCC programs, provide annual disbursement request projections on a quarterly basis. The MCC provides quarterly disbursement and project status reports on its website.  

13. The U.S. House of Representatives has introduced legislation to encourage the Administration to participate in and engage with the International Aid Transparency Initiative.

Response to the Global Economic Crisis and Advancing Aid Effectiveness

14. The U. S. sees aid effectiveness as more broadly applicable than to the global crisis only. The global crisis may offer opportunities to pursue the Aid Effectiveness agenda, but Aid Effectiveness is fundamentally aimed at long term programs to promote sustainable development and long-term commitment to serious reform of aid practice. It is vital, therefore, to address both the short-to-medium term exigencies of the global crisis simultaneously sustaining the longer-term development focus.

http://www.mcc.gov/about/reports/status/index.php