THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIPS

Strong partnerships are indispensable to delivering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They can improve transparency, mobilise resources, raise public awareness and facilitate co-ordination among development partners in developing countries. This session will focus on the actions that providers of development co-operation could take to strengthen collaboration to implement more effective development co-operation and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC), in which Arab and DAC providers are a key constituency, is well placed to convene development actors to support achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Key issues for discussion:

- Which partnership mechanisms, at country, regional or global levels, can facilitate co-ordination and improve the quality of development co-operation delivered? What models and successful approaches can providers draw upon and scale-up to support developing countries achieving the SDGs?
- How can the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, in particular, contribute to sharing successful experiences with delivering development co-operation to achieve the SDGs?
- What core aspects of the aid and development effectiveness commitments need urgent and joint action and what can providers do to accelerate progress towards them?

Possible outcomes:

- Support confirmed for the GPEDC as an important platform for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through participation in its voluntary initiatives and follow up on the results of the monitoring exercise tracking progress on delivering more effective development co-operation.
- Agreement to pursue more effective and joint development co-operation activities, especially at country level, to achieve the SDGs.
- Agreement to tackle jointly core aspects of aid and development effectiveness, including by promoting and supporting co-ordination of all providers that are operating on the ground.

The need for stronger partnerships to deliver the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Addis Ababa Agenda for Action (AAAA) emphasised that financing alone cannot deliver development. Today’s development challenges call for stronger partnerships that involve a wide range of stakeholders. Such partnerships help to achieve better development results because they improve transparency, monitoring and mutual accountability of development commitments; they mobilise and share knowledge, technology and financial resources; they raise awareness among the people funding and benefitting from development activities; and they facilitate co-ordination among development partners in developing countries.

In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, partnerships are identified as fundamental for the implementation of the SDGs. This is made explicit in all SDG targets, especially SDG 17, which calls for specific means of implementation and a revitalised global partnership for sustainable development. Arab and DAC providers of development co-operation will therefore need to rely on more and better partnerships, at country, regional and global level, to support developing countries to implement the SDGs successfully.
To do so, providers could:

- Promote participation of all providers in existing co-ordination groups in developing countries.
- Create, where these are lacking, new spaces for collaboration among providers and with developing countries, notably through country-level multi-stakeholder platforms.
- Share ideas on how to use and align with developing country results and other frameworks.

**The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation**

The examples above illustrate some of the commitments and principles underpinning the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC). As an inclusive, multi-stakeholder platform, the GPEDC is well-placed to convene development actors to support achievement of the *2030 Agenda*. In particular, the GPEDC can draw on country-level experience, solutions and good practice to achieve progress in three areas:

- Enhance the quality, effectiveness and impact of development co-operation of all providers.
- Create new, or strengthen existing, multi-stakeholder partnerships for development at country, regional and global level.
- Monitor progress, review results and provide accountability for the principles and commitments on development effectiveness to partner countries.

As the most significant sources of development finance, Arab and DAC providers are a key constituency of the GPEDC and can help shape and prioritise the potential contributions that the GPEDC can make in the post-2015 era.

**Addressing the core aspects of aid and development effectiveness and identifying new challenges**

The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation can also offer a platform to keep international attention focused on the commitments providers have made on aid and development effectiveness – thus paving the way for successful achievement of the SDGs by developing countries. These countries have voiced some concerns that providers are not adhering to the aid and development effectiveness principles and commitments. According to some recent consultations, developing countries are keen to:

- Strengthen the alignment of provider activities with country priorities and results frameworks.
- Reinforce the use of country systems, including providing aid on budget.
- Enhance predictability and transparency.
- Ensure that accountability is mutual.
- Reduce aid fragmentation.

The GPEDC can provide a platform for discussing the core aspects of the Paris, Accra and Busan aid and development effectiveness commitments. The GPEDC’s second monitoring round, taking place in late 2015, will highlight areas where progress is being made and areas where more effort is needed. Analysis of the results of the second monitoring round will also shed more light on developing countries’ concerns and help identify new and future challenges for development.

The DAC members held a preliminary discussion on these issues during the DAC Senior-Level Meeting (19-20 October 2015). The 2016 Arab-DAC Dialogue on Development is an opportunity for the DAC and Arab providers to exchange views and perspectives on this topic. The discussions among providers are happening in parallel to the ones undertaken by developing countries at regional level, under the umbrella of the GPEDC. These exchanges will then feed into discussions between providers and developing countries in the lead up to and at the second GPEDC High-Level Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, November 2016.