

## Side Events

### Inclusive development partnerships for the future

30 November 2016, 13:30-14:30

#### Objective:

*“How do you find the best set of partners for your development co-operation project in today’s complex and ever-changing landscape of actors?”* The main objective of this side event was to discuss how to set up and manage inclusive development partnerships that are fit to tackle global challenges in today’s changing co-operation landscape. After the “perfect match” has been found, the question is how to make this partnership lasting and sustainable. Projects need to become more attractive for different stakeholders, for instance the private sector, civil society organisations and academia. All actors need to be ready to work with others, try different instruments and methodologies, and explore innovative approaches.

Therefore, finding the right partnership arrangement is key to achieving global goals, notably the Sustainable Development Goals. There has already been an increase in global networks, multi-stakeholder partnerships, joint funds and triangular co-operation projects, but more can be done to promote inclusive development partnerships for the future.

#### Participants:

- Lawrence Mwangi, Programme Director, Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF)
- Carlos Watson, Team Leader, South-South Co-operation Team, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Enrique O’Farrill, Head of the Bilateral and Multilateral Department, Chilean International Development Cooperation Agency (AGCID)
- Moderator: Brenda Killen, Deputy Director of the OECD Development Cooperation Directorate

#### Key issues discussed:

Lawrence Mwangi, explained his views on finding the “perfect match” and on how to promote effective and inclusive partnerships to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs). “Pamoja for change”/“Together for change” is one of KCDF’s approaches. From his experience, everything is anchored around public engagement and inclusive participation processes. In particular he mentioned that the Constitution of Kenya provides for, amongst other things, devolution which has established counties that manage public resources and aim to respond to the needs of citizens at that level. In this regard, this presents opportunities for partnerships with the ultimate benefit going to communities. It is important to note that as official development assistance (ODA) to Kenya is continuously shrinking, given the country’s status as a middle-income country, KCDF is increasingly getting involved in local resource mobilization through working in partnership with the private sector. As a result of this, KCDF is able to work with communities at the grassroots

level and relies on partnerships by working through community organizations, building capacities, strengthening community institutions and encouraging county governments to get involved.

Scaling-up can happen by matching funds from the private sector and foundations. KCDF is mobilizing funds from the private sector, government, philanthropy and others and has established an endowment fund. In this case, the funders are open to programmes that match those of KCDF. In addition, KCDF has invested in sustainable community development projects. The Kenyan Philanthropy Forum is a platform that can engage in partnerships for community development. Participation is a key factor for community development projects to be successful.

Carlos Watson, focused on how to maintain the relationship once a match has been found. FAO is striving to enhance its partnership base, going beyond traditional partnerships. Governments, academia, civil society and private sector all have a role to play and contribute to mutual learning and a sharing of development solutions, knowledge, expertise and technologies. Eliminating hunger and malnutrition requires new partnerships and resources, Carlos Watson stressed. He also reminded the participants that when talking about development effectiveness we hear the same things over and over again – but what is actually done in practice? How can we do more and how can we do things together differently?

FAO is, for instance, forging new, innovative partnerships between governments, including other non-state actors such as academia. The Netherlands, China and FAO have agreed to a new triangular cooperation project which aims to foster exchanges between agricultural research institutes/universities of the two countries, with a view to jointly implementing development cooperation programs in Africa. FAO is also inviting more countries to provide financial and/or in-kind resources to enable knowledge sharing between developing countries to happen, including funds for the formulation, implementation and logistical support of activities. In-kind contributions are an important complementary source of resources that can be used to make sharing development solutions happen that otherwise would not have been possible. Carlos Watson encouraged the participants to change the way they perceive triangular cooperation. For instance, there are interesting city-to-city initiatives and cooperation with Parliaments is often crucial to get policies in place. So, let's get practical and talk about how to implement actions.

Enrique O'Farrill, presented Chile's long-standing experience in establishing successful and innovative partnerships, such as joint funds or triangular co-operation, with different partners. One of these innovative development partnerships is the "Chile Fund Against Hunger and Poverty" (implemented by the UNDP with funding from the Government of Chile) with three tracks of work: 1) civil society, e.g. CSOs manage projects, 2) public sector and 3) humanitarian aid. The USD 2 airport tax applied in Chile goes to this fund. Another example is the "Chile-Spain Joint Fund for Triangular Cooperation" where the areas of cooperation are jointly chosen between the partners involved and costs are shared. In the Chile-Japan platform for capacity building, the costs are shared on an equal basis. A fourth example is the "Chile-Mexico Joint Fund" for South-South and Triangular Cooperation where both countries contribute equal funds on an annual basis. One of the particular challenges was however to engage the private sector in a meaningful way, that proves to be mutually beneficial.

In the following discussion, the audience reminded the panel that sometimes small things can go quite far, if the gains are sustained well. Private sector and development thinking are quite separate, but can meet in e.g. scholarships funded by the private sector to train experts in their

particular field of activity. Participants also stressed that we need to get the legal framework right for governments and others to work effectively with the private sector.

**Main conclusions and next steps:**

In summarising the discussion, Brenda Killen noted that many interesting models of innovative, inclusive development partnerships involving different stakeholders are being formed today. Participants agreed on the need to collect more information and to analyze the data on these projects more closely. The OECD recently launched its triangular cooperation online repository of projects and documents and participants were invited to share information on their partnerships so that these can be included. Brenda Killen noted that fascinating development results are achieved on different levels of engagement. But do we capture them adequately? Participants also agreed on the need to make use of these existing experiences to develop a “toolbox” for planning, managing and evaluating partnerships. This also links to a Global Partnership Initiative on triangular co-operation. Finally, participants agreed that, with joint efforts, we can promote inclusive partnerships to tackle development challenges. However, we need to be cautious not to promote them because these modalities are fashionable, but because we see that innovative solutions are generated.