

DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE
Development Assistance Committee**Working Party on Aid Effectiveness****WORKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EFFECTIVE
DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION****Identifying key characteristics****Meeting of the Post-Busan Interim Group**
13-14 February 2012, OECD, Paris

This consultation paper is presented for DISCUSSION. It sets out considerations related to developing working arrangements for the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, with a view to stimulating discussions on the key characteristics of the Global Partnership.

The PBIG may wish to i) exchange initial views on the core functions, nature and support needs of the Global Partnership; ii) provide some preliminary principles to guide the development of a proposal on working arrangements; and iii) identify key questions and decisions points on which further guidance should be sought from the broad WP-EFF in the forthcoming consultation process.

This paper is shared with all WP-EFF participants, who are invited to share their views with members of the interim group, either directly or by means of the discussion facility of the WP-EFF community space (<https://community.oecd.org/community/aideffectiveness>).

Ms. Hanna-Mari Kilpeläinen, tel: +33 (0) 1 45 24 90 36, email: hanna-mari.kilpelainen@oecd.org

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WORKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION: IDENTIFYING KEY CHARACTERISTICS

1. At HLF4 the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness (WP-EFF) was given the mandate to develop working arrangements for a Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (here after “*Global Partnership*”) by June 2012. This paper sets out some issues related to the setting up of a Global Partnership and provides a starting point for consultation within the WP-EFF. This paper is structured in three parts:

- i. Section I sets out relevant background information on the agreement reached at HLF4, especially that relating to the implementation of the *Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation* and working arrangements to support this.
- ii. Section II sets out the proposed approach and process through which these working arrangements will be developed by the WP-EFF over the period leading to June 2012.
- iii. Section III set out some issues to consider in identifying core functions, nature and support needs of the Global Partnership.

I. Background and context

2. The HLF4 outcome document, the *Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation*, sets out shared principles, common goals and differential commitments for effective international development. In addition, the Busan Partnership document (BPd) calls for urgent action to finalise the global structures that will support these efforts.

3. Accepting that “the strengthening of our co-operation and the adherence to both common goals and differential commitments calls for continued high-level political support”, the BPd calls for the establishment of a “new, inclusive and representative Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation to support and ensure accountability for the implementation of commitments at the political level” (BPd §36).

4. The Busan Partnership document has tasked the WP-EFF to agree on light working arrangements for the Global Partnership by June 2012. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the United Nations Development Programme have been invited to support the effective functioning of the Global Partnership, building on their collaboration to date and their respective mandates and areas of comparative advantage. (BPd §36c-d)

5. To date, the WP-EFF, an international partnership of donors, developing countries, civil institutions and organisations established in 2003 has been the international body aiming to accelerate and

deepen implementation of Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action commitments. The main responsibilities of the Working Party have included¹:

- i. facilitating all development actors' efforts to implement their PD/AAA commitments on aid effectiveness;
- ii. monitoring PD/AAA implementation at country level;
- iii. disseminating the PD/AAA messages and supporting implementation at country level including through support for regional platforms and thematic events; and
- iv. promoting relevant applied research, analysis and dialogue on outstanding and emerging issues.

6. The Busan Partnership document calls on the WP-EFF to reach agreement on working arrangements for the Global Partnership "in preparation for the phasing out of the WP-EFF and its associated structures in June 2012" (BPd §36c). Consequently, the WP-EFF will cease to exist in June 2012, and the new Global Partnership will take effect as the key international body for enhancing development effectiveness.

7. In WP-EFF discussions leading up to HLF4, various stakeholders raised concerns over the burdensome nature of the international structures that have grown around efforts to enhance effectiveness of development co-operation. '*Global light, country focused*' has been cited as the paradigm for working arrangements post Busan. Unpacking and sharpening this concept will be of essence in discussions to develop the working arrangements for the Global Partnership.

8. In addition to agreeing on the overall working arrangements for the Global Partnership, the WP-EFF is also tasked with defining the indicators and channels through which global monitoring and accountability will be supported. While the development of working arrangements and monitoring are essentially linked and should be developed in close conjunction with each other, the detailed set of issues related to the post-Busan monitoring framework is not pursued in this paper. A separate consultation paper has been issued to guide discussions on monitoring under the following agenda item of the PBIG meeting [DCD/DAC/EFF(2012)3].

II. Process for agreeing on working arrangements for the Global Partnership

What needs to be agreed and by when?

9. To ensure an efficient work process to develop a final proposal on working arrangements, it is proposed that consultations be sequenced as follows: i) core functions of the Global Partnership; ii) nature of the partnership and support needs to deliver core functions; iii) overall form of the Global Partnership; and iv) detailed arrangements, including roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders.

10. Following this approach, the PBIG is invited to focus its preliminary discussions of 13-14 February on the key functions and nature of the Global Partnership and on the support needed to deliver these functions. Based on the first PBIG discussions and on the subsequent WP-EFF consultation, it is proposed that the PBIG aim to reach agreement on the functions and nature of the partnership and on an outline of the support structures at its second PBIG meeting planned for April. This will allow sufficient time to define the form and details of the working arrangements, including the membership of the partnership, by June 2012.

1. Working Party on Aid Effectiveness Mandate 2009-2010 [DCD/DAC(2009)31/FINAL]

11. The proposals for the working arrangements of the Global Partnership will be developed under the leadership of the WP-EFF Chair, with the support of the WP-EFF Bureau and Secretariat, building on broad inputs from WP-EFF consultations and from PBIG discussions.

III. Establishing light working arrangements for the Global Partnership: Identifying core functions, nature and support needs

What are the core functions of the Global Partnership?

12. As set out in the Bpd, the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation will “support and ensure accountability for the implementation of commitments at political level”. This establishes accountability as a core function of the Global Partnership. The PBIG is invited to consider, **what is needed at the international level to ensure implementation of commitments.**

13. The Bpd calls for an inclusive space for dialogue and for mutual learning to strengthen development co-operation. The Global Partnership is called upon to provide a forum for the exchange of knowledge. To date, there exists a variable geometry of voluntary alliances at country, regional and global levels around different topics relevant for effective development. Furthermore, an important feature of the HLF4 was the emergence of voluntary alliances to drive progress on key themes (HLF4 Building Blocks and other voluntary initiatives). The PBIG is invited to consider how the Global Partnership could best **draw on and benefit from existing partnerships and work streams to facilitate knowledge exchange and mutual learning.**

14. Alongside implementation of Bpd commitments, there are a variety of further roles and responsibilities that may be considered necessary to ensure strengthened effectiveness of development cooperation. The PBIG is invited to consider whether, and if so to what extent, the Global Partnership should take on a **broader development effectiveness role beyond solely reviewing progress in implementing HLF4 commitments.**

How will the Global Partnership deliver these functions?

15. The Bpd states that the Global Partnership should provide “opportunities for regular ministerial level engagement that complements and are undertaken in conjunction with other fora”. Options for regular ministerial level engagement could be grouped into three as follows:

- Independent international forum for discussing development effectiveness (HLF type format)
- Back to back informal discussion linked to high-level formal events
- Development effectiveness discussions integrated into agendas of existing high level meetings

The PBIG is invited to consider, whether there is a need for **anchoring the Global Partnership institutionally**. If this is considered necessary, which option would best support its core functions? How could **links between the Global Partnership and other relevant fora** (e.g. UNDCF) be ensured?

16. While the Bpd emphasises high-level political support as a key characteristic of the Global Partnership, the PBIG is invited to reflect on whether, in addition to ministerial level, there is a need for **working level engagement in the Global Partnership to facilitate mutual learning and knowledge exchange.**

17. The BPd states that the Global Partnership will provide a forum for regular review of progress. To facilitate this, a monitoring framework will be developed. Without going into the details of monitoring, the PBIG is invited to consider whether, on top of the forthcoming monitoring framework, additional **analytical and/or technical inputs would be needed at the international level to ensure accountability for implementing commitments.**

18. Given the BPd emphasis on the important role of regional organisations in supporting implementation at the country level and in linking country priorities with global efforts, **how would the PBIG envision the role of regional organisations in this context?**

19. The BPd sets out as key characteristics of the Global Partnership that it be “inclusive and representative” and that it provide an “open platform that embraces diversity”. In this context, the PBIG is invited to reflect on the composition of the Global Partnership. Would the Partnership be based on **open and voluntary membership or would the PBIG envision some membership criteria to be in place?** Building on the assumption that monitoring and review of progress will form a key function of the Partnership, should for instance **participation in monitoring play a role in the membership of any given stakeholder in the Global Partnership?**

What operational support would the core functions and nature of the Global Partnership require?

20. Given the nature and breadth of the actions agreed in Busan, there is a need for the Global Partnership to complement and work in conjunction with other fora. Resources will be required for identifying key issues for the agenda of the Global Partnership, ensuring the linkages to relevant fora and providing substantive inputs to facilitate political level discussions. The PBIG is invited to consider **how these functions could best be ensured?** Specifically, would agreed chairing arrangements accompanied with Secretariat support be adequate to carry out these tasks or would there be a **need for a strategic body of limited size to lead the work of the Partnership?**

21. In light of the key functions and characteristics that are envisioned for the Global Partnership, the PBIG is invited to provide general guidance as to what would be the **key Secretariat functions necessary to support the effective functioning of the Global Partnership.**

IV. Next steps / questions for discussion

22. WP-EFF participants are invited to provide initial views and comments on the options and questions presented in this note, with a view to informing discussions in the first meeting of the PBIG (13-14 February 2012). During its meeting, the PBIG may wish to:

- Exchange initial views on the core functions, nature and support needs – *i.e.* the key characteristics – of the future Global Partnership
- Provide some preliminary principles to guide the development of a proposal on working arrangements, including subsequent working-level / technical consultations
- Identify key questions and decision points on which further guidance should be sought from the broad WP-EFF in the forthcoming consultation process.