

GPEDC Inputs to the FfD4 Elements Paper

Background

This input responds to the call by FfD4 co-facilitators to identify key policy reforms and solutions that the FfD4 conference should deliver and make concrete proposals on how to strengthen the follow-up process to ensure accountability and implement agreed commitment (cf. instructions [here](#)). GPEDC Co-Chairs prepared the input, with support by the GPEDC Joint Support Team (hosted by the OECD and UNDP respectively) and invited Steering Committee members to share reflections or inputs by 4 October 2024. [Members](#) were encouraged to consult across their constituencies (see Annex 1 of the [Terms of References](#)) in order to get feedback, raise awareness and generate buy-in to the ideas brought forward, as well as reflect key messages in their own or other group submissions to the input paper to reaffirm their support. Inputs were received by a wide range of stakeholders.¹

This final document is shared by GPEDC Co-Chairs on behalf of the Steering Committee as a joint GPEDC input by [15 October 2024](#).

The document

I. [A global financing framework \(including cross-cutting issues\)](#)

The chapeau text in the first section of the FfD4 outcome document, should state the need to complement the commitments on ‘quantity’ (mobilising resources) with those on ‘quality’ and impact, building on the below paragraphs.² This would also frame references to effectiveness across chapters/action areas of the document.

Development Effectiveness is an essential pathway to drive sustainable development. A more systematic focus on the benefits of development effectiveness, and addressing the bottlenecks, trade-offs and conundrums to help accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda and SDGs is essential to reinstate trust, increase financing for development and achieve long-term positive impacts.

- **The development effectiveness agenda is a forward and solution-oriented agenda** basing concrete actions on empirical evidence and lessons emanating at country level, and feeding into policy making and commitments at the global level.
- **Development effectiveness *commitments* are essential for *all* types of financing for sustainable development**, and should be applied, tracked and honoured to fill the SDG financing gap and guide the (post-)2030 development agenda. Other, related efforts, for instance, allocation of existing financial resources and providing targeted support where most needed are equally essential.
- **The agreed³ development co-operation effectiveness *principles* – country ownership, focus on results, inclusive development partnerships, and transparency and accountability to each other:**

¹ Bangladesh, Canada, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, DR Congo, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Nepal, New Zealand, The Philippines, Portugal, Spain, Somalia, Sweden, Switzerland, USA, and other stakeholders, incl. CIPE, CPDE, ITUC, ORU-FOGAR, and UCLG.

² It can build on the reference made to the most recent **Pact for the Future: Action 4. We will close the Sustainable Development Goal financing gap in developing countries** [...] (e) Ensure that development assistance is focused on and reaches developing countries, focused in particular on the poorest and most vulnerable, and take further actions to **strengthen its effectiveness**. [...]

³ **The development co-operation effectiveness principles and the principles of South-South co-operation** have been recognized in the AAAA (in OP 58 and 57 respectively). Related commitments and recommendations have evolved since the Monterrey Consensus in 2002, building on the aid effectiveness process and UN High-Level Conferences on South-South Co-operation. The Doha Declaration in 2008 suggested making South-South Co-operation initiatives more effective in accordance with the principles of aid effectiveness. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda welcomed adhering to the four shared development co-operation effectiveness principles agreed in Busan in 2011 by 161 governments and 56 international organisations. It also encouraged developing countries to further improve the development effectiveness of South-South and Triangular Co-operation in accordance with the

- **Hold true and increase in relevance as development co-operation increasingly mobilises different types of finance from a growing number of development partners and partnerships.** When put into practice, the principles can help deliver resources in line with country priorities, including through impactful partnerships and inclusive dialogue open to all development actors, including non-executive entities such as the private sector, parliamentarians, civil society organizations, trade unions, philanthropy and local and regional governments.
- **Are tried and tested.** The principles build on decades of experience of what works and what does not and promote a change in culture towards testing new ways of doing development which, in turn, holds promise to instill much needed trust between development actors.
- **Are more than ever relevant to call for inclusive, locally- and country-led development policies, partnerships and practices,** and better coordination among diverse partners, to reduce transaction costs and burden on partner countries, to enhance country systems, and to respond better to the growing calls and needs by people and the planet.
- **Greater progress – through political leadership and capacity building – to applying the effectiveness principles in their entirety is an essential pathway to enhance delivery on SDG commitments, notably SDG 17 to address the financing gap and shape future development priorities** as it points to true bottlenecks, hindrances and conundrums around areas where progress is lacking. Together with the principles guiding South-South Co-operation as well as Triangular Co-operation as complementary approaches to address global development challenges, they incentivize improved and accelerated delivery of the SDGs.
- **The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC) drives stakeholders towards building impactful partnerships for the SDGs by helping them to implement and track progress around the four principles,** with the understanding that the principles are applied differently across countries at various stages of development and among different types of public, private and civil society stakeholders involved. The ongoing GPEDC global monitoring round will bring new evidence into the discussions on effectiveness including the process leading up to FfD4.
- **Effective development cooperation, through improved delivery and strengthened partnerships for sustainable development driven by developing countries, must once again become a central focus of development financing discussions.** Clarity on the incentives to drive development effectiveness is critical to help address global challenges in a changing financing landscape across multiple levels of governance and communities. A focus on nationally-owned sustainable development strategies, using ODA strategically, mobilizing additional private resources, and effective partnerships will all be essential to put the world on track toward the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

II. Action areas

a. Domestic public resources

- Strengthening the effectiveness – in particular **country ownership, mutual accountability, and transparency in the use of public resources** – can help mobilize more domestic public resources in financing the 2030 Agenda.
- **Using and strengthening country systems in line with agreed commitments,** incl. national statistical systems, to encourage a more effective use of domestic (and international) resources is essential for being able to deliver on development objectives in a timely manner.

provisions of the Nairobi outcome document of the High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Co-operation. BAPA+40 also acknowledged the need to enhance the development effectiveness of South-South and triangular co-operation, and encouraged partners to further enhance it, taking into account the provisions of inter alia FfD3.

- **Deepening, extending and operationalizing the democratic ownership of development policies and processes** is key to deliver lasting results and impact by leaving no one behind.
 - Reversing the trend of shrinking civic space wherever it is taking place, is paramount for **building a positive environment** for sustainable development, peaceful societies, accountable governance and for the achievement of the 2030 agenda and the SDGs.
- b. Domestic and international private business and finance
- **Improving the effectiveness, accountability, and transparency of development finance can help attract more private investments, which is a priority for partner countries.** We welcome the call to place greater focus on development impact, rather than on quantity or degree of leverage alone, including by ways to improve partnerships with the private sector, at the 2024 FfD Forum.
 - **Formulating and implementing guidance on effective partnering with the private sector will amplify the effort to mobilise private finance – essential for closing the SDG financing gap.** Engagement with the domestic and international private sector requires greater understanding of the policies and dialogue, the quality of engagement and ease of partnering needed to work with multinationals, domestic firms and MSMEs as well as financial actors and experts in line with international standards to harness their full potential. Effective engagement with private sector stakeholders can help to access finance to, among other things, deliver income generation opportunities and decent jobs for all, while making business profits. Effective public-private dialogue at country level, initiated by governments and involving external partners, is key to define shared agendas and improve partnerships and the policy environment for sustainable development outcomes. The Kampala Principles for Effective Private Sector Engagement provide relevant guidance for all partners and the Kampala Principles Assessment⁴ (KPA) is providing evidence to focus on relevant shared priorities for action for countries that undertake it as part of the GPEDC Global Monitoring round.
 - To optimize aid delivery, including through a continued focus on **untying aid**⁵ is key to enhance the effectiveness of private sector engagement in development by allowing developing countries more flexibility in procurement or otherwise enable more locally-led entities to successfully compete for development co-operation resources.
- c. International development cooperation **[MAIN PRIORITY SECTION FOR GPEDC]**
- **Respective ODA commitments, including for 0.7% of donor GNI to ODA must be met, with 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNI for the least-developed countries.**
 - **Effectiveness challenges have amplified since the Addis Ababa Conference of 2015.** Country ownership considerations remain central and are, at times, complex. This can include difficult trade-offs with whole-of-society approaches, challenges in the use of country systems and related capacity constraints, and bottlenecks in identifying, engaging and targeting the furthest

⁴ [The Kampala Principles Assessment](#) (KPA), a novel part of the GPEDC monitoring, provides actionable insights, generated through multi-stakeholder data collection, to support policy-makers and practitioners to deepen partnerships with the private sector; it covers four issue areas: the state of policies, inclusive dialogues, the quality of PSE and the ease of partnering. The KPA findings can be used to inform multi-stakeholder dialogues in participating countries with relevant evidence, identify and overcome bottlenecks for collaboration, improve co-ordination among development actors, and thereby build trust between public, private and civil society partners. By demonstrating the impact of public-private collaboration, KPA can lead to greater investment, uptake and scaling up such partnerships.

⁵ [DAC Recommendation on Untying ODA](#)

behind, including in fragile contexts.⁶ Country Ownership also relates to calls for greater representation of developing countries in related processes. Proliferation and fragmentation of the aid system jeopardise effectiveness, quality and impact. This was already acknowledged in the AAAA and at BAPA+40, but with progress on the SDGs and their financing lagging, working in principled ways in complex settings requires greater attention to these bottlenecks.

- **The FfD4 outcome document should therefore:**
 1. **CLEARLY REAFFIRM THE SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES OF DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS: Reiterate that the scope of the development co-operation effectiveness principles applies to all types of development co-operation**, linking to other FfD sections/action areas that require updating. This includes multilateral effectiveness (MDBs and UN System), empowering the countries of the global south, private sector engagement, aligning climate finance with country needs, multi-stakeholder partnerships, locally-led development and disaster risk reduction, potentially also issues related to trade, debt, taxation, governance.
 2. **REAFFIRM PRINCIPLES AND UPDATE COMMITMENTS:**
 - **Reiterate the validity, integrity and continued relevance of the shared development co-operation effectiveness principles – Country Ownership, Focus on Results, Inclusive Partnerships and Mutual Accountability and Transparency –, and not reopen or renegotiate them.** This would distract from much-needed country action.
 - **Update related commitments (AAAA OP 58), to show how they enable sustainable development concretely and demonstrate how these commitments are linked to national development planning processes:** i.e. that development co-operation that is owned and driven by rights holders ('whole-of-society approaches') allows for working with/enabling the policy environment of different partners while supporting public administrations; promoting harmonization and donor coordination addresses fragmentation and streamlining of efforts by partners; locally led initiatives, collective accountability, transparency and a focus on long-term results and impact builds trust; addressing poverty and inequalities and shared global challenges requires linking to broader governance and architectural reform efforts and linking to broader policy coherence for sustainable development agenda etc.
 3. **PROPOSE MORE DIALOGUE AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING AMONG ALL STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION:**
 - **Acknowledge the uniqueness of South-South co-operation (SSC), reaffirming SSC principles, as well as Triangular Co-operation, and propose deepening dialogue and knowledge sharing opportunities to discuss and address effectiveness challenges all providers are facing.** This requires reiterating the diverse history, mandate and self-understanding of different partners and leveraging each of their strengths, especially of using diverse modalities such as Triangular Cooperation, in different, especially complex contexts, and of coordination among DAC and non-DAC providers at country level, and globally.

⁶The [new GPEDC monitoring](#) promotes collective accountability through the lens of the four effectiveness principles by measuring progress around four thematic areas: whole-of-society, state and use of country systems, transparency and leaving no one behind. The exercise provides the main source of evidence on stakeholders' commitments on effectiveness and generates behaviour change for strong development impact through inclusive follow-up and country-level dialogue, learning and joint action amongst all actors.

- **Recommend to initiate/deepen dialogue among different types of providers** to further share knowledge without regional distinction, align approaches and programmatic efforts, and foster greater collaboration, e.g. by using existing dialogues among providers (e.g., Global Providers Meeting, Arab-DAC meetings, LAC-DAC provider meetings, exchange in the context of South-South and Triangular Co-operation meetings, including in the BAPA+40 follow-up process, etc.).
- **Similar dialogue opportunities should also be made available for recipient partner countries** to share their lessons learned and best practices in optimizing the aid and/or assistance provided.
- **Dialogue and knowledge sharing should generally be inclusive of all stakeholders**, including civil society and private sector.

4. **PROMOTE COUNTRY ACTION THROUGH MONITORING EVIDENCE, DIALOGUE AND LEARNING:**

- **Commit to a new learning agenda focused on country and local-level action based on evidence and inclusive dialogue with support of all key partners.** At a time when trust has eroded, open, inclusive and participatory action dialogues at the country level are essential to build a common understanding and stronger partnerships, enabling each to make their best contribution to the national and other commonly agreed development goals. These dialogues should include all relevant actors and build on their plurality and diversity. National multi-stakeholder participation policies can be a useful instrument in this regard. This would require re-activating the ‘effectiveness ecosystems’ within countries, and entail getting all relevant actors at the table (including all providers as well as non-executive entities), using existing dialogue platforms, focus on bottlenecks to deliver in specific contexts based on evidence from monitoring efforts to inform debate, and link up to existing, broader policy ambitions (both nationally and globally, e.g. INFFs), leading to action plans and commitments at country level to be delivered. This requires reaffirming existing efforts to provide comprehensive data on effectiveness on a regular and timely basis, with the GPEDC monitoring being the most comprehensive exercise (see AAAA OP 53 and 125/126). This also requires careful thinking around how to promote the effectiveness of South-South co-operation at country level.
- **The evidence from the GPEDC monitoring serves as input for all actors** with a stake in development to drive dialogue, learning and policy change in areas that emerge and to deliver on their commitments related to effectiveness on all types of development co-operation, as well as other commitments (including delivering on 0.7% of GNI/ODA). The monitoring evidence can also inform allocation decisions.

5. **STREAMLINE THE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION ARCHITECTURE: Reaffirm the need for frank global dialogue on development effectiveness underpinned by evidence.**

This requires driving political momentum at regional and global level by reiterating that:

- The GPEDC is an accelerator of the SDGs and national development strategies, and serves as venue to drive country action on development effectiveness based on the GPEDC monitoring in a unique multi-stakeholder setting with all actors engaging on an equal footing in policy dialogue.
- DCF and FFD review global trends in development co-operation and promote delivery on FfD4 commitments.

- The GPEDC HLM4 in 2026 is the next opportunity after FfD4 to take stock of development effectiveness, accelerate progress, drive accountability and inform policy dialogue at the United Nations on trends in development co-operation at the global level.

In the context of the call for reform of the international financial architecture, FfD4 should consider:

- **How the global development co-operation architecture can be consolidated and streamlined**, being cognizant of different mandates, histories and self-understandings of different players, and being efficient, responsive, inclusive and open to all stakeholders, addressing existing systemic imbalances, and learning from the lessons of different governance arrangements. This is critical to restore trust in the multilateral system. The GPEDC, with its multi-stakeholder governance, could play a crucial role in shaping this reformed architecture.
- **How evidence from multiple mechanisms and frameworks reporting on sustainable development efforts can be consolidated**, including by proposing to align the DCF survey and GPEDC monitoring in the medium-term.

d. International trade as an engine for development

- Reaffirm AAAA commitment to adhere to effectiveness principles when programming aid for trade.

e. Debt and debt sustainability

- Enhancing debt transparency is critically important for credible debt management.
- Addressing sovereign debt distress
- The document should support developing countries and LDCs in strengthening their fiscal policies and debt management systems to ensure sustainable debt levels and prevent future financial crises. The document should also support responsible lending and borrowing, based on transparency and national ownership. By improving debt sustainability frameworks, countries can better manage their obligations, avoid over indebtedness, and maintain fiscal space for essential development projects. This rhymes with the GPEDC's focus on enhancing the effectiveness of financial flows and ensuring that debt is managed transparently and in ways that foster long-term development and financial stability.

f. Addressing systemic issues: N/A

g. Science, technology, innovation and capacity building: N/A

III. Emerging issues

- **Advocate for the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)** to better align with the objectives of effective development co-operation. These institutions must prioritise financing of the most critical challenges for sustainable development, based on the needs and interests of partner countries.
- In line with the GPEDC's principles of inclusiveness and transparency, **there is a growing need to create more inclusive and adaptive governance structures within IFIs and MDBs**. This reform would foster a more equitable approach to development finance, allowing for better representation and decision-making.

IV. Data, monitoring and follow-up

- **Recognise the importance of robust data on effective development co-operation as provided through the GPEDC monitoring** and support future monitoring rounds to track commitments,

promote mutual accountability and transparency (including through the International Aid Transparency Initiative, IATI), and foster behaviour change. All UN member states, from partner countries to development partners, should commit to regularly participating in country-led GPEDC monitoring and follow-up action at country level, potentially linked to other processes (e.g., INFFs or VNRs). GPEDC Monitoring generates data for SDGs 5 and 17 and provides input to the revised UN Funding Compact.

- **Use the Kampala Principles Assessment (KPA)**, a novel component of the GPEDC monitoring exercise, to generate evidence to track and stimulate greater effectiveness on private sector engagement in development co-operation.
- **A consolidation of efforts, based on the strengths of existing mechanisms within and beyond the United Nations, is needed to shift to a new era.** The UN FfD Forum should include debate on the quality, impact and effectiveness of all types of development co-operation, while the GPEDC continues generating data, supporting policy dialogue and learning and promoting accountability and progress on development effectiveness.
- **The international community will be able to capitalise on the 4th GPEDC High-Level Meeting (2026) to take the pulse of progress of commitments related to effectiveness made at FfD4,** and the regular Busan Forums the Government of the Republic of Korea is organizing to review trends and promote learning and knowledge sharing on emerging effectiveness challenges. The GPEDC, together with its partners from UNDP, the OECD and UNDCO, will also support country-led dialogue for taking action on GPEDC monitoring findings.
- It will be important for the international community to follow up on all commitments made in the FfD4, and we therefore propose to build in a follow up process to measure and report on the commitments, including on development effectiveness, made in the Outcome Document of FfD4. This will enable follow-up and accountability by all actors.

END