

**CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE)
Room Document for the 14th GPEDC Steering Committee Meeting
Dhaka, Bangladesh | 24-25 October, 2017**

CPDE welcomes the continued commitment of the Global Partnership in pushing our work on Development Effectiveness forward. CPDE also commends the progress made in the GPEDC Programme of Work and its various Working Groups.

In this Steering Committee meeting it is vital that we take this opportunity to set in motion the commitments we made in the 2nd High-Level Meeting in Nairobi. This includes the need to refine the existing monitoring framework (NOD §102), considerations over the 4th non-executive co-chair (NOD Annex I Box I), and time-bound action plans over the realization of Effective Development Co-operation commitments (NOD §36). This also means ensuring that the programme of work is revised to reflect what we set out in Nairobi. As it stands, several important commitments such as those above have not been included.

CPDE cannot stress enough the importance of realising the commitments made in Nairobi, most importantly the commitment to realising our unfinished business since Paris by setting-up time-bound action plans, as well as efforts to combat shrinking spaces for civil society. It is important that these are reflected as a cross-cutting theme of the Working Groups, but it must also be clear that this is taken up at steering committee level to be reflected in the overall work programme of the global partnership.

The Global Action Plan (GAP), done right, may also be the defining niche of the GPEDC, i.e. bringing together different actors in a safe place to learn from each other and create the resolve towards behaviour change that could matter in the lives of people and people. It will also be a critical area of work that demands dedicated focus and technical expertise where political dialogue between different actors at country level will take place in order to determine what needs to be done.

The GAP will also be crucial in contributing to the achievement of Paragraph 36 of the NOD on time-bound action plans to meet the unfinished business as well as be the thread that pulls the different Working Groups together and provides coherence and clarity.

The GAP is currently allocated to Working Group 2 on unlocking the potential of effectiveness; however, the issues covered therein by the GAP range across all the Working Groups, from which an effective action plan can only be drawn. In order to achieve an effective GAP with substantial buy-in from all the GPEDC stakeholders, the process for developing it should be elevated to the Steering Committee level. Here the Co-Chairs can work with the JST to elaborate a process for setting out a draft GAP for all to consider, given its importance and the responsibility of the SC as the governing body of the GPEDC.

As an active member of all the Working Groups and the co-lead for Working Group 2, CPDE understands the critical work being done for the different strategic outputs. However, as it has been pointed out in Working Group meetings, these groups lack synergy between each other.

CPDE is steadfast in its resolve to provide its expertise in the development of this Global Action Plan, that can provide the necessary overarching “umbrella” / overview for the interconnections between the work and outcomes of the different working streams of the GPEDC workplan. We look forward to working with the Co-Chairs and the JST to develop this GAP based on the full range of work being undertaken by the GPEDC through the Steering Committee.

The coordination between the different Working Groups remains challenging. In the bigger picture, there is also need for some clarity on how to develop synergies between the pilot exercise, the knowledge hub,, and the development of the monitoring round. How these initiatives intend to affect behavioral change to countries must be explicitly stated.

CPDE therefore emphasizes the need for clear TORs for each Working Group as well as a macro work-plan to complement the GAP. The latter would help synergize efforts across Working Groups and to chart a clearer picture to how NOD commitments are being met and the priority directions for the Global Partnership.

CPDE also finds it alarming that there has been limited interest among the GPEDC constituencies in the SC and beyond in joining the Working Groups, which is supposed to be the execution of GPEDC’s programme of work. As it stands there are only 7 out of 25 GPEDC Steering Committee members involved in these groups. The original purpose of this arrangement is to promote ownership of work amongst Steering Committee members but also to GPEDC members beyond the SC, and at its current state we are failing at this effort.

TOP RECCOMENDATIONS TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE

On objective 1 & 2: Overview of Status in implementing the Work Programme for Steering Committee Guidance and Inclusive exchanges on the Work Programme’s six strategic outputs-

- Commitments made in Nairobi, most importantly the commitment to realising our unfinished business since Paris by setting-up time-bound action plans [NOD §36], as well as efforts to combat shrinking spaces for civil society must be reflected in the work programme [NOD §18].
- The Global Action Plan (GAP) should be re-casted and elevated to the Steering Committee level given its importance and the responsibility of the SC as the governing body of the GPEDC. The GAP is crucial in contributing to the achievement of Paragraph 35 of the NOD on time-bound action plans to meet the unfinished business as well as be the thread that pulls the different Working Groups together and provides coherence and clarity. The SC should direct the Co-Chairs to work with the Joint Support Team to develop time bound targets and a draft Action Plan.
- Working Group1: There should be a balance between qualitative analyses and quantitative data. There should be recognition of citizens' initiative reports and independent evaluation studies complementary to data and evidence. The pilot exercise should involve provider countries as it cannot just focus on how developing countries fulfil their responsibilities towards development effectiveness.

- Working Group 2: Clarify the scope of work of the Working Group and the Steering Committee in relation to the GAP. If the SC assumes responsibility for the GAP as suggested above, the focus of this Working Group should then be on revisions to the monitoring framework and plans for multi-stakeholder follow up at the country level on outcomes of the monitoring exercise. Resourcing needs of the Working Group should also be discussed and identified.
- Working Group 3: The knowledge collected for the knowledge hub must not just become a repository of documents, but rather it should focus on ways to utilize knowledge as 'actionable' knowledge for reforms and behaviour change that further the development effectiveness principles.
- Working Group 4: There should be a significant review or extension of the timeframe for Strategic Output 4 on private sector to ensure that all commitments from the NOD are integrated. The Caucus of Like-Minded Business Groups must be re-organized to effectively support the Working Group.
- Refinement of the Monitoring Framework and document: The current indicators must be clarified with more inclusive methodologies for implementation. The Global Partnership should begin with the gaps in progress as highlighted by the 2016 Progress Report. In particular, the Steering Committee should bear in mind the recommendations of the Monitoring Advisory Group (MAG): (a) improve their relevance to effective development cooperation commitments and to achieve the SDGs; and, (b) promote inclusive accountability, particularly at the country level.

On objective 3: Discussion of Proposal of non-executive Co-Chair-

- CPDE calls for the approval of this proposal and for the process on the selection of the Non-executive co-chair to commence immediately.

On objective 4: Inclusive exchanges on Proposal for GPEDC's influential engagement in international development agenda-

- GPEDC should be providing substantive contributions through promoting development effectiveness in development cooperation in support of the 2030 Agenda. It should work towards the alignment of the monitoring process with the annual 2030 Agenda Progress Report. The GPEDC should participate and provide progress on implementation in various fora such as the OECD-DAC, HLPF, and AU heads of states.

On objective 5: Identify steps to harness the benefits of Global Partnership Initiatives-

- Linkages between the activities of GPIs and the respective development co-operation commitment they aim to advance should be shown. How GPIs fit in the structure of the GPEDC work programme should be clarified as well. There should be a clear overall mapping for all GPEDC work including the GPIs.