

From the first High-Level Meeting towards 2015 and beyond:

Strengthening the vision and contributions of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation

Global Partnership Steering Committee
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This document is shared with Steering Committee members for discussion under agenda item 1, and sets out a proposed vision for the Global Partnership for 2014-16. Committee members are encouraged to seek views on the proposed vision from the constituencies they are representing, and to structure their feedback particularly around the four question set out on pages 3-4 of this document.

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Busan (2011) and the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation: A turning point for development co-operation

The Busan Partnership agreement embodies an important paradigm shift in the nature of development co-operation. Two key factors contributed to this shift: the realisation that aid alone is not enough to achieve shared development goals, and the recognition of an evolving and increasingly complex development “architecture” characterised by a greater variety of actors, country contexts and new forms of partnership.

In response to the evolving development landscape, the Busan Partnership agreement reinforced the core principles of the Paris Declaration (2005) and the Accra Agenda for Action (2008) for effective aid, while also embracing diversity and recognising that different stakeholders may approach a common development agenda and shared principles in different ways.

With the 2015 target date for the Millennium Development Goals fast approaching, the Busan High-Level Forum recognised the urgency to achieve strong, shared and sustainable growth, and that success would depend on the results and impact of joint efforts.

Previous experience suggested the value of a global partnership mechanism to drive reform. The final Evaluation of the Paris Declaration confirmed that the implementation of common effectiveness principles had helped to strengthen standards of partnerships, and legitimised demand from developing countries that good practice be observed. It recommended that the international development community build on joint partnership mechanisms to pursue further development co-operation reform (Wood et al., 2011).

The Busan Partnership agreement acknowledged that strengthening co-operation called for continued high-level political support, as well as an inclusive space for dialogue, mutual learning and accountability at the global level. To this end, it called 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”. In its inception in June 2012, the Global Partnership for Effective Co-operation set out as its core objectives to maintain and strengthen political momentum for more effective development co-operation; ensure accountability for implementing Busan commitments; facilitate knowledge exchange and sharing of lessons learned; and support implementation of Busan commitments at the country level.

The next cycle of the Global Partnership 2014-16

The first High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, hosted by Mexico in April 2014, successfully positioned the Global Partnership as a unique space for multi-stakeholder dialogue on effective development co-operation.

The Busan spirit – beyond aid, beyond government, beyond north-south – took concrete shape in Mexico. Active participation from a broadening range of actors confirmed the relevance of Busan principles for all forms of development co-operation.

Broad preparatory consultations, as well as the meeting communiqué, highlighted the Global Partnership’s relevance and comparative advantage in supporting collective efforts that will contribute to the global development architecture in the run-up to and beyond 2015. In this context, the Global Partnership can fulfil its mandate to maintain and strengthen political momentum for effective development co-operation by addressing topical issues relevant for maximising the impact of development co-operation, including those emerging within the post-2015 development agenda.

The vision on the added value of the Global Partnership within the global development architecture could be summarised as follows:

The Global Partnership aspires to make a substantial contribution to the pre- and post-2015 process aimed at eradicating poverty and inequality. It provides the global umbrella for a range of organisations and initiatives that bring all development stakeholders together to spur action for more effective development through knowledge sharing, mutual learning and accountability.

This vision is elaborated in more detail below.

The Global Partnership vision

The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation is an open and inclusive platform that **brings together all development stakeholders** on equal terms to ensure policy, knowledge and funding produce long-term development results. It supports the implementation of internationally agreed development objectives on the basis of **common principles** that form the foundation of effective development co-operation: ownership by developing countries; results as a focus of development efforts; partnerships for inclusive development; and transparency and accountability to one another.

The Partnership supports all development actors, on the basis of their specific situations, to work together at the **country level to deliver better results** for poverty reduction, facilitating member-driven voluntary alliances as well as supporting country-led implementation efforts that tailor effectiveness principles to different themes and contexts.

The Partnership supports **mutual learning** between different actors and partnership models. Drawing on voluntary, member-driven initiatives it captures, collates and disseminates lessons and best practices for effective development co-operation at global, country and organisation levels and promotes the application of these in different contexts.

Accountability for implementing commitments provides the basis for delivering results. The Partnership collects evidence and reviews progress against Busan commitments to identify challenges and highlight where focused efforts are needed to strengthen the quality and effectiveness of development co-operation and reach agreed targets.

Drawing on these efforts, the Global Partnership provides a space for high-level dialogue that is evidence-based and multi-stakeholder, and fosters **political momentum for the implementation and accountability of internationally agreed development goals**. As a driver of reform, the Global Partnership provides a laboratory of ideas to spur innovation, synergies and more effective partnerships. The Global Partnership can make a valuable contribution to the post-2015 development agenda by strengthening country ownership, upholding development co-operation commitments, promoting a partnership approach to achieve development results and provide evidence and inputs to inform discussions at the United Nations.

Steering Committee members are encouraged to seek views on the vision for the Partnership from the constituencies they are representing and, building on their experience and champion role around different voluntary initiatives and building blocks, provide concrete and practical suggestions to help incentivise behaviour change that leads to better development impact on the ground. The time between this meeting of the Steering Committee and the next one in the fall of 2014 (date to be confirmed) will provide an opportunity for further consultation to consolidate the vision and mobilise broad support from stakeholders to translate this vision into swift action.

To further articulate the Partnership's vision and sharpen its unique contributions to global development efforts, Steering Committee members are invited to provide feedback on the proposed vision summarised above, focusing on the four issues set out below to guide the discussion.

I. Accelerating country-level implementation by tailoring effectiveness principles to different contexts

The relevance of Busan principles for the global development architecture, including the post-2015 framework, will ultimately be confirmed through demonstrating concrete results on delivering more effective development co-operation at the country level by 2015. This requires strengthened focus on country-level implementation.

The [Global Partnership Progress Report 2014](#) and its findings provide a basis for targeting implementation efforts. It indicated that while longstanding efforts to change the way development co-operation is delivered are paying off, much more needs to be done to transform co-operation practices and ensure country ownership of all development efforts, as well as transparency and accountability among development partners. Particular priorities identified in the Progress Report include further strengthening and using country systems for planning and delivery of development co-operation, and increasing predictability of funding in the short and medium term. The Mexico High-Level Meeting also advanced discussions on strengthening domestic resource mobilisation and the roles that different actors can play in supporting efforts in this area.

Building on multi-stakeholder alliances (including voluntary initiatives and building blocks), what innovative country-level approaches to effective co-operation can Steering Committee members and other stakeholders showcase over the next biennium of the Global Partnership to sharpen its value-added and relevance for different stakeholders over a range of country contexts?

For example: what are the success stories emerging from voluntary initiatives that can provide concrete examples of more effective co-operation in different contexts (such as fragile states, south-south and triangular co-operation)? What practical examples of strengthening and using country systems provide lessons for stronger ownership, alignment and development results?

II. Enhancing mutual learning

Efforts to make development co-operation more effective are varied and continue to evolve, therefore knowledge sharing and mutual learning provide the basis for innovation and collective progress. The Global Partnership provides a forum where all actors share best practices and identify practical solutions that work.

How could Global Partnership stakeholders better capture and share best practices and lessons, including drawing on voluntary initiatives, to strengthen mutual and inclusive dialogue and learning on what works through country, regional and global levels?

For example: what mechanisms have been successful in capturing and sharing lessons from the country level (for instance regional organisations and platforms, ad hoc workshops, communities of practice)? Around what issues could Steering Committee members lead in bringing evidence and lessons to the table and disseminating these across different stakeholder groups and regions?

III. Strengthening accountability for results

Accountability for implementing agreed commitments is a key feature of the Global Partnership, and reinforces its credibility as a partnership driven by demonstrating results. The monitoring framework is a central element of accountability, identifying successes and obstacles to guide implementation efforts and enhance progress. In addition, different stakeholders are expected to play a proactive role in defining their respective commitments and actions within the framework of the Busan agreement.

Alongside strengthening the monitoring framework, including its indicators and process, how can Steering Committee members lead by example and encourage different stakeholders' implementation efforts to demonstrate collective accountability for implementing Busan commitments and to share lessons?

For example: How are developing countries and their bilateral and multilateral partners using the findings from the monitoring report and other sources of evidence to improve their co-operation practices and strengthen mutual accountability? What next steps do foundations and CSOs envisage in fulfilling their agreed effectiveness guidelines and principles? What action/mechanisms do all stakeholders foresee over the next two years to demonstrate continued accountability and learning?

IV. Anchoring effective development co-operation in the post-2015 global development agenda

The High-Level Meeting confirmed the Global Partnership's contribution to advance efforts for more effective development cooperation, with poverty eradication at its core, as part of the "how" of the implementation of the new UN-designed post-2015 global agenda. Alongside its primary role of supporting implementation of commitments and actions agreed in the Busan Partnership agreement, the Global Partnership is well placed to address topical issues relevant for effective development co-operation, adapting to new trends and actors to ensure its relevance and impact.

Building on its multi-stakeholder approach and convening power to bring together voluntary alliances, how would Steering Committee members, together with broader Global Partnership stakeholders, further articulate practical contributions of the Partnership to help implement the post-2015 development framework, including concrete links to the elements of means of implementation and accountability?