

The Accra Agenda for Action on Aid Effectiveness

From September 2-4, 2008, donor countries, recipient countries, and civil society organizations met for a **High Level Forum (HLF3) in Accra, Ghana** to assess progress on the implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and to agree to an “agenda for action.” The Accra High Level Forum ended with the adoption of the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) through which the international community reaffirmed its commitment to achieve progress in the implementation of the Paris Declaration and intensify efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness

The **Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005)** is “a roadmap to improve the quality of aid and its impact on development.” It is the most recent agreement by donor and recipient countries to reform the delivery and management of aid monies in order to strengthen its impact and effectiveness. The Paris Declaration is also the strongest commitment to date on development aid, as it redefined the relationship between donor and recipient countries. Specifically, developing countries were clearly charged with their own development process, and both donors and recipients are accountable to achieving development results. The Paris Declaration is important because it addresses issues of quantity and quality of aid. Its successful implementation will increase the impact of aid on improving economic growth, reducing poverty and attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.

The Paris Declaration was adopted in March 2005 at a High-Level Forum (HLF2) organized by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). At the HLF2, ministers from over 100 countries, heads of bilateral and multilateral development agencies and donor organizations took stock of achievements and identified measures to achieve greater progress by 2010. The Paris Declaration is currently being adhered to by approximately 122 donor and recipient countries and 26 international organizations. Its timetable for



commitments extends to 2010, and a final High Level Forum 4 (HLF4) will be held in 2011 to review progress on the Paris Declaration’s 12 indicators of progress and 21 targets.

The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness defines five (5) principles and 56 commitments by

which donors and developing countries intend to ensure that aid is as effective as possible in contributing to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other internationally agreed development objectives.

The Five (5) Principles of the Paris Declaration

Ownership: Development will be successful and sustained, and aid fully effective only when the recipient country takes the lead in determining its own development goals and priorities and sets the agenda for how they are to be achieved. Developing countries will set their own strategies for development, improve institutions and tackle corruption.

Alignment: For aid to be effective, partners must develop credible national development strategies, and donors must support and use strengthened local systems.

Harmonization: Donor aid will be more effective if all donors would adopt common procedures to harmonise aid delivery, including coordinating their actions, simplifying procedures, using common approaches and rationalizing the division of labour to reduce fragmentation and duplication.

Managing for Development Results: Donors and partner countries must manage and implement aid in a way that focuses on achieving results; this entails a shift in focus from inputs to the achievement of measurable outcomes. Both developing countries and donors need to focus on producing and measuring results.

Mutual Accountability: Donors and partners must be equally responsible for development results and work together to establish mutually agreed frameworks that provide reliable assessments of performance, transparency and accountability of country systems.

Progress

Progress on the Paris Declaration has been occurring, but it has been slower than envisioned and promised in the Declaration. According to the 2008 Monitoring Survey of the Paris Declaration, a large number of developing countries have improved their management of public funds.

Donors, in turn, are increasingly improving their coordination at country level. But without further reform and faster action, the 2010 commitments and targets for improving the quality of aid will not be met.

Supporting Implementation

In developing countries: The capacity of governments and citizens in the South to engage with the Accra Agenda for Action needs to be strengthened, and Southern governments need to set out open and transparent policies on how aid is to be sourced, spent, monitored and accounted for. To do this, Southern governments must be accountable to citizens with effective mechanisms of answerability and enforceability.

In donor countries: Donors must truly untie aid and make it more predictable. This is an essential step toward ensuring that countries can lead their own development

processes. Donors must also strive to reach the goals of the Monterrey Consensus, which specifically urges developed countries to increase their official development aid (ODA) to the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) to developing countries.

Resources

Accra High Level Forum (2008):

<http://www.accrahlhf.net/>

Accra Agenda for Action (2008):

English: http://siteresources.worldbank.org/ACCRAEXT/Resources/4700790-1217425866038/ACCRA_4_SEPTEMBER_FINAL_16h00.pdf

French: <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/ACCRAEXT/Resources/4700790-1217425866038/FINAL-AAA-in-French.pdf>

Portuguese: <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/ACCRAEXT/Resources/4700790-1217425866038/FINAL-AAA-in-Portuguese.pdf>

Spanish: <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/ACCRAEXT/Resources/4700790-1217425866038/FINAL-AAA-in-Spanish.pdf>

Core Documentation on the Paris Declaration:

http://www.oecd.org/document/20/0,3343,en_2649_3236398_41201108_1_1_1_1,00.html

2008 Progress Report on the Paris Declaration:

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/ACCRAEXT/Resources/>

Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005):

English: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/11/41/34428351.pdf>

French: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/53/38/34579826.pdf>

Portuguese: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/56/41/38604403.pdf>

Spanish: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/53/56/34580968.pdf>

Current list of signatories to the Paris Declaration (122 donor and recipient countries, as of early September 2008): www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/parisdeclaration/members

Millennium Development Goals (2000):

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico (2002), which resulted in the Monterrey Consensus:

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffdconf/>

High-Level Forum on Harmonization in Rome, Italy (2003):

<http://www.aidharmonization.org/secondary-pages/editable? key=106>

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