

**Written input of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation  
to the 2023 High-Level Political Forum**

**“Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)  
and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”**

**(a) Progress, experience, lessons learned, challenges and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17 from the vantage point of your intergovernmental body, bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the SDGs and targets, including policy implications of their synergies and trade-offs.**

**Combined pressures incurred by the pandemic, the deepening climate emergency, economic shocks, and conflict are eroding trust among development actors.** Years and sometimes decades of progress are being lost and the poorest and most vulnerable are being disproportionately affected. The pandemic exposed and intensified inequality among and within countries. The annual financing gap for the SDGs widened, primarily in the countries already furthest behind on the 2030 Agenda; the increasing debt burden and emerging financing divide are curtailing the ability of many developing countries to respond to shocks and invest in recovery; and the urgent need for more humanitarian aid and short-term ODA may draw away resources from investments in long-term development and peace.

**Today’s overlapping and intertwined crises are also accelerating changes to the development co-operation landscape.** More than half (53%) of the total volume of bilateral ODA spent at the country level targets fragile contexts. Official finance providers, implementing entities and partnerships have proliferated, leading to a more complex, fragmented global aid architecture; and the increase in development finance, particularly in earmarking, has come at the expense of a focus on the quality of the results achieved at the local level.

**Focusing on the effectiveness of development co-operation is urgent to rebuild trust, make the best use of limited resources, and regain traction to achieve the 2030 Agenda.** The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC) focuses on how multiple development actors can partner and work together more effectively as critical enablers for enhanced collective action towards the 2030 Agenda, alongside stakeholders that include Governments, bilateral and multilateral organizations, civil society, the private sector and representatives from parliaments and trade unions. The Global Partnership’s evidence and dialogues have shown that effective co-operation that is principle-based can rebuild trust, especially at the country level, which in turn leads to impactful partnerships and better results in countries. Only through actions based on country priorities and national ownership can we strengthen national systems for a just and sustainable recovery for all, across sectors and regions.

**The 2022 Effective Development Cooperation Summit that took place in Geneva on 12-14 December 2022 re-ignited political commitment to the effectiveness agenda and showed that “how” we do development matters more than ever.** It emphasized the need for effective development co-operation which is country-led, results-oriented, transparent, and accountable; and reconfirmed that trust is vital to build inclusive partnerships and improve sustainable development outcomes. The Geneva Summit Declaration aims to anchor future decision-making around the four effectiveness principles and strengthen progress towards the SDGs. It features a [renewed way of monitoring](#) progress on these

commitments, anchored in greater institutionalization of country-level, multi-stakeholder Action Dialogues for effective development co-operation.

**In the lead-up to the Summit, the Global Partnership also adopted a new set of practices and toolkits to spur more partnerships, dialogues, mutual learning and actions for effective development co-operation:** the online [Kampala Principles Toolkit](#) for guiding and improving the effectiveness of private sector engagement in developing co-operation; the [Bern Call to Action](#) to guide effective support to national statistical systems and the use of data for development; an Effective South-South Co-operation self-assessment developed by countries interested in improving the quality and effectiveness of South-South Co-operation; the [Voluntary Guidelines for Effective Triangular Co-operation](#); the [Principles for Improved Impact in Small Island Developing States](#) (SIDS); and the [GPEDC dashboard](#), which features essential country-level information and data from the monitoring.

**(b) Three key areas where transformative actions for accelerated progress have been successful, and three key areas where support is most urgently needed, with regard to the cluster of SDGs under review in July 2023.**

**As the world is facing multiple crises with devastating consequences on people, prosperity, peace, and the planet, it is urgent to take collective action.** Quality, impact, and effectiveness of development co-operation are critical in addressing these crises. Both at the national and international level the implementation of the four effectiveness principles – country ownership, a focus on results, inclusive partnerships and accountability and transparency – helps to improve development cooperation. The adoption of the Geneva Outcome Document at the 2022 Effective Development Co-operation Summit reinforces commitment to the effectiveness principles originally endorsed in the Busan Partnership Agreement (2011) and upheld at the subsequent GPEDC High-Level Meetings in Mexico City (2014), in Nairobi (2016) and at the Senior Level Meeting in New York (2019). If partner countries are to take charge of their own development, now is the time to prioritize and strengthen capacity at country level through a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society approach.

**Timely, secure, transparent, and high-quality disaggregated data are necessary to understand the complexity of sustainable development issues.** Robust data are vital to strengthen multi-stakeholder engagement and measure progress towards the effectiveness principles which requires strong statistical capacities at both national, local and sectoral level. The monitoring exercise – a flagship of the Global Partnership – supports this process through a virtuous circle of inclusive dialogue, collective accountability, tracking results and agreeing on actions. Building on this country-led data collection, the exercise also provides important data and evidence to inform the SDGs and Financing for Development follow-up and review processes (the GPEDC monitoring exercise provides official data for SDG Targets 17.15.1, 17.16.1 and 5.c.1). It seeks to mainstream the development effectiveness principles in appropriate processes and systems at the country level, in parallel with efforts to improve policies and practices at the global level.

**The monitoring exercise was recently reformed and launched at the Geneva Summit.** The ambitious reform of the monitoring exercise in 2020-2022 was the result of an extensive, inclusive, transparent consultation process. Since 2011, 99 countries have participated in three GPEDC monitoring rounds. 40 countries have thus far indicated interest in taking part in the new monitoring exercise, which:

- **can be flexibly undertaken within the 2023-2026 Global Rolling round<sub>2</sub>**, allowing partner countries to align the exercise with their national processes;
- **promotes collective accountability** for commitments through the lens of the four effectiveness principles by measuring progress around four themes: whole-of-society, state and use of country systems, transparency, and leaving no one behind;
- **features a dedicated phase to provide the opportunity for inclusive, country-level dialogue**, giving all actors at country level insights into what needs to change for better development impact;
- **offers new features to monitor development co-operation**: the opportunity to conduct the Kampala Principles Assessment on Private Sector Engagement in Development Co-operation and the possibility to use an adapted framework for countries facing fragile and post-conflict situations.

**Implementing the monitoring exercise - part of ‘institutionalizing effectiveness’ – will require support to and focus on the following areas:**

- building political will of all countries and Global Partnership stakeholders;
- identifying or setting up coordination structures at country level;
- strengthening capacity development for all actors at country level;
- securing adequate resources.

**(c) Examples of specific actions taken to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic that also accelerate progress towards multiple SDG targets, including actions identified by your intergovernmental body, building on interlinkages and transformative pathways for achieving SDGs.**

**The Global Partnership has launched several innovative instruments and multi-stakeholder processes to increase the effectiveness of development co-operation and accelerate the delivery of SDG commitments.** The new Global Partnership Monitoring is at the heart of the global effort of generating evidence for inclusive dialogue and action at the country level while contributing to greater accountability and informing SDG follow-up internationally. This is linked to a new, member-led and multi-stakeholder ‘delivery model’, the Global Partnership’s own working arrangements, and a range of instruments to provide guidance, share lessons and build momentum for all key actors to engage in more effective development co-operation partnerships.

**During the 2020-2022 work program, the Global Partnership promoted and supported 17 partner country-led Action Dialogues across Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean.** These Action Dialogues brought together stakeholders from across the development landscape to strengthen co-operation to urgently scale up partnerships for COVID-19 recovery and SDG implementation. For example, during [Côte d’Ivoire’s](#) Action Dialogue participants discussed the importance of better considering the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic when defining public policies. In both [Paraguay](#) and [Peru](#), the magnitude and severity of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic were acknowledged and strengthened the government’s commitment to collaborate effectively with key development actors to generate inclusive partnerships in order to better recover from the pandemic and further respond to crisis in the future.

**Overall, these multi-stakeholder dialogues helped to mobilize all available development resources effectively to meet urgent development needs and advance SDG 17 on partnerships for sustainable development, and provided the opportunity to move from commitment to action to achieve the SDGs with inclusive, multi-stakeholder partnerships as a strong foundation.** While the monitoring exercise

was being reformed, the Action Dialogues put forward new evidence on how development effectiveness is being strengthened at the country level, with special focus on issues related to alignment with national priorities, multi-stakeholder dialogue and data/information availability. Within the scope of the new Monitoring, inclusive and action-oriented dialogue will be at the core of translating the monitoring findings into concrete change at country level.

**(d) Assessment of the situation in the mid-point of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, against the background of the COVID-19 pandemic and within the respective areas addressed by your intergovernmental body, and policy recommendations, commitments and cooperation measures for promoting a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery from the pandemic while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.**

**The current multiple, overlapping crises are undermining progress across the 2030 Agenda and driving up countries' financing needs.** Consequently, the financing gap for the SDGs has widened, primarily in the countries already furthest behind on the 2030 Agenda. To still achieve the SDGs by 2030, we need to move beyond ODA, mobilize additional resources, facilitate access to concessional finance and focus on developing stronger, more inclusive partnerships. Developing Integrated National Financing Frameworks, establishing South-South and Triangular Co-operation partnerships, as well as strengthening engagement with the private sector, IFIs, MDBs, civil society and other non-state actors all provide opportunities to achieve this goal.

**Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs) are a key instrument for better applying the effectiveness principles across national development co-operation partnerships.** A tool to implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda at the country level, INFFs cover all financing resources, help countries bridge the gap between short- and long-term planning, and align public and private finance. In the past decade, one significant challenge to implementing national development strategies has often been the lack of costed accompanying financing strategies. However, many countries are now using INFFs to plan the necessary financial means to realize their respective sustainable development priorities. INFFs push forward effective development co-operation principles through their four building blocks which are directly linked to the principles: inclusive and accountable governance and coordination systems, strengthening national capacities and public financial management, linking financing strategies to national development priorities and ensuring robust monitoring. Currently, more than 86 countries are developing INFFs across all development settings.

**South-South and triangular co-operation complement partnering modalities and foster greater country-level ownership of development co-operation.** South-South Co-operation (SSC) has the potential to not only exchange knowledge between Southern countries but can also tackle other challenges related to human development, democracy and participation. A Self-Assessment on Effective SSC piloted by GPEDC partners in 2022 identified that some countries have developed best practices for institutionalizing SSC into policy frameworks. This signals peer-learning opportunities to 'raise the bar' within and between regions. At the same time, triangular co-operation has demonstrated itself as a flexible and impactful tool, helping with COVID-19 recovery, supporting countries to tackle climate change and scaling up innovations to provide global public goods. A series of case studies ([Colombia](#), [Indonesia](#), [South Africa](#)) have identified best practices on applying the [Voluntary Guidelines for Effective Triangular Co-operation to regional programmes and individual projects](#).

**Improving partnerships with the private sector and business associations can amplify their contribution to the SDGs while leaving no one behind.** The private sector is a tremendous source of technical expertise, innovation and diverse resources and networks to address what are genuine development problems, but its involvement in development co-operation is not without challenges. Projects with the private sector have often lagged behind in terms of inclusiveness, transparency and achievement of expected results. To help different actors in the design, implementation and review of private sector partnerships in development co-operation, the GPEDC provides a [set of toolkits](#), based on the [Kampala Principles](#), with practical guidance for public administrations, private sector and civil society. As part of the new features of the Global Partnership monitoring, a Kampala Principles Assessment will gather information at country level on whether key elements are in place for effective engagement of the private sector in development co-operation.

**Last but not least, more effective partnerships with civil society organizations are essential for making an impact on the most marginalized and leaving no one behind.** Upfront engagement with partner country CSOs leads to better development results through a more nuanced understanding of the local context for development co-operation interventions. The pandemic illustrated how civil society is a vital part of the social fabric and a source of resilience in times of crisis, but also created acute challenges to its conventional resourcing and organizing approaches. And, despite civil society's clear contributions to sustainable development outcomes, civic space across the world remains under constant pressure and structural obstacles to more effective CSO engagement persist at the country level. It is critical to ensure that partner country CSO actors are involved in decision-making based on equal power relations in an enabling environment as outlined in the Geneva Outcome Document – including in legal and regulatory terms, in line with internationally agreed rights – and investments are needed to strengthen the capacity of civil society to be catalytic drivers of change.

#### **(e) Key messages for inclusion into the Political Declaration of the September 2023 SDG Summit.**

**Realizing the 2030 Agenda and driving the Decade of Action will require political will and urgent additional efforts, especially revitalizing SDG17.** In an evolving development landscape, the effectiveness principles – country ownership, participation of all stakeholders, transparency and accountability, and a focus on results – have proven to be a unique, shared compass that countries can use to orient multistakeholder dialogue and action on priorities and needs. Strengthened efforts are needed to contextualize and define their applicability to new development co-operation trends, varying country contexts and emerging challenges. The “effectiveness agenda” remains a priority at the country level; monitoring country efforts is critical for evidence-based policy and decision making, and for supporting behavior change at all levels towards stronger and more sustainable development outcomes.

**Achieving sustainable, country-led development based on these principles requires cementing and revitalizing collective political commitments and mutual trust – and turning these into actions.** With trust eroding in the face of increasingly worrying trends, inclusive and evidence-based dialogues at the country level as part of existing national structures and mechanisms are essential to build stronger and inclusive partnerships. These partnerships are vital to translate political commitments into practical steps which engage and incentivize all relevant constituencies, including at the international, national and regional levels, ensuring that no one is left behind.

**Without addressing the causes and effects of climate change, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will be unattainable.** With regard to delivery, as the climate change agenda increasingly

focuses on action, developing countries raise the same issues they did in the effectiveness agenda. Their priorities relate to supply driven approaches, rather than responding to and aligning behind country-owned strategies and approaches; fragmented delivery, through complex parallel systems and processes of climate finance, comes with high transaction costs and burden that further strain their already stretched capacities. Addressing these concerns requires proactively connecting the effectiveness and climate agenda and bringing the learnings and principles of the effectiveness agenda to climate action, taking into account common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

**Quality – not just quantity – financing yields quality results. Strengthening ‘effective’ partnerships is a way to help leverage local, national and global resources to achieve impact quickly and sustainably.**

Today’s global challenges require scaled-up international, multilateral, multistakeholder co-operation in the interest of global stability – including through good multilateral donorship. Interconnected global challenges have complex implications when it comes to reconciling the increased need for investment in global public goods with maintaining direct support to partner country priorities, in line with the country ownership principle. The UN Development System is critical to achieving the SDGs and needs to be adequately equipped with quality, flexible and predictable development funding. It is instrumental to preserve and increase core resources to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and build resilience to shocks. In a more complex, fragmented global aid architecture where access to development finance remains a major challenge, answering the United Nations Secretary General’s call for global solidarity and leaving no one behind, through an “SDG Stimulus package” among others, requires additional multilateral support that is targeted and harmonized to accelerate the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement.