

The Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation
Written input to the UN High-Level Political Forum, 2025

The below text is submitted on behalf of the Co-Chairs of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC):

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in response to the invitation from the President of the UN Economic & Social Council, dated 23rd December 2024. The inputs below will focus on the guiding questions (a), (b), (d) and (e).

- (a) **Your assessment of the impacts of the multiple and interconnected crises on the implementation of SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17.**

The climate crisis, pandemic, economic shocks and conflict are undermining progress across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which the global community agreed to achieve by 2030. Years and sometimes decades of progress are being lost and the poorest and most vulnerable are being disproportionately affected. Our approach to development cannot remain the same when the world around us is constantly changing and interconnected challenges are impacting us all.

In 2023, official development assistance (ODA) rose to an all-time high of USD 223.3 billion (OECD). At the same time, the annual financing gap for the SDGs widened, primarily in the countries already furthest behind on the 2030 Agenda. Without significant reform, the **gap is set to increase to USD 6.4 trillion by 2030**, the target year for the SDGs (OECD). The emerging financing divide is curtailing the ability of many developing countries to respond to shocks and invest in recovery. The poorest countries, many of which are at risk of debt distress and whose fiscal space is shrinking, are forced to cut spending in areas such as education and infrastructure, which in turn has compromised sustainable development efforts across most SDGs.

Furthermore, the growing proliferation and fragmentation of the development landscape with more actors, modalities, and initiatives has made the development landscape more complex, increasing the burden on development actors, hampering development outcomes, and indicating the need for enhanced coordination efforts. *How* we partner and work together is how the development effectiveness agenda helps catalyze progress and drive partners to sustainable development.

- (b) **Three key areas** where sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for achieving the SDGs and leaving no one behind are being effectively delivered, especially related to the cluster of SDGs under review in 2025, also bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the Goals and targets.

The compass for guiding development action needs to be based on the four effectiveness principles: *country ownership, inclusive partnerships, transparency and accountability, and a focus on results*. The following are three key areas where the Global Partnership is working on to drive more sustainable and inclusive solutions for the SDGs.

- The **Global Partnership monitoring exercise** is one area of work that drives countries to find evidence-based solutions and actions for achieving the SDGs and leaving no one behind. As one of the key instruments to measure the means of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the monitoring process generates data for countries to assess their progress towards achieving three SDG Targets: 5.c, 17.15 and 17.16. More importantly, making progress in implementing effectiveness commitments, as monitored through the monitoring, has a broader catalytic effect in achieving all other SDGs. By providing transparent data and publicly accessible evidence on stakeholders' commitments on effectiveness, it empowers partners to converse and act on national priorities and SDG goals, leading to behavior change and building trust.
- The **Global Partnership monitoring process** provides a unique, inclusive multi-stakeholder opportunity to engage in inclusive dialogue and identify solutions with a broad range of development actors. It does this by encouraging partner countries to engage with all actors at country level that have a role in development. The monitoring data is a starting point for evidence-based dialogue to drive action and behavioral change at country level. All domestic development actors are encouraged to participate in the monitoring exercise, including the private sector, civil society, foundations, trade unions, parliaments and subnational governments. While they don't all have a role in reporting data, they can all engage in discussions of country results and help identify ways forward to boost countries' sustainable development.
- The **Global Partnership's unique multi-stakeholder governance structure** is another area through which the Partnership is providing inclusive solutions to SDGs, especially SDG 17. The 2023-2026 Work Programme of the Global Partnership is a member-led agenda where all partners contribute to championing for achieving development effectiveness by way of partnering more effectively in their respective areas of work. By putting different stakeholders on an equal footing through a 25-member Steering Committee, which represents a wide range of actors - including partner countries, development partners, dual character countries, CSOs, foundations, private sector, parliamentarians, trade unions, multilateral development banks, Arab donors, local and regional governments, UN development system – the Partnership, through its membership, works to deliver on the SDGs more effectively, including on SDG 8 on Decent Work by working alongside trade union representatives and SDG 5 and 17 by working with all members on monitoring and taking action on these SDGs.

- (c) **Three examples** of measures to accelerate progress towards SDGs through well-coordinated actions in key transitions to bring progress to scale (food security, energy access and affordability, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution), building on interlinkages between SDGs to ensure cohesive progress.

This question is not applicable to the Global Partnership.

- (d) **Follow-up actions and measures** being undertaken by your intergovernmental body or forum to support implementation of the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration and the outcomes of the 2024 Summit of the Future, to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration committed to bold, ambitious, accelerated, just and transformative actions anchored in international solidarity and **effective cooperation** at all levels. It also committed to scaling up efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, including through **development cooperation**.

The Global Partnership, a *multi-stakeholder platform for dialogue*, is promoting a more inclusive, whole-of-society approach to development cooperation to catalyze progress in the 2030 Agenda.

This approach supports the Political Declaration's 'Call to action – turning our world towards 2030' and the 2024 Pact for the Future's action around 'closing the sustainable development goal financing gap in developing countries', specifically Action 4e on taking 'further actions to strengthen development co-operation's effectiveness'. The Global Partnership does this by:

- (i) Providing high quality, relevant, and reliable data on SDG progress and evidence, what works and what doesn't, as well as insights into the *quality* of development cooperation at the country level
- (ii) Offering opportunities to build trust between partners through multi-stakeholder dialogue and political action on country's development priorities

The Global Partnership's actions are informed by the data from the 4th Monitoring Round (2023-26), updated and launched at the Effective Development Cooperation Summit in Geneva in December 2022. By end of January 2025, 59 partner countries committed to the exercise. *Explore the [GPEDC Monitoring Dashboard](#) for updates on countries' progress. Monitoring insights from 11 countries that have officially completed data collection are available [here](#) as well as specific country results briefs: [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), [Burkina Faso](#), [Cambodia](#), [Democratic Republic of Congo](#), [Indonesia](#), [Lao PDR](#), [Nepal](#), [The Philippines](#), [Uganda](#), [Yemen](#) and [Zambia](#).*

The ongoing monitoring round is essential to take the pulse of progress on country ownership, transparency and accountability, inclusive partnerships, and a focus on results at the country level – all areas featured prominently among National Commitments to SDG Transformation at the SDG Summit. Preliminary insights from data from 11 countries in the ongoing monitoring round also points to progress with a number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the SDGs (SDG 17.16) and development partners use of country-owned results frameworks (SDG 17.15).

Through the first 3 monitoring rounds, the Global Partnership provided official data for SDG 5.c.1, SDG 17.15.1, and SDG 17.16.1. Data from previous monitoring rounds has already helped identify progress and gaps in the achievement of the SDGs in many countries. More specific country stories can be found online under our '[Stories of Progress](#)'.

Inclusive partnerships are foundational to ensuring that trust is built and sustained among development partners. The Global Partnership is embedding these elements into its work through a whole-of-society approach and a Leave No One Behind lens. The results from the Global Partnership's monitoring provide evidence on the state of play of inclusive partnership and quality of development cooperation systems at the country level, and are the starting point for a reflection, dialogue and action phase at country level. The evidence will catalyse action to improve the effectiveness of development and accelerate progress towards the achievement of the SDGs.

- (e) **Recommendations and key messages** to be considered for inclusion in the Ministerial Declaration of the 2025 HLPF.

Development effectiveness is an essential pathway to drive sustainable development. The effectiveness agenda encourages all actors with a stake in development to address challenges to help accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. Addressing the bottlenecks, trade-offs and conundrums that partners are facing, based on evidence and data and through inclusive dialogue at country level, builds trust, optimises the use of existing resources and contributes to mobilising additional resources from all types of development co-operation for sustainable development.

We reaffirm the validity of the development co-operation effectiveness principles - country ownership, focus on results, inclusive development partnerships, and transparency and mutual accountability – in their entirety and will put them into practice through leadership, capacity, inclusive dialogue and policy action at country level. The principles are applicable to all types of financing for sustainable development, and should be applied, tracked, and honored to fill the SDG financing gap and guide the (post-)2030 development agenda. They build on decades of experience and are more than ever relevant to promote inclusive, locally- and country-led development strategies, partnerships and practices. They apply differently across countries at various stages of development and among different stakeholders involved. Together with the principles guiding South-South Co-operation and Triangular Co-operation as complementary approaches to address global development challenges, they incentivize improved and accelerated delivery of the SDGs.