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DCD/DAC/EFF(2008)8



Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Économiques
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**DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE
Development Assistance Committee**

**DCD/DAC/EFF(2008)8
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Working Party on Aid Effectiveness

ACCRA HLF: UPDATED OVERVIEW AND ROADMAP

2-3 April 2008

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**THE ACCRA HIGH-LEVEL FORUM (HLF-3): AN OVERVIEW OF THE EVENT
AND A ROADMAP**

I HLF 3 DRAFT AGENDA

1. Planned since the 2nd High Level Forum on aid effectiveness held in Paris in March 2005, and mentioned in the Paris Declaration as a tool to review progress in 2008 in implementing the Paris Declaration, the 3rd High Level Forum on aid effectiveness will take place in Accra, Ghana, from 2 to 4 September 2008. It will gather high level representatives from more than 150 country governments, from most international aid organizations, and from civil society organizations.

2. On the 2 days before the HLF-3, on the 31st of August and 1st of September, a “parallel forum of the Civil Society on development effectiveness” will also be held in Accra, organized by the International Civil Society Steering Group (ICSSG). This meeting, organized back to back with the HLF-3, will gather more than 300 people representing Civil Society Organizations from all over the world.

3. The following table presents an overview of the HLF-3 itself. A detailed draft version of the HLF-3 agenda is presented to the WP-EFF members in a separate document: DCD/DAC/EFF(2008)7

DAY 1 (September 2)	Morning	Plenary Session	MARKETPLACE
	Afternoon	3 Roundtables (RT1, RT3, RT4)	
DAY 2 (September 3)	Morning	3 Roundtables (RT2, RT5, RT8)	
	Afternoon	3 Roundtables (RT6, RT7, RT9)	
DAY 3 (September 4)	Morning	High Level Forum Ministerial Segment	
	Afternoon		

Plenary Session: Progress and Challenges in Implementing the Paris Agenda.

4. This session will

- present the progress achieved and lessons learned since Paris, drawing on results of the 2006 and 2008 monitoring reports, the Progress report on Aid Effectiveness, the Paris Declaration

Evaluation (Phase 1), the Civil Society HLF-3 preparation process, and other regional and thematic reports and studies.

- lay out the context of today's aid business: what is different since Paris? What are the challenges and opportunities as some new and emerging stakeholders play an increasing role.
- open the dialogue among participants on how to translate the changes in the aid business toward more development impacts.

Roundtables

5. There will be **9 Roundtables**, organised in three consecutive sessions of three at a time (see above). Roundtable discussions will enable in-depth discussions on the following issues:

	Topic	Co-chairs
RT1	Democratic ownership and national leadership	Switzerland Colombia
RT2	Aligning with strengthened country systems, untying, predictability	European Commission Bangladesh.
RT3	Harmonising and doing business differently at the country level - rationalising aid delivery, division of labour	Germany Uganda
RT4	Managing for development results	JV-MfDR (Netherlands) South Africa
RT5	Making mutual accountability real	Ireland Tanzania
RT6	The Role of Civil Society in advancing aid effectiveness	Canada Nepal (tbc)
RT7	Being effective in situations of fragility and conflict	France AfDB RD Congo
RT8	Learning from Applying the Paris Declaration at Sector level	Sweden Honduras
RT9	The changing aid architecture: implications for Aid effectiveness	WB Ghana

6. Additional elements on the Roundtables, generic guidance for the Roundtable co-chairs, as well as specific terms of reference of each Roundtable, are set out in an accompanying document: DCD/DAC/EFF(2008)2.

Marketplace

7. The Marketplace of Ideas will be open for the entire duration of the HLF. It will offer each country or organisation a space to display a single poster (conforming to a standard template) plus additional written materials and will be located in the main atrium/entrance way of the International Conference Centre. This will provide the Forum with highlights of the work that is being undertaken, and insights of commitment shown by partner countries and donors to the aid effectiveness agenda. The Marketplace should be viewed as an information, analytical, knowledge, and experience platform underpinning the thematic issues to be debated. Separate communications will, at a later date, be sent to participants.

8. The Marketplace will be officially launched on the evening of the first day. Presentations of posters will be held over the three days. A selection process will be set up for a “top pick” and a “people’s choice” poster competition. The awards of this selection will be presented of the afternoon of Day 3.

9. In addition there is the possibility of holding a small number of briefings or other presentations on topics which are not the subject of one of the Roundtables but are important to the Accra discussions. If undertaken, these would take place in one or more of the smaller side rooms at the conference centre.

Ministerial Segment and the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA)

10. The ministerial segment (of *high level* officials and ministers), on day 3, is planned to be a 4-session meeting:

- i. Plenary session to present the results of the first two days, in terms of experiences and perspectives on aid effectiveness.
- ii. Ministerial debate on a few critical challenges, such as changes in aid behaviour of main stakeholders, national capacity for aid and development, and accountability. This will include a statement from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).
- iii. Plenary session proposing directions for the post-Accra debate.
- iv. Adoption of the AAA.

II THE PREPARATION PROCESS AND MILESTONES: FROM APRIL 2008 TO ACCRA

The Working Party and the Steering Committee

11. The **Working Party** on Aid Effectiveness (WP-EFF), which is an international partnership with a broad and representative membership, is the principal actor in the HLF-3 preparations, and takes the main decisions. The plenary meetings of the Working Party are the main milestones of the whole process. The last meeting (28-29 November 2007) adopted the general agenda of the HLF-3. Two more meetings are planned between now and the time of the Accra Forum:

- 2-3 April 2008.
- 9-10 July 2008.

12. The Accra HLF-3 **Steering Committee** was set up to advise on the content of the forum [see the Accra HLF-3 concept note DCD/DAC (2007)4] and be responsible for preparing the final Accra outcome document. It meets more frequently, with monthly meetings since January, and at more regular intervals if required. The Steering Committee – which reports to the WP-EFF - held one of its meetings (September 2007) in Accra where it discussed preparations with Ghanaian government officials and visited the AICC.

13. From June 2008 on (see “Elaborating the AAA” below), the HLF-3 Steering Committee, expanded to include the DAC Chair and 4 additional partner countries, will constitute the group in charge of preparing the final versions of the Accra Agenda for Action.

Main input documents

14. The HLF will be informed by several important documents:

- the monitoring surveys (2006 and 2008),
- the “progress report on aid effectiveness”,
- the first phase of the Evaluation of the Paris Declaration,
- the synthesis of the consultations of Civil Society about Aid effectiveness.

15. Under the responsibility of the WP-EFF Joint Venture for Monitoring the Paris Declaration (JV-MPD), the second **monitoring survey** of the Paris Declaration indicators is taking place in the first quarter of 2008 in 56 countries. In the course of January and February, five regional survey workshops were organised by UNDP/UNDG, in cooperation with other donors (AsDB, DFID and France). The survey results are due back on 31 March 2008, and data analysis and drafting of the Overview of Results report and country chapters will start in April. A near final version of the draft Overview of Results report should be ready for the July meeting. The final Overview of Results report, as well as at least three representative country chapters, will be available for the HLF-3.

16. The **Progress Report on aid effectiveness** reviews how the international community is implementing the Partnership Commitments as set out in Section II of the Paris Declaration. It includes an analysis of 15 recent DAC donor peer reviews with regard to harmonisation issues. The first draft is presented at the WP-EFF April meeting as a separate document: DCD/DAC/EFF (2008)4.

17. An outline of the first phase of the **Evaluation** of the Paris Declaration is provided in the HLF-3 Background Information document for the Working party: DCD/DAC/EFF (2008)5.

Civil Society Consultations

18. The Advisory Group on Civil Society and Aid Effectiveness (AG-CS), set up within the WP-EFF with WP-EFF members and CSOs, has designed and is implementing a comprehensive process to help engage civil society in the Accra preparation, at the national, regional, and international levels. The AG-CS acts as a link between the Working Party and the Steering Committee for HLF-3 on the one hand, and civil society organisations on the other, including with the International Civil Society Steering Group (ICSSG) that is organising a parallel civil society event on aid effectiveness in Accra during the two days preceding the HLF-3. AG-CS meetings are planned on a quarterly basis, and the following important events have already taken place:

- Five regional multi-stakeholder consultation meetings, plus a North-South CSO wrap-up session and a Northern/International NGO meeting, in October-November 2007.
- An international multi-stakeholder Forum on civil society and aid effectiveness, held in Ottawa 3-6 February 2008.
- National meetings, before and after the regional consultations and the International Forum.

19. The AG is now synthesising the conclusions and recommendations from the consultation process, a first draft of its Synthesis Statement being presented to the April meeting of the WP-EFF: DCD/DAC/EFF(2008)6. In addition, a Good Practice Paper and a supporting Case Book will be produced

and presented to the Accra HLF. The AG-CS is also helping facilitate the participation of CSOs in the process up to the HLF, starting with the regional preparatory events planned for April and May.

Regional Preparatory Events

20. Over summer 2007, 4 one-day partner country consultations were organised in Mauritius, Ghana, Honduras, and the Philippines, gathering representatives from 40 partner countries, and giving those representatives an opportunity to discuss aid effectiveness issues and to identify the issues they would like to be discussed during the Accra HLF.

21. Several regional or sub-regional preparatory events will take place during the 2nd quarter of 2008, with the regional development banks in the lead of organising them along with the UNDP/UNDG and other interested partners:

Africa:	28-30 April,	Kigali
Asia-Pacific	4-7 April,	Fiji, for the Pacific
	21-21 April	Bangkok, for South East Asia
	5-6 May	Bangkok, for South Asia
	8-9 May	Bangkok, for Central and West Asia
Latin America	5-6 June	Colombia
Middle East	date and venue to be confirmed	

22. These regional preparatory events will bring in a broad range of actors including partner countries (governments, parliamentarians, CSOs, private sector), international organisations, DAC and non-DAC donors (from both field offices and headquarters), foundations, CSOs, and others. They will provide a forum of discussion for the first draft of the AAA, and will include discussions on the Accra Roundtable topics. These meetings should support partner countries in finalising their preparations for Accra.

23. Issues papers or agendas for some of these regional events are provided in the HLF-3 Background Information document for the Working Party: DCD/DAC/EFF (2008)5.

Other Workstreams and Processes

24. A large number of “workstreams” are working on issues related to the Paris Declaration. These include WP-EFF JVs, DAC subsidiary bodies and their relevant task teams, and other formal or informal international working groups. The work coming from these workstreams will feed the preparation of the relevant Roundtables and the drafting of the AAA.

25. All workstream chairs were or will be asked to provide inputs into the Accra preparation process at 3 stages:

- End of October 2007: a short update on on-going work to implement the Paris agenda including possible contributions to Accra, for discussion and feedback at the WP-EFF November. A compendium of these “2-pagers” was presented to the WP-EFF (28-29 November meeting, document DCD/DAC/EFF (2007)42).
- February 2008: a contribution for the first draft of the HLF-3 Progress Report (see above).

- March-May 2008: comments on the first draft of the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA), to indicate the key issues, messages and actionable commitments they would like to see emerge in order to facilitate and deepen the implementation of the Paris Declaration.

26. The HLF Roundtable preparatory process, as well as the regional preparatory events, are also expected to build on these workstreams. Therefore, the workstream chairs are invited to contact the Co-chairs of the related HLF RTs, and the regional event organisers.

Preparing the Roundtables

27. Each RT has 2 “co-chairs” drawn from a partner country and a donor organisation (see table above). The co-chairs have been chosen by the HLF-3 Steering Committee. Additional interested countries and institutions are welcome to support the co-chairs in the preparation process and to play a role in the RT itself in Accra. The RT co-chairs are entirely responsible for the RT preparation and delivery.

28. During the preparation process, the Co-chairs will gather existing information and the major expectations from donors and partners on the topic of the RT, identify and contact the relevant work streams, in particular concerning the “core” issues presented by the partner countries (predictability, division of labor, untying, conditionality, incentives and capacity development) and the main “cross cutting” issues in terms of aid impact (human rights, social exclusion, gender equity, or environment), and propose specific terms of reference to the WP-EFF in April 2008.

29. The RT co-chairs will establish a core group and launch a wide range of consultations. They will actively support the regional preparatory events, and draw from their results.

30. The RT co-chairs will build consensus as soon as possible on substantive issues and achievable commitments, and identify areas where more work will be necessary in the coming years. They will feed into the drafting of the Accra Action Agenda (AAA) by commenting on and adding to the first draft by the end of May.

31. The RT co-chairs will prepare the final documentation for the RT itself, summarising the points of consensus (which don't need to be further debated during the RT) and organising the debate for the 3-hour session focusing on a limited set of selected issues on which there may not yet be sufficient agreement. They will prepare the RT debate, identify high level panellists or lead speakers, field experience, etc. according to their chosen format. They will prepare some operational commitments as next steps. They will be responsible for elaborating the report from the RT.

32. Additional elements on roundtable preparation are presented in document DCD/DAC/EFF(2008)2.

Elaborating the AAA

33. The Accra Action Agenda will build on a broad-based dialogue process at both the country and international level. The full proposed process is described in document DCD/DAC/EFF (2008)9.

34. There will be three important milestones in elaborating the draft that is submitted for discussion and approval at the Accra High Level Forum:

MILESTONES		TIMING	CONSULTATION FORA	DESCRIPTION
1	First draft DCD/DAC/EF F (2008)3 (18 March)	March - May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working Party (2-3 April) Regional preparatory events DAC HLM Possible side event at the WB-IMF spring meeting, regional development banks annual assemblies. 	A first draft is prepared by March for consultations at all levels. Comments on this first draft are invited at the WP meeting in April. This draft, along with WP-EFF comments, is then discussed in the regional preparatory events and other discussion opportunities. Comments are also given by HLF Roundtable Co-chairs, by the CSOs within the AG-CS, and by the chairs of various related workstreams, by the end of May.
2	Revised Draft (mid June)	June - July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working Party (9-10 July) 	Comments received on the first draft provide the basis for preparing a revised draft of the AAA. This revised draft is discussed at the Working Party meeting in July.
3	Final Draft of AAA (20 July)	August September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accra HLF-3 	A final draft is prepared in the light of comments made at the Working Party meeting in July. The final draft is discussed, amended and agreed at the Accra HLF-3.

Preparation of the revised and final drafts:

35. The Government of Ghana has appointed a special advisor, Mr. K. Y. Amoako, to facilitate dialogue with partner countries on the AAA. To this end, Mr. KY Amoako is establishing a Contact Group of representatives from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. In addition, the Chair of the DAC, Mr. E. Deutscher, will hold a series of DAC informal meetings to prepare the DAC High Level Meeting (20-21 May). For the purpose of preparing the revised and final drafts, the HLF-3 Steering Committee will be expanded to include the DAC Chair and 4 members of the Contact Group in the **AAA Consensus Group**.

36. Following the WP-EFF meeting on 9-10 July the Final Draft of the AAA will be issued on a no objection basis to all participants of the HLF-3. The deadline for raising objections will be 15 August 2008. The Final Draft of the AAA will be endorsed by Ministers and delegations on **4 September** at the Ministerial session by silent consent to the Chair's conclusion (no endorsement ceremony will be organised). Following that date countries and organisations that will not have signalled objections will be considered as having endorsed the AAA. No revisions will be made to the AAA after 4 September 2008.

Main Outcomes

37. The main output of the Accra HLF will be the **Accra Agenda for Action** (AAA), whose purpose will be to deepen implementation of the Paris Declaration with a view to achieving the commitments and targets that were agreed in 2005. In fact, as the Paris Declaration sets out commitments and targets to be reached by 2010, most stakeholders agree that it would neither be appropriate nor desirable to produce another Declaration. Messages from Accra should mainly aim to show progress, and to call for faster, broader, and deeper implementation of the Paris Principles.

38. In addition to the AAA, a “**Chairman’s Summary** of the HLF-3” will cover the other main outputs of the marketplace, the plenary session, the 9 roundtables including their preparatory process, and the ministerial segment. Therefore, this Chairman summary will also address some critical “new” challenges, and raise the profile of other issues, which will need further work beyond Accra.

39. This chairman's summary will be a **written report** of the HLF-3 that will include an overall executive summary and an abstract and minutes for each session. The report will be professionally edited and presented, and will be available a few weeks after the event (downloadable from the website).

40. Options to add **video recordings** to this written report, or even to add **on-site coverage** of the event, are presented in the document "Reporting on the Accra HLF", included in the "HLF-3 Background Information" for the Working Party: DCD/DAC/EFF (2008)5.

ROADMAP TO ACCRA

	WORKING PARTY	INTERNATIONAL EVENTS	REGIONAL PREPARATORY EVENTS	REPORT	ACCRA ACTION AGENDA
Apr	<p>2-3 APRIL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review plans for HLF3 incl. Roundtable structure and preparations. Discuss first elements of the Accra Agenda for Action. 	<p>WB/IMF SPRING DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12-13 April, Washington 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pacific, 4-7 April, Fiji South East Asia, 21-22 April, Bangkok 	<p>2008 SURVEY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International survey launched on 2 January. 53 countries assess progress at country level Countries report data on indicators and key messages to the OECD for analysis Survey completed by 31 March 2008. 	<p>FIRST DRAFT OF AAA</p> <p>18 March</p>
May		<p>AsDB ANNUAL MEETING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-6 May, Madrid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> African, 28-30 April, Kigali South Asia, 5-6 May Bangkok 		<p>AfDB ANNUAL MEETING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14-15 May, Maputo
June			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central & West Asia, 8-9 May, Bangkok Middle East, May, Jeddah (TBC) Inter-America, 5-6 June Colombia 		
July	<p>9-10 JULY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review revised draft of the Accra Agenda for Action. Take stock of regional preparatory events. Review preparations for HLF3 	<p>FIRST BIENNIAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FORUM (DCF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30th June-1st July New York 		<p>ACCRA PROGRESS REPORTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of 2008 Survey is finalised. Accra Progress Report is finalised. 	<p>FINAL DRAFT OF AAA</p> <p>End July</p>
Aug					
Sept					