



ROUNDTABLE 3: HARMONISATION

ISSUE PAPER ON COMPLEMENTARITY: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

1. INTRODUCTION

This Issue Paper on Complementarity: Cross-Cutting Issues (CCI) serves as a supplementary to the Concept Note for Roundtable 3 Harmonisation (see this conference folder). To stimulate the discussions of the Roundtable it provides background information, good practice already available and a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities of promoting human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability through well harmonised and clearly defined division of labour processes.

2. BACKGROUND

Individually and collectively both donor and partner countries have ratified international human rights treaties as well as conventions to enhance environmental sustainability, gender equality and women's empowerment and made strong commitments to these often called cross-cutting issues. Those commitments provide valuable reference points for harmonisation efforts while the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness provides opportunities to translate those commitments into improved practice, results and impacts. The Paris Declaration sets out five principles for reform of aid intended to 'increase the impact of aid ... in reducing poverty and

inequality, increasing growth, building capacity and accelerating the achievement of the MDGs¹. Achieving these internationally agreed development goals will not be possible without progress on human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment. It is against this background that the revised official list of the MDG-indicators calls for all indicators to be disaggregated by sex in order to track progress and development impacts and allow for better analysis leading to improved development strategies and interventions.

The evidence is growing that well targeted investments in human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability promote good development results. India's GDP, for example, would increase by 4.2% a year and its growth rate by 1.08 percentage points – resulting in an annual gain of \$19 billion if India's female labour force participation rate would reach parity with that of the United States (86%). A 10% permanent increase in female participation would mean a gain of \$5 billion a year². This growth could lift people out of poverty while on the contrary the economic and social costs of gender discrimination and abuse of human rights are huge and as such undermine development impacts and the effectiveness of aid. In selected Latin American countries, for example, lower female earnings as a result of family violence

against women translate into close to a 2% reduction in GDP³.

Against this background development partners in conjunction with partner governments met in Dublin in April 2007 to take stock of existing initiatives applying the Paris Declaration to advancing human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability. Encouraged by the visible potential they jointly and individually engaged in various evidence gathering exercises which were presented a year later (March 2008) in London at the conference 'Strengthening the Development Results and Impacts of the Paris Declaration through Work on Gender Equality, Social Exclusion and Human Rights'. Both conferences have illustrated that there is considerable room for improving harmonisation, joint work and division of labour on these issues. However, the likelihood of human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability being considered largely depends on how strong, visible and well articulated the commitments from partner governments have been integrated in national and sectoral development policies, strategies and budgets.

¹) Paris Declaration, paragraph 2

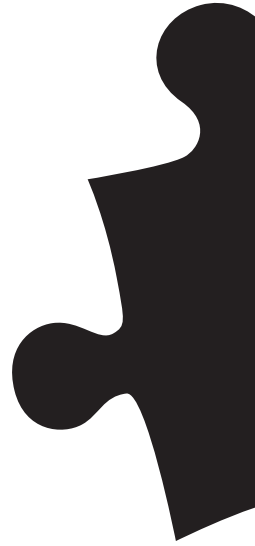
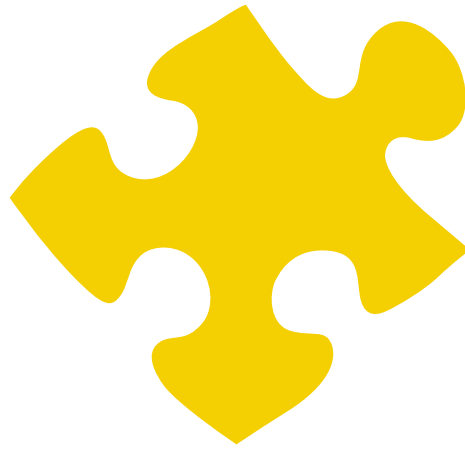
²) Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, 2007

³) World Bank / OECD DAC, 2008

GOOD PRACTICE PRINCIPLES

COMMITMENTS TO HUMAN RIGHTS,
GENDER EQUALITY & WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT,
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

IMPROVED
DEVELOPMENT
IMPACTS AND
RESULTS



3. GOOD PRACTICES

The Paris Declaration provides the framework and good practice principles to foster human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability as priority development issues at sectoral, national and international level. As the following country case studies illustrate, it offers concrete opportunities to ensure that human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability initiatives are integrated and benefit from scaled up Official Development Assistance.

KENYA: HUMAN RIGHTS PAVED THE WAY TO INCREASED DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS

The Kenyan Ministry for Water and Irrigation has used international human rights standards on the right to water and sanitation as an explicit basis for pro-poor sector reform, guidelines and regulation of private water providers. Using human rights standards has contributed to improved service supply and, in turn, strengthened donor confidence and increased donor alignment and harmonisation around the water sector reform programme (see country case study in this conference folder).

TANZANIA: DIVISION OF LABOUR ON GENDER EQUALITY

The rationale for Joint Assistance Strategies (JAS) is that development partner interventions are transparent, better har-

monised, aligned with national development goals and collectively effective. Against this background a Development Partner Group on Gender Equality was established in Tanzania to advance development responsiveness and impact on gender equality. In a division of labour exercise individual development partners being members of the group agreed to serve as 'gender contact points' for different JAS sectoral working groups. As contact point to the agriculture sector Irish Aid promoted gender equality as an important issue for the review of the National Agriculture Sector Development Programme and facilitated discussions on the same between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry for Community Development, Gender and Children. In the process the latter influenced the Ministry of Agriculture to align the review with government commitments on gender equality. The division of labour exercise was also used to support capacity development on gender based violence, resulting in the establishment of a basket fund to address this issue.

ZAMBIA: EMPHASISING THE NEED TO ADDRESS GENDER EQUALITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AS GOALS IN THEIR OWN RIGHTS

The Zambian Government has listed gender and environment next to agriculture, education and an additional 13 others as sectors in their donor coordination matrix thus explicitly calling for lead and active development partners on gender

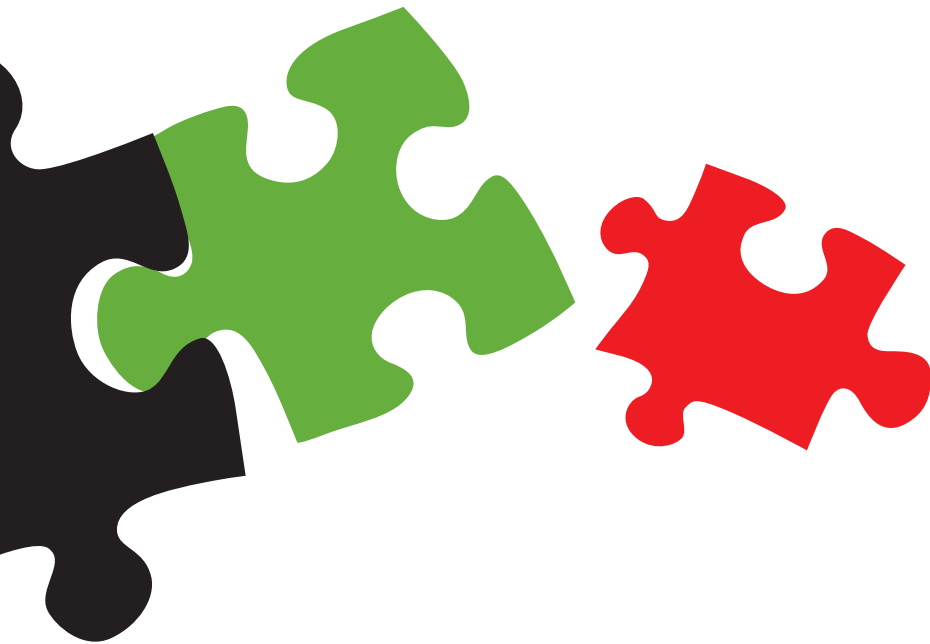
equality and environmental sustainability under the 'Wider Harmonisation in Practice Initiative'.

CAMBODIA: DIVISION OF LABOUR & INCREASING ACCOUNTABILITY TO GENDER EQUALITY

In Cambodia, a technical working group on gender equality was set up within the framework of the Government-Donor Consultative Committee. Gender mainstreaming action groups with high-level representation were also established in all government institutions. The Technical Working Group set priorities, benchmarks, indicators and targets (embedded in the Cambodian MDGs and linked to government-donor joint monitoring indicators) and the Consultative Committee formulates action plans, oversees implementation and monitors gender mainstreaming at sector level.

PHILIPPINES: HARMONISED GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

The Harmonised Gender and Development Guidelines have been jointly prepared by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) of the Philippines, the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women and the Official Development Assistance (ODA) donors in order to enhance development effectiveness and gender equality results (see country case study in this conference folder).



VIET NAM: HARMONISED SUPPORT FOR CAPACITY BUILDING IN STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The instrument Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), introduced into the new Vietnamese Law on Environmental Protection (LEP) in 2005, serves to ensure that the environmental aspects are actively integrated into plans and programmes of the Government. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) in cooperation with various development partners has developed a 'road map' for Capacity Building in SEA (see country case study in this conference folder).

4. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Harmonisation processes and alignment efforts need to address and effectively respond to existing national and international commitments to human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability. Joint commitments to human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability provide valuable reference points for harmonization and alignment efforts.

Effectively address and integrate human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability as goals in their own right as well as cross cutting objectives (mainstreaming task) in national and sector strategies and budgets, peer

reviews, analytical and accountability frameworks such as Poverty and Social Impact Analysis (PSIA) and Performance Assessment Frameworks (PAFs).

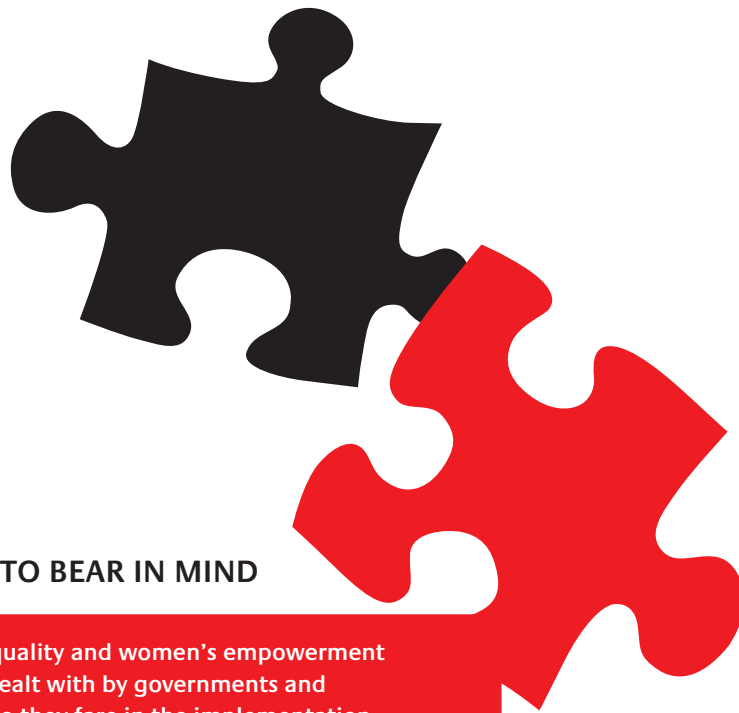
Track and share innovations and promising approaches to addressing human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability in national planning and budgeting and also in harmonisation and division of labour processes and develop capacities to replicate and apply them in other settings. Too often cross-cutting issues (CCIs) such as human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability are seen as 'complications' rather than goals in their own right and 'corner stones' of development.

Make cross-cutting issues (CCIs) such as human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability matter! Provide guidelines and incentives for staff to address and follow through on cross-cutting issues (CCIs) such as human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability in the context of national development and sector strategies and processes as well as harmonisation and division of labour processes. There is a huge risk that recognition and rewards accrue to those who pursue sector policies and strategies and also harmonisation processes even when these exclude CCIs and as such undermine and ignore existing commitments of governments and development partners.

Actively engage in and provide thematic working groups on human rights, gender equality and environment sus-

tainability with the required support and expertise. Like any other JAS / thematic or sector working groups human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability working groups need reliable and on-going support from governments and development partners, and a well targeted, well articulated and agreed upon forward looking agenda, if they are to effectively contribute to better development results at national and international level. Such groups should be strengthened and well equipped with technical expertise, they should establish strong links with other working groups and identify key points for policy dialogue at all levels.

Articulate clearly some form of agreed benchmarking and peer review processes that will hold governments and development partners accountable and promote mutual constructive critique and pressure to live up to commitments to human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability. Producing strategies and plans that align with national plans and strategies is one step but being held to account for individual and collective action is another. Joint analysis and reviews of best practices as well as implementation gaps at national and sectoral level can help improve policy dialogue, decision-making, implementation and monitoring of CCIs better referred to as overarching development goals.



5. CRITICAL QUESTIONS TO BEAR IN MIND

How are human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment or environmental sustainability dealt with by governments and development partners and how do they fare in the implementation of the Paris Declaration:

Do national development policies, plans and budgets, sector specific strategies and interventions, implementation and monitoring frameworks provide adequate attention to and information on progress and development impact on human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability?

Is it clear which government agency and/or development partner takes the lead and/or actively supports human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability, how it is done – as a “cross cutting” issue, as goal in its own right / as a ‘sector’, or both?

How far is capacity for gender analysis and environmental assessments taken into account when determining comparative advantage and planning how work is staffed (both by governments and development partners)?

Is due attention paid to capacity development needs for generating data and information, analysis and accountability mechanisms and instruments? How are development partners supporting or participating in joint analytical and strategic work on human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment and environmental sustainability?

How best can we – individually and jointly – embed effective responses to human rights, gender equality / the empowerment of women and environmental sustainability in harmonisation and division of labour processes?