



ROUNDTABLE 3: HARMONISATION

THE LONDON WORKSHOP

KEY MESSAGES FOR

ROUNDTABLE 3

12-13 MARCH 2008

KEY MESSAGES FOR THE HLF-3 ROUNDTABLE ON HARMONISATION FROM THE WORKSHOP ON “STRENGTHENING THE DEVELOPMENT RESULTS AND IMPACTS OF THE PARIS DECLARATION ON AID EFFECTIVENESS THROUGH WORK ON GENDER EQUALITY, SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND HUMAN RIGHTS” LONDON, 12-13 MARCH 2008

Donors need to respect institutional differences, and show a willingness to discuss and seek common ground; negotiation skills are needed to deal with conflicting mandates, values and internal procedures of individual donors.

- For division of labour to effectively support governments’ policy priorities, donors have to be prepared to “let go” and disengage from sectors.
- Division of labour and institutionalised mechanisms among donors (e.g. Joint Assistance Strategies) and between donors and partner governments (PRSPs) are critical to promote mutual accountability for national policies and commitments to gender equality, human rights and environmental sustainability.
- Joint analysis and reviews of implementation gaps at national and sectoral level can help improve policy dialogue, decision-making, implementation and monitoring of the so-called “cross-cutting” issues.
- Harmonisation is most effective with donors’ full commitment and when at least one agency with technical competence and committed staff is willing to lead the process.

RELEVANT CASE STUDIES

TANZANIA – DIVISION OF LABOUR ON GENDER EQUALITY

The Development Partner Group on Gender Equality in Tanzania used a division of labour exercise to advance gender equality. Individual agencies were appointed as “Gender Contact Points” to the different sector working groups.

Irish Aid was assigned as Contact Point to the agriculture sector and used this mandate to highlight gender equality as an important issue for the review of the National Agriculture Sector Development Programme. The Ministry of Agriculture was however resistant, due to insufficient knowledge and understanding of the relevance of gender equality to the agriculture sector. Discussion was therefore initiated by the Chair of the Development Partner Group on Gender Equality – the Canadian International Development Agency – with the Ministry for Community Development, Gender and Children, which in turn influenced the Ministry of Agriculture to align the review with government commitments on gender equality. Requests for technical support on gender issues in agriculture sector were met by Irish Aid. A division of labour mapping exercise specifically highlighted gender based violence (GBV) as a common

concern for many partners, revealing a lack of co-ordination in addressing this issue. A sub-group of donors interested in gender based violence was formed and engaged in a process of capacity building through learning from both government and civil society partners with relevant expertise. The subgroup developed objectives aligned with the Tanzania National Action Plan on GBV and spearheaded the creation of a basket fund which facilitated a more harmonised way of working to reduce gender based violence.

The division of labour on gender equality in Tanzania has resulted in increased accountability between development partners, government and civil society, and in better results.

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ZAMBIA - CO-ORDINATING THE DIVISION OF LABOUR

This case study focuses on the implementation of division of labour in Zambia. Seen as an initiative to strengthen harmonisation and alignment, and led by the Ministry of Finance, it demonstrates the need for strong leadership from the government and for a “new” set of skills in managing such a process – including negotiation and analytical skills. It addresses a number of challenges relating to:

- Donors aligning with and supporting established national government priorities
- A large number of cooperating partners with different priorities
- Donors finding it hard to “let go” and disengage from sectors
- Equity and balance across sectors – with some sectors being under-represented by donors
- Imbalance in decision making power / authority of the cooperating partners
- Some donors still wanting high levels of visibility in certain sectors
- The so called “cross-cutting” and sub-sectoral issues – the division of labour in its current form does not do justice to these issues
- The role of emerging donors

- Declining significance of ODA (foreign financing in Zambia reduced from 40% to 16.6%)

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STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The OECD DAC Network on Environment and Development has prepared guidance on applying Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to development cooperation and is currently focusing on its implementation – including supporting training and capacity-building programmes, and developing case studies to illustrate good practice for donor approaches. Various products, including case studies, will be available for the Accra HLF.

The DAC defines Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as: “**Analytical and participatory approaches to strategic decision-making that aim to integrate environmental considerations into policies, plans and programmes, and evaluate the inter linkages with economic and social considerations.**”

SEA is applied at the very earliest stages of decision-making both to help formulate policies, plans and programmes, and to assess their potential development

effectiveness and sustainability. It can:

- Provide environmental evidence to support more informed decision-making
- Identify new opportunities by encouraging a systematic and thorough examination of development options
- Prevent costly mistakes, by alerting decision-makers to potentially unsustainable development options at an early stage in the decision-making process
- Build stakeholder engagement in decision-making for improved governance
- Safeguard the environmental assets for sustainable development with poverty reduction.
- Facilitate trans-boundary cooperation and contribute to conflict prevention

DAC Network on Environment and Developments SEA task team website:
→ www.seataskteam.net

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