

## ROUNDTABLE 2: ALIGNMENT

Key messages to the HLF-3 Ministerial Meeting on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September

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Discussions at the Roundtable on alignment showed universal agreement on one key finding: progress towards greater alignment has been limited since Paris.

*We need to accelerate delivery on our commitments simply to meet the 2010 targets.*

*Many noted how this sense of urgency was not fully reflected in the draft of the AAA at the time.*

Accordingly, four main recommendations emerged:

1. To **reduce progressively conditionality, shifting away** from policy measures towards accountability on agreed results, away from the annual verification of conditions towards medium term assessments of performance.
2. To **make greater use of country systems and support their strengthening**. Yet, when systems are of quality, donors must use them. This is not an option but a commitment taken in Paris which must be respected. Similarly, partner countries must continue their efforts to strengthen the quality of their national systems.
3. To **make our aid more predictable**. Besides issues surrounding the quantity of aid, we must keep the pace of whatever is being decided. Donors must work to remove whatever legal or administrative constraints block them from entering into multi-annual commitments on a rolling basis.
4. Finally, many pointed out that **budget support** is the aid modality more attuned to the alignment agenda and the strengthening of country systems and country ownership. However, budget support should not be seen simply as a channel to disburse funds to a national Treasury. Rather, budget support should be seen as a tool enhancing good governance as well as transparent, inclusive and effective systems for the planning, budgeting and execution of nationally-owned development strategies. This should involve civil society, local authorities and the private economic sector