

Roundtable 8: Applying the Paris Declaration at sector level

Key messages to the Ministerial session on Thursday 4th September

By Ricardo Arias, Vice Minister of the Presidency, Honduras (original speech delivered in Spanish)

Design and apply a “map” of the political economy of the sector from the start of a sector programme. Said map should include relevant ministries other than the sector ministry (eg. finance and planning), parliament, and non-governmental actors. It should take into account the specific characteristics of the sector and not overlook the fact that many of the very poor live in isolated rural areas and that their voice should be heard and their rights respected.

Establish realistic policies and plans that take into account the complexity of the achievement of results (eg. inter-sector and territorial issues) and commence implementation using national systems, as implementation combined with evaluation is the best way of subsequently improving planning processes.

Start to implement plans using the capacity that exists and put the strengthening of this capacity at the centre of the sector programme. Avoid “one-size-fits-all” prescriptions and “big bang” style reforms – as it is demonstrated that they don’t work – and apply progressive change, taking advantage of national experiences and those of similar countries.

Accelerate development partner reform processes, orientating structures and incentives towards the achievement of development results and consequent increased aid effectiveness. Incentive systems should be based on the Paris Declaration pillars rather than any other parameter.