

Accra High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness

Roundtable 2

Alignment: challenges and ways forward

Wednesday 3 September 2008

9.00 – 12.30

Annotated Agenda

Venue: Accra International Conference Centre (AICC). Room (TBC).

Roundtable 2 is jointly organized by Bangladesh and the European Commission.

Background

The Accra HLF is structured around three complementary segments: the marketplace of ideas, the ministerial segment and the 9 Roundtables (RT), providing for in-depth dialogue on selected topics. Roundtable 2 will offer a debate around the key challenges and the possible options to advance the Alignment agenda in the context of the Paris Declaration framework and beyond. The discussions will focus on the following four specific areas where further progress is warranted:

- 1. Aligning to policies and objectives*
- 2. Aligning to time horizons: aid predictability and the long term nature of development*
- 3. Aligning to country systems: strengthening and using country public financial management and procurement systems*
- 4. Aligning to markets (aid untying).*

The Roundtable is envisaged in a dialogue mode with participation from different stakeholders. A panel discussion will set the stage, to be followed by interventions from the floor. Besides chairing the meeting, the two Co-Chairs will play an active role in the discussions.

Resource Material: Background Paper and Presentation Note

Wednesday, September 3rd 2008

9.00 – 9.10

Introductory remarks by the Co-Chairs:

Director General *Stefano Manservigi* (European Commission) (5 min)

Ambassador *Debapriya Battacharya* (Bangladesh) (5 min)

The Co-Chairs will make brief introductory remarks about the objectives of the Roundtable and the expected outcomes.

9.10 – 10.25

Segment 1: Aligning to Objectives, Policies and Time horizons

The discussions during this segment will focus on Alignment with partner countries development strategies as well as aid predictability and the long term nature of development. Can conditionality be compatible with Alignment? What can partner countries do to facilitate Alignment and what are the major internal obstacles donors face when trying to align? What elements of current aid processes may need to be modified to advance Alignment beyond the strategic level? Donors programming methodologies? The mix of aid instruments used? Country-level dialogue structures and monitoring frameworks? What type of predictability is most urgently needed by partner countries? What are the fundamental political obstacles impairing longer commitments of aid funds and a less frequent application of disbursement conditions? How can the predictability agenda be best brought forward? Piloting innovative modalities? Setting targets? Establishing a dedicated forum for international discussions?

Chair:

Director General *Stefano Manservigi* (European Commission)

Presentations by the Panellists

The Panellists are expected to address the issues identified in this segment.

- *Ruud Treffers*, Director General of International Cooperation at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (10 min)
- *Paul O'Brien*, Aid Effectiveness Director, Oxfam International (10 min)

Floor discussion (45 min)

Following the opening remarks by the panellists, the Chair will first give the floor to short interventions that were requested in advance by participants to the Roundtable. This will be followed by an open discussion of 3 minutes interventions per participant.

Panel responses and conclusions by the Chair (10 min)

Rapporteur:

Dr *Fahmida Khatun*, Additional Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh

10.25 – 10.55

Cocoa Break

10.55 – 12.10

Segment 2: Aligning to Country Systems and Markets

The discussions during this segment will focus on strengthened use of country systems as a key mechanism to achieve Alignment as well as the problems with tied aid. What role for donors and partners' external accountability bodies and CSOs in the country system agenda? What political and legal actions in partner and donor countries can facilitate the use of country systems? Are weak governance and perception of corruption the real underlying constraint to wider use of country systems by donors? Is current untying delivering its maximum benefits? What measures and evaluations can support greater benefits? How can the process

towards greater untying be best brought forward within the context of the aid effectiveness agenda? Why is technical assistance the least untied form of aid?

Chair:

Ambassador *Debapriya Battacharya* (Bangladesh)

Presentations by the Panellists

The Panellists are expected to address the issues identified in this segment.

- *Ismail Momoniat*, Deputy Director General, National Treasury, South Africa (10 min)
- *Jacinta Muteshi*, Chairperson of Kenya's National Commission on Gender & Development, and Regional Coordinator EC/UN Partnership on Gender Equality for Development & Peace (10 min)

Floor discussion (45 min)

Following the opening remarks by the panellists, the Chair will first give the floor to short interventions that were requested in advance by participants to the Roundtable. This will be followed by an open discussion of 3 minutes interventions per participant.

Panel responses and conclusions by the Chair (10 min)

Rapporteur:

Paal Aavatsmark, Senior Policy Advisor, European Commission

12.10 – 12.30

Overall conclusions of the Roundtable

Tour de table and Rapporteurs' feedback to Co-Chairs (10 min)

Co-Chairs Wrap Up (10 min)