

Welcome to Rome

Increasing the effectiveness of aid is a crucial challenge facing development partners, while they pursue their commitment to attain internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, by 2015. This challenge is even more relevant to counter the current economic slowdown.

Coherence, coordination, and complementarity issues must be addressed to make aid more effective. The harmonization of donor procedures is an essential component of this process,

intended to respect the national priorities of partner countries and to lower transaction costs.

The Government of Italy is honored to organize the High-Level Forum on Harmonization in Rome, in association with the multilateral

development institutions and the OECD. Building on the solid results of the DAC Task Force on Donor Practices and the MDB technical groups, the Forum offers all participants (developing countries, countries in transition, DAC member countries, multilateral organizations) the opportunity to contribute to the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, which emerged from the International Conference on Financing for Development (Monterrey, Mexico, March 2002).



Italy, in its individual capacity and as a member state of the European Union, is strongly committed to implement the Monterrey Consensus by, inter alia, actively participating in all international actions to improve aid effectiveness through the coordination of policies and the harmonization of procedures.

In this spirit we welcome to Rome all the participants in the High-Level Forum on Harmonization.

*Honorable Franco Frattini
Minister for Foreign Affairs, Italy*



Roman Forum.

Perspectives on Harmonization

Views from around the globe, excerpted from statements received before the Forum.

For Morocco, harmonization is a necessary step toward accomplishing the development objectives set out in the Monterrey Consensus.

*Mohamed Kabbaj and Mohamed el Gholabzouri
Ministry of Finance and Privatization, Morocco*

The partner country-donor dialogue should target capacity building.

*Djoomart Otorbaev
Vice Prime Minister, Kyrgyz Republic*

The variety of donors is a wealth; but their different approaches and procedures, with extensive reporting requirements and well-intentioned missions, can be a crippling burden for partner countries.

*Michael Roeskau
Director, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD*

Having piloted harmonization arrangements with the Arab Coordination Group, the Islamic Development Bank is looking forward to sharing its experiences, and to further harmonizing its policies, procedures, and practices, with the donor community.

*Amadou Boubacar Cisse
Vice President, Operations, Islamic Development Bank*

Kenya is fully committed to the harmonization agenda, and is willing to pilot harmonization initiatives.

Ministry of Finance, Kenya

[In Vietnam] we quickly learned that harmonization was much more than just a technical agenda. Field-level requests for adjustments to our donor procedures met with resistance from our central HQ departments. We realize that a higher-level mandate for change is needed if this agenda is to progress.

*Like-Minded Donor Group (Hanoi-based group of donors:
Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, Canada, Finland,
Norway, Switzerland, and United Kingdom)*

To me this is the most important meeting on development in the past 20 years.

*Amparo Ballivian
Country Manager for Bolivia, World Bank*

AGENDA

HIGH-LEVEL FORUM ON HARMONIZATION

Rome, Italy ♦ February 24-25, 2003

Monday, February 24

Session 1

Welcome and Opening Remarks, 9:00-10:30

Session 2

Overview of Good Practice Principles for Harmonization and of the Work of the OECD-DAC Task Force on Donor Practices, 10:45-13:15

Session 3

Discussion of Lessons of Harmonization Experience Country and Agency Perspectives
Experience of Vietnam, Ethiopia, and Jamaica, and Regional Workshop Reports, 14:30-16:15
Other Implementation Experience, 16:30-17:30

Tuesday, February 25

Session 4

Yesterday's Discussions, Today's Challenges, 9:00-9:30

Session 5

Next Steps and Actions for Implementation—Statements of Donors and Partner Countries, 9:30-13:00

Session 6

Use of Information and Communications Technology for Aid Effectiveness and Harmonization, 14:30-15:45

Session 7

Presentation of Joint Concluding Statement, 16:00-17:15





Transportation

The High-Level Forum meetings all take place at La Farnesina, which is too far from participants' hotels for an easy walk. The Italian Government is providing shuttle buses, which will depart from Hotel Ambasciatori, Via Vittorio Veneto 62, at 7:30, 7:45, and 8:00 on Monday, and at 8:00, 8:15, 8:30 on Tuesday. The shuttles will return from La Farnesina at 17:45, 18:00, and 18:15 on both days.

In case you miss the shuttle, you'll want to know that a taxi ride from the hotel area to La Farnesina takes about 15 minutes and costs about 10 Euros (the usual tip is 15 percent).

Mille Grazie...

...to the agencies that have so generously provided financial support for partner country participation in the High-Level Forum: the Asian Development Bank, Australian Agency for International Development, Canadian International Development Agency, Department for International Development, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, Swedish International Development Agency, and World Bank.

What Else to Do in Rome

Shopping

Shops are generally open from 9:00 to 13:00 and from 15:30 to 19:30. Shops are typically closed on Sundays and on Monday mornings.

Most of the designer shops cluster around the Spanish Steps, particularly on and near Via dei Condotti. *Carpe diem* (take advantage), as the ancient Romans used to say—and if you spend more than 155 Euros in one store, you are eligible for a tax refund.

The open-air market at Piazza Campo de' Fiori is open Monday to Saturday from 7:00 to 13:30.

Music, Night Life, Museums, etc.

For information, see weekly magazines such as *Roma C'è* (with a small section in English at the back), the bimonthly *Wanted in Rome* (completely in English), and *L'Evento*, available at the Punti Informativi Turistici around the city.

For Children

- Luna Park of the EUR*: rides, a navigable lake, miniature golf
- Villa Borghese*: bicycling, skating, rowing on the lake
- Zoological Gardens*: open 8:30 to sunset
- Villa Ada, Villa Celimontana*: play areas with rides, bike paths, lakes
- Olympic Village*: skating rink, playground
- Gianicolo Park*: puppet show

ID: It's the Law

Italian law requires adults to have valid identification with them at all times—something official, such as a driver's license, that shows the owner's name and a photo. Foreigners should also carry a photocopy of their passport with them (carrying the actual passport is not advisable).

Useful Numbers

- Police 113
- Carabinieri 112
- Medical emergency 118
- Fire 115

Villa Madama

On Monday evening, the Italian Government will host a social event at Villa Madama. This beautiful villa was built early in the 16th century by Cardinal Giulio de' Medici (later Pope Clement VII) according to plans by the great painter and architect Raphael. In



later years, Cardinal Medici's "vineyard," as it was called, was owned by the Farnese family and by Don Carlos of Bourbon, King of Naples. Over time it fell into disrepair but was restored to its former glory in the 20th century. It was purchased by the Italian Government in 1941.

HLF Secretariat

If you have questions or concerns about the HLF, you may call 06 - 36918803 or visit Segreteria Sala Conferenze Internazionali, to communicate with:



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Manuel Rosini
World Bank liaison in Rome

The HLF Secretariat expresses its appreciation for the hard work and collegiality of the teams from the Italian Government, AfDB, AsDB, EBRD, IDB, and OECD-DAC, who have helped prepare the Forum.