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Subject: EU Common position for the second High Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) (Nairobi, 29 November - 1 December 2016)
- Council conclusions (28 November 2016)

Delegations will find in the annex the Council conclusions on the EU Common position for the second High Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) (Nairobi, 29 November - 1 December 2016), as adopted by the Council at its 3505th meeting held on 28 November 2016.

Council conclusions on the

EU Common position for the second High Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) (Nairobi, 29 November - 1 December 2016)

1. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out a comprehensive vision to eradicate poverty, reduce worldwide inequalities and protect the planet. It balances the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and recognises the important inter-linkages between goals and targets. It is a universal agenda, applying to all countries equally with responsibilities for all.
2. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), as its integral part, sets out a new paradigm for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, through a global partnership encompassing enabling policy frameworks, financial means, capacity building and transfer of technology. It places domestic action and sound policies at its heart, underpinned by a supportive international environment and policy coherence, at all levels. In this context, development cooperation can be an important element for developing countries, in particular when it is used effectively and supported by policy coherence for development.
3. The development effectiveness agenda and the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) mark a shift from aid to development effectiveness, moving from a focus on Official Development Assistance (ODA) flows to broader development partnerships and actors. It will provide a major contribution to implementation of the 2030 Agenda in developing countries.
4. The EU and its Member States call on all development partners to ensure that the Nairobi High Level Meeting (HLM2) further enhances the contribution of the GPEDC to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

5. While fully respecting individual Member State's priorities, the development cooperation of the EU and its Member States will be targeted where the need is greatest and can have most impact, especially in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and in situations of fragility and conflict. The EU reaffirms its collective commitment to achieve the 0.7% ODA/GNI target within the time frame of 2030 Agenda. The EU also undertakes to meet collectively the target of 0.15-0.20% ODA/GNI to LDCs in the short term, and to reach 0.20% ODA/GNI to LDCs within the time frame of 2030 Agenda. ODA can also help to leverage other means of implementation and support capacity-building, including in Middle Income Countries (MICs) to address inequality and to promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Recognising that the majority of the world's poor now live in MICs, a sustainable approach to addressing the concerns of the poorest and most vulnerable must continue to include MICs at the heart of discussions.
6. The EU and its Member States reaffirm the importance and centrality of the development effectiveness principles, as agreed in Busan, namely ownership of development priorities by developing countries, focus on results, inclusive development partnerships, and transparency and mutual accountability. The EU and its Member States acknowledge the principles of aid and development effectiveness in the 2005 Paris Declaration, 2008 Accra Agenda for Action and 2011 Busan Partnership Agreement.
7. The EU and its Member States stress the need for an ambitious and transformative approach to address the root causes and risk factors of gender inequality, discrimination and violence against women and girls as to achieve sustainable results. The Council reiterates that women's and girls' rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are both a stand-alone goal and a cross-cutting issue to achieving sustainable development. The EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 serves as the guiding framework for EU actions in contributing to these commitments.

8. All forms of development cooperation should be founded on the principles of development effectiveness. Development cooperation includes international public and private finance targeted at development outcomes, as well as the interaction between domestic finance and policy with development partners. The resources covered include, but are not limited to, ODA. They also include non-ODA eligible climate finance, other official flows, South-South and triangular cooperation, funds and blended public/private finance, civil society actions and some non-financial co-operation including policy measures and private sector engagement. It also includes humanitarian aid, whilst respecting humanitarian principles. All of these resources are important, should complement each other and need to work together as effectively as possible.
9. Whilst the development effectiveness core principles are common to all partners, the EU and its Member States recognise that the approach taken to achieve these principles will vary from one group of development partners to another. The EU and its Member States embrace this diversity and invite all development partners to articulate their specific approach to implementing the principles of development effectiveness at the HLM2 of the GPEDC.

EU and its Member States: Taking action

10. The EU and its Member States are ambitious in the implementation of each principle and reconfirm existing commitments. Specific action will be taken to make further progress in the following ways:

Democratic country ownership.

11. The EU and its Member States will support partner countries in strengthening their national policies and democratic governance systems for the sustainable provision of essential services to their citizens. The EU and its Member States will further promote and monitor the use of country systems in all aid modalities, where quality allows, including at local level.

12. The EU and its Member States will accelerate efforts to untie aid. In addition to increasing value for money, untying presents opportunities for local procurement, business development, employment and income generation in developing countries. The EU and its Member States underline the importance of ensuring that aid supports local companies throughout the supply chain.
13. Domestic public finance should be at the heart of all countries' efforts to achieve the SDGs. The EU and its Member States will step up support to partner countries to mobilise domestic resources and reinforce audit, anti-fraud, anti-money-laundering and anti-corruption measures, improve tax administration and combat illicit financial flows, tax evasion and avoidance. The EU and its Member States will support the Addis Tax Initiative (ATI) and the use of eGovernance systems. The EU and its Member States encourage all providers and partner countries to sign up to the ATI, for partner countries to step up domestic resource mobilisation.
14. The Council recalls its Conclusions of 12 May 2016 on Stepping up Joint Programming and reiterates that EU Joint Programming should be promoted and strengthened while being kept voluntary, flexible, inclusive, and tailored to the country context. EU Joint Programming can reinforce coordinated policy dialogue, as well as joint analysis, information sharing, joint implementation initiatives, joint monitoring and joint evaluation. EU Joint Programming has the potential for strengthening efficiency, coherence, transparency, predictability and visibility of EU external assistance. Implementing Joint Programming at country level can facilitate a more effective division of labour and reduced fragmentation. Partner country engagement, appropriation and ownership are essential for this process. EU Joint Programming should be led by the partner country's development strategy.

Focus on results.

15. The EU and its Member States will promote coherence with partner country level results frameworks. The EU and its Member States will progressively adapt their results reporting systems to strengthen linkages with the SDG indicators, promote common reporting standards where relevant and support their use by partner countries. The EU and its Member States will integrate the 2030 Agenda and the SDG indicators into the design of an EU results-oriented approach, which will help to promote a common framework for development results at country level for different stakeholders. The EU and its Member States will publish detailed data on the results achieved in a timely and standardised manner.
16. The EU and its Member States will strengthen support for capacity-building for collection and analysis of data and statistics including age- and sex disaggregated data, and reporting for results in partner countries so that these can be used in policy making, planning and budgeting processes. The EU and its Member States will support partner countries in strengthening their gender budgeting.

Transparency and mutual accountability.

17. Full transparency on development resources is crucial to support scrutiny and mutual accountability by a range of stakeholders, including citizens in the EU and in partner countries. The EU and its Member States will publish according to the OECD reporting standards and increasingly to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standard, and will exchange knowledge and best practice in order to accelerate progress. The EU and its Member States reconfirm their commitment to fully implement the common, open standard for electronic publication of information on development cooperation and will strive to publish on-going activities, as regularly as possible, including results data and forward-looking data when available. The EU and its Member States call on all providers of development finance and implementing partners to make comprehensive information publicly available on their activities in developing countries.

18. The EU and its Member States will support data use, including through the development of tools to use and visualise available data. The EU and its Member States will encourage partner countries and development actors to make good use of such tools.

Inclusive development partnerships.

19. The EU and its Member States will focus on the development of strong partnerships with civil society including knowledge and academic institutions, local authorities and the private sector by improving their respective enabling environment. The EU and Member States will also support partnerships with national parliaments, regional and international organisations.

20. The EU and its Member States will support civil society organisations (CSOs) to play their full role as independent development actors in their own right. The EU and its Member States will support an enabling environment for CSOs and engage with them in a structured way to ensure that their voices are heard throughout the policy, planning and implementation cycle.

21. The EU and its Member States will engage with the private sector through structured dialogue and partnerships in order to promote responsible business practices and corporate social responsibility. The EU and its Member States support the economic empowerment of women.

22. Blending instruments and the new European External Investment Plan are important initiatives to leverage private investment and to promote the role of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. They will be implemented in line with development effectiveness principles.

23. The EU and its Member States will empower local authorities through supporting decentralisation processes, and will support communities to interact with local government during policy planning and implementation.

Leave no-one behind as overarching principle of the 2030 Agenda

24. The EU and its Member States recognise the centrality of "Leaving No-one Behind" as an overarching principle underpinning all forms of development cooperation. The focus should be on people living in poverty, vulnerable and marginalised groups, including those living in situations of fragility and conflict.
25. The EU and its Member States will implement the rights-based approach to development cooperation, to ensure that no-one is left behind, reduce extreme poverty, exclusion and inequality and fight discrimination on grounds such as race, ethnicity, age, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, children, persons belonging to minorities, indigenous peoples, refugees, migrants and persons with disabilities. The EU will support in particular the poor and vulnerable groups in claiming their rights and, in doing so, will strengthen social, economic and political inclusion and empower people suffering from marginalisation. The EU will support capacity for and use of disaggregated data to track progress and ensure no-one is left behind.
26. Countries affected by conflict and fragility are home to the most vulnerable populations. The New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States offers useful pathways to achieve the 2030 Agenda, and the International Dialogue on Peace-building and State-building provides a unique platform for that purpose. The EU and its Member States will conduct joint conflict analysis for conflict-sensitive programming, and strengthen their integrated approach to conflict and crises, including through the nexus between security, diplomatic, development and humanitarian action.

Future role and mandate of GPEDC

27. The focus of GPEDC work should be on strengthening political momentum behind aid and development effectiveness, and supporting country-level implementation of the principles and commitments, including through exchanging best practices, peer learning and knowledge sharing. The partnership should continue to be "globally light, country-focused".
28. Implementation of country-level activities and policy discussions should be taken forward in line with a clear integrated work plan by the following actors: the GPEDC Joint Support Team; Steering Committee, regional platforms working on development effectiveness; Global Partnership Initiatives (GPIs); and "communities of practice" to bring together wider members of the partnership on specific issues.
29. The monitoring framework and process of the GPEDC is a unique asset, which follow a country-led, inclusive, multi-stakeholder approach. It has an important role to play in support of implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda. The results of the GPEDC monitoring process are a valuable way of taking stock of progress and challenges in the effectiveness of implementation of development cooperation, and should be used as a tool to influence behavioural change. The systematic analysis and ongoing use of this valuable data between monitoring exercises should be encouraged to underpin dialogue on a country and regional level with a view to improving effectiveness.
30. The EU and its Member States welcome a refinement of the indicators in the GPEDC monitoring framework in order to respond to the 2030 Agenda. The EU and its Member States also encourage other providers of development finance, including MICs to participate in the monitoring exercise. The results of the GPEDC monitoring process are a valuable way of taking stock of progress and challenges in implementation of development cooperation, and should be used as a tool to influence behavioural change.

31. The GPEDC should be a true partnership of all relevant actors for development. The EU and its Member States welcome the increasing involvement of Southern providers of development finance and the private sector in particular. The EU and its Member States encourage these partners to play a more active role in the partnership.
 32. The EU and its Member States support to hold alternate High Level Meetings in the margins of relevant international meetings such as the High Level Political Forum (HLPF). Momentum at technical level and in-country implementation must be maintained between these events. The EU and its Member States support the inclusion of a fourth non-executive Co-Chair in order to improve representativeness.
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