**Trade Union Reactions to HLM2 Zero Draft Document**

The Zero Draft (ZD) provides a very useful basis to begin discussions on the HLM2 Outcome and we congratulate the work done. What follows are the Trade Union constituencies inputs to improve the document at this stage. We look forward to continuing to contribute over subsequent iterations.

*General Comments*

**Integrity of GPEDC vis-à-vis the AAAA and 2030 Agenda**

Recognizing, that the GPEDC can play an important support to the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, we believe that the ZD places an unrealistic expectation on the overall role of the GPEDC. As a consequence, the origins of the GPEDC (Paris, Accra and Busan), as well as, its integrity as a stand-alone entity are lost. There is a need to emphasize instead that the GPEDC can best serve the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the AAAA by living up to the principles and fulfilling the commitments that are the basis of its existence in the first place, namely improving the effectiveness of development cooperation. Related to this, while we appreciate the efforts to preserve some elements of the core aid and development effectiveness agenda (i.e. aid untying, use of country systems) we regret that not once in the text are references to the Paris Declaration or the Accra Agenda for Action, which are pillars of this agenda.

**The Human Rights Based Approach and Decent Work**

It is surprising that internationally agreed commitments on Human Rights (**decent work**, gender equality, environmental sustainability and disability) disappeared in the HLM2 zero draft, as opposed to Busan and Mexico declarations.

Human rights serve as the foundation of the 2030 agenda and the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) underpins the development effectiveness agenda. It is therefore regrettable that the HRBA is entirely absent from the ZD, and consequently requires strengthening in this area.

We also miss any reference to Decent Work. If we insist on the role of the private sector in the realization of sustainable development, in large part as “job creators”, then we must also balance this with and insist upon including Decent Work as the framework by which we orient our ambition.

**Social Dialogue is a key Multistakeholder Partnership**

A great deal of emphasis has been placed on the role of multistakeholder partnerships. In this light, we emphasize the social dialogue as an exemplary type of multistakeholder partnership that should be promoted and utilized, especially given the emphasis on the role of the private sector. The social dialogue, which brings together the social partners (workers and employers organizations), should be promoted as a means of implementation that can support all three pillars of the Sustainable Development Agenda, is a crucial pillar of the decent work agenda, and can help ensure that the private sector contributes to sustainable development objectives by no means a foregone conclusion or guarantee. A specific reference to the social dialogue both in the introductory para 9 and the later section in annex would be welcome.

*Specific Comments*

**Untying Aid (Annex; Para 8)**

Overall the para should be strengthened towards the end of fully untying all aid. This is a commitment made by donors since the Paris Declaration and one that has proved elusive to reach. Further tied aid continues to evolve, especially now with the promotion of the private sector in these arenas and debates. We do welcome the notion to encourage the private sector to source locally. However, we should also insist that donor public monies which aim to buttress private sector activities are geared toward the local/domestic private sector and not “tied” to the donors’ private sector.

**Economic empowerment of women and youth (Annex; Para 16)**

We welcome the focus given to the empowerment of women and youth. In this paragraph we see a rational for including a reference to the social partners and trade unions in particular. In particular with respect to youth, a major challenge concerning youth unemployment is labour supply and skills mismatch. Social partners and trade unions represent both ends of the labour market and should therefore be involved in public policy making in this area.

**Illicit Financial Flows (Annex; Para 19)**

We appreciate the inclusion of a section on this subject, however the framing seems reading as though the onus is entirely developing countries to curb illicit flows, despite that the destination of illicit flows is often the developed world. In this light, and in light of recent revelations of the Panama Papers, there are strong grounds to also include references to the elimination of tax havens (this also applies to the para on Domestic Resource Mobilisation).

**Business as a Partner in Development (Annex; Para 22-23)**

There is an assumption that including Business in the sustainable development agenda will inevitably support the realisation of the objectives. However, without any instruments of accountability for business it is equally as likely that they undermine the common objectives. We therefore suggest to include a reference to trade unions and the social partners in this paragraph as agents of accountability for the private sector. We also feel more generally that a greater emphasis needs to be placed on other recognized instruments of accountability for the private sector like ILO Conventions, UN Principles on Business and Human Rights, OECD Guidelines for MNEs and so forth.

**Enabling greater participation by civil society (Annex; Para 24)**

This section should necessarily build upon the progress reports findings looking at progress (or lack thereof) on improving the enabling environment for civil society. This is fundamentally grounded in the promotion and respect of the fundamental freedoms, and in particular freedom of association and assembly.

Likewise as a constituent of the GPEDC we would be pleased to see the inclusion of a short para on the role for trade unions in this agenda.

**Mandate of the GPEDC (Annex; Para 29)**

We recognise the need to rethink the role of the GPEDC in light of the 2030 Agenda. However revising the mandate should not undermine its core purpose and function which is improving the effectiveness of development cooperation. Therefore any revision of mandate must still be grounded in the GPEDC’s origins—The Paris Declaration, The Accra Agenda for Action and the Busan Partnership Document.

**Monitoring Framework**

The Busan Monitoring Framework remains a cornerstone of the GPEDC and should remain so. This requires the constant strengthening of the framework to make the indicators relevant to the commitments taken since Paris and in light of ongoing evolutions in the way things are done.