**Report on 8th Steering Committee Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, Mexico D.F., September 2015**

**GPEDC Focus and Priorities**

The GPEDC began its 8th steering committee where it left off after the last seven: trying to articulate its added value to the broader development community. After eight meetings, it is slightly concerning that the members of the steering committee still continue to soul search, though part of this can be attributed to recent outcomes in Addis Ababa (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) and New York (Post 2015 Framework) and how the GPEDC should orient itself.

It is fair for the GPEDC to situate itself within the broader set of development objectives, but there is some risk of mission creep if it loses site of the core priorities of aid and development effectiveness as enshrined in the Paris Declaration, Accra Agenda for Action and Busan Partnership Declaration. By the end of the meeting this largely came through and while the GPEDC may be a norm setting body, it works from established principles and priorities that serve to improve development cooperation. Ultimately, further articulation is needed concerning the relationship between the GPEDC and the SDGs, because while it seemed clear that the GPEDC should work to support the objectives of the SDG agenda it was not clear where best to focus.

Following this debate a consensus began to emerge that the GPEDC needs to be more focused in its efforts and not try to do everything. A helpful proposal emerged to visualize and focus the work along the principles and priorities (see below). Though one concern with this approach is that the thematic priorities no longer include trade union or civil society agendas.

|  | **Development effectiveness principles** |
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| **GPEDC priorities** | Country ownership | Focus on results | Inclusive development partnerships | Transparency and mutual accountability |
| DRM |  |  |  |  |
| South-South and Triangular cooperation |  |  |  |  |
| Business in development |  |  |  |  |
| Fragile states and MICs |  |  |  |  |
| Etc. |  |  |  |  |

There was some discussion about the Global Partnership Initiatives and the mixed experience across these initiatives. We highlighted the difficulty in engaging with these initiatives, which fit with a broader sentiment that there is a lack of coherence across the initiatives and that there should be a more concerted effort to coordinate across the initiatives. The workshop in Brussels organized by the European Commission was emphasized and will likely take place again in the early part of next year.

At the end of the meeting there was a very unexpected and concerning intervention from the Dutch Co-Chair, where it was suggested that the GPEDC was entering a new stage and mandate, as primarily a hub for sharing information. The presumed rational being that if the GPEDC is stripped of its ‘accountability’ function, it will be easier to convince China to join (so yet another traditional donor government thinking they will be the ones that “land” China). We suspect this came as a surprise to all other constituents as there was little consensus around this sort of narrative over the course of the day.

**GPEDC Monitoring Framework**

The Join Support Team presented gave an overview of efforts underway to have a more robust and complete Busan monitoring round ahead of the next High Level Meeting. This included updates and eventual endorsement of the work and methodologies for the four pilot indicators on Country Results Frameworks, Civil Society, Private Sector, and Transparency. There was also an update 60 countries have thus far confirmed their participation or intent to participate in the upcoming monitoring (the list of countries accompanies this document). Finally, a great deal of emphasis has been placed on making the monitoring process more inclusive (per recommendations of the advisory group). Consequentially, the Joint Support Team has indicated their intention to ensure inclusion of GPEDC constituents in the data collection. They are taking greater efforts to identify national focal points from all stakeholders able to participate in the monitoring. It will be important for us to communicate national focal points to the joint support team to ensure union presence.

**2nd High Level Meeting, Nairobi, Fall 2016**

There was a presentation by the Government of Kenya preparations for the Second High Level Meeting of the GPEDC set take place in Nairobi in the Fall of 2016. The discussion focused on the preferred outcome, which will likely be a “Statement of Intent” and not a negotiated outcome. The process to agree the outcome will be overseen by Ambassador Macharia Kamau, who recently chaired the Post 2015 Negotiations (as well as the Open Working Group Negotiations).

The Government of Kenya shared a draft agenda (included as accompanying document) which includes the main thematic priority areas of the GPEDC, with some added thematic discussions linked to Post 2015 and Financing for Development, as well as a theme of national priority on Youth and Gender Equality (with a focus on employment issues). As is the agenda is in line with trade union and civil society priorities, and in particular the focus on youth employment is welcome addition. However, the HLM should reflect our overall perspectives toward the GPEDC, in that the themes should fit within its core agenda.

**Meeting Conclusions for Future Work**

On a positive note there were some key outcomes and concrete actions forward out of the steering committee, signalling some progress despite the soul searching at the outset of the meeting. These include:

* Agree on priority areas to sharpen our vision
* Establish inclusive working groups on country focus/multi-stakeholder partnerships at country level; knowledge hub
* Undertake formal and informal outreach to key stakeholders (mainly BRICS)
* Start realizing and communicating results of the Global Partnership Initiatives and link it to broader work of GPEDC
* Pull together country level and stakeholder-led practices
* Take measures to ensure strong participation in Second Monitoring Round from all stakeholders
* Develop and expand further communication channels and efforts
* Establish HLM2 working group to support hosts with agenda and thematic preparations
* Establish working group to mobilise GPEDC resources