

**Update from Working Party on Aid Effectiveness Plenary Meeting
and Executive Committee Meeting
27-29 October 2010
OECD Headquarters
Paris, France**

This report highlights some of the key and outstanding issues emerging from the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness (WP-Eff) Plenary Meeting and Executive Committee (ExCom) Meeting which took place from 27-29 October. In general, both meetings served to lay the groundwork for beginning preparations for Busan. Though many items were left for final decision at a later date (notably, after early results from the Paris Declaration monitoring process were available) there were some rough consensus outcomes worth highlighting.

Meeting structure for HLF-4

There is some consensus on a proposal which came from the World Bank during the plenary meeting to structure the High Level Forum in Busan under four broad topics and take up the many suggested themes under these topics (see attached list of suggested themes). There was also some agreement that the focus should remain aid effectiveness, but in a broader development context.

The organizing topics proposed by the World Bank are:

How has aid worked?

How can aid be strengthened and contribute to capacity development?

How does aid catalyze other forms of development financing?

How does aid support other global issues?

Outcome of HLF-4

Regarding the outcome document there was consensus (to some extent) that the document should be short and political. However, there was debate over whether or not to include an annex. There seemed to be an even divide amongst members of the ExCom as to whether an annex was necessary. As Tony mentioned he supported the annex, underscoring the need to elaborate on the political messages contained in the main text. Talaat Abdel-Malek (Co-chair WP-Eff) concluded the debate by stating that it would make sense to begin the drafting process and allow this debate to unfold over the early stages of the process. In this manner it would become clear whether there is sufficient demand for an annex, but in the mean time it would be necessary to live with some ambiguity about the outcome document.

There was also a question of whether the document would be finalized by the time of the HLF and whether it would be a signed document (World Bank). It was recalled that the idea would be to have a sufficiently advanced version of the document ready in time for the HLF but not finalized so as to allow for Ministers to review the document and propose changes. There was not much discussion as to whether it would be a signed document, though indications seem to be that it will not be.

Format of the meeting

Two meeting format options were proposed during the WP-Eff plenary. The difference between the two options was to either have a set of five proposed political debates run sequentially (Option A) or to have them run simultaneously (Option B). There was a clear majority who favored the first Option A on the grounds that Option B would require too large delegations to contribute meaningfully to all the political debates. There was also some question as to the number of political debates.

Size and preparation

There was discussion on the size of the meeting where after using a formula of roughly five participants from the 194 UN member states (one CSO), plus another 200 participants from IGO's, plus local participation and allowing for some variation in delegation size a safe estimate would be roughly 1500-2000 participants. It would be on the basis of the number of participants that there could be a decision on how to organize the meeting and "keep the participants busy".

Next steps

March 2011 would be too early to organize another plenary as suggested in the original roadmap calendar. Instead, there was a proposal to hold a three-day ExCom "retreat" in March 2011 where members could have a Chatham House rules discussion, revisit pressing topics and take decisions where necessary. The next WP-Eff plenary will take place from 7-8 July 2011.