



Global Donor Platform  
for Rural Development

# The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness

At a glance

The Paris Declaration is the outcome of the 2005 Paris High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. In the Declaration 60 partner countries, 30 donor countries, and 30 development agencies committed to specific actions to further country ownership, harmonization, alignment, managing for development results, and mutual accountability for the use of aid. This document provides a summary of the key messages of the declaration for easy reference.

# The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness

## At a glance

### ••••• Why is the Declaration important?

- The Declaration reflects the development community's determination to increase the effectiveness of aid and achieve lasting development results. To this end it contains a monitoring mechanism: 12 indicators, with targets, which will be used in 2008, 2010, and beyond to review and report on the degree to which the international community has followed through on the commitments.
- The Declaration is important because its implementation will help increase the impact aid has on reducing poverty, raising economic growth, building capacity, and attaining the MDGs. Responsibility for the implementation rests with management and staff at all levels.

### ••••• What do the indicators cover?

- Encourage and help government to identify and articulate country priorities.
- Invest time and effort to promote donor coordination and thus more coherent and responsible donor behaviour.
- Work with government officials, donor representatives, and as appropriate, civil society to deepen the discussion of the Paris Declaration with a view to applying the commitments in the country. This discussion may be part of existing processes (e.g., local donor meetings, CGs/Roundtables) or a specially planned workshop.
- Work with the government and partners to establish base-line data for each priority area.
- With the government and partners, agree on a time-bound agenda for action, a set of realistic targets, and a monitoring process with a focus on achieving results.
- In countries that have endorsed the Paris Declaration, take advantage of the global monitoring exercise to engage key stakeholders in this process.

# Guidelines for Donors to translate the Paris Declaration into practice

## •••• Ownership/country leadership

- Encourage countries to take leadership in coordinating development assistance among line ministries and among donor agencies.
- Work with government and local donors to prepare a roadmap for harmonization and alignment, setting country targets and identifying monitoring mechanisms.
- Facilitate in-country action and learning by providing information on harmonization and alignment and managing for results in other countries.
- Identify “harmonization” and “results” champions within government.

## •••• Country and sector strategies

- Help government to translate its development strategy into clear priorities that are linked to a credible medium-term expenditure framework and its annual budget.
- For each product, consider: How can its preparation help build ownership or capacity? Can it be prepared jointly? Can government’s or other donors’ work be used?
- Explore preparing a result-based CAS “collaboratively” (with common analysis) or “jointly” (common final product) with other donors.
- With other donors, assist government to develop sector/thematic strategies that include a common results matrix for monitoring and evaluation drawn from the national strategy.
- Align performance assessment frameworks with national processes and timetables.



## •••❖ **Operational level**

- Consider sectors where you could scale down, withdraw, or be a silent partner.
- Jointly finance projects with other donors, or agree on division of labour, and briefly document the principles of coordination.
- Consider program-based approaches such as Sector-wide Approaches (SWAPs).
- Use common arrangements for financing, such as pooled financing and common conditionality frameworks.
- Work to harmonize fiduciary requirements for all projects: agree with government and other donors on common procurement arrangements, documents, procedures, plans, and thresholds; and on common accounting, reporting, and auditing arrangements.
- Agree with governments and other donors on harmonized requirements for environmental impact assessment.
- Work to provide aid more predictably, and plan disbursements (particularly of development policy loans) toward the beginning of the government's fiscal year.
- Undertake joint missions and share all reports with other donors.
- Work with country partners to develop harmonized results frameworks.

## •••❖ **Help build & use country systems**

- Use country systems to the extent possible.
- Work to build capacity and strengthen country systems (e.g., fiduciary systems and systems for managing for results), so they can eventually be relied upon.
- Reduce reliance on parallel project implementation units.
- Participate in multi-donor capacity building efforts.

## •••❖ **Mutual accountability**

- Undertake results-based portfolio reviews jointly with other donors.
- Use CGs/Roundtables to review “resources and results” and to monitor Paris commitments.
- Participate with other donors in joint reviews of aid effectiveness.
- Promote independent review of donor assistance and its use at country level.
- Provide timely data on past and estimated future aid flows.