



Second European Forum on Sustainable Rural Development Berlin, June 18-22, 2007

Concept Note prepared by the Platform Secretariat

General Theme 5 - Aid effectiveness (AE)

Expected outcome of Theme 5:

In the design of Theme 5, the Platform will ensure that the results of the discussions around 'aid effectiveness' will provide a direct response to the guiding question of the Forum: "How can the EU be a better partner for Africa?". The expected outcome for theme 5 is to gather insights from themes 1-4 on their implications for the aid effectiveness agenda and vice-versa, to deepen discussion on selected items and to invite participants to jointly put forward their expectations and recommendations for the envisaged Platform-facilitated process towards a 'Code of Conduct for effective aid management in agriculture and rural development (ARD)' to the participants.

During the Montpellier Forum in 2002, participants already called for such a Code of Conduct. At the Berlin Forum 2007, the Platform will propose the envisaged process towards such a 'Code of Conduct' as well as a first document for discussion which will comprise minimum standards for donor organisations on how to plan and execute ARD development programs under the aid effectiveness principles as laid out in the OECD-DAC framework around the Paris Declaration (see also topic 4. Towards a Code of Conduct for effective aid management in agriculture and rural development (ARD))..

The key note speaker on Aid effectiveness on Thursday will introduce AE in general, AE at sector level and introduce the envisaged Platform-facilitated process towards a 'Code of Conduct for effective aid management in agriculture and rural development (ARD)' to the participants. The following session will look at more detail at the CoC process as well as at specific AE issues in three parallel facilitated panel discussions: i) SWAPs in ARD, ii) Aligning to national strategies and iii) Division of Labour. The synthesis of these working groups will be discussed using a fish bowl method with designated representatives out of the three working groups and then opened to the participants.

The message, which is to be derived out of theme 5 and presented to the Parliamentarians still needs to be discussed in order to fit well with the other outputs from the working groups 1-4.

1. Summary:

- The Berlin Forum 07 will cover **5 general themes**: 1. Rural Livelihoods in the face of globalisation, 2. Environmental issues in rural development, 3. Economic and political reforms required to support rural development in Africa, 4. Regional integration in Africa and its implications for rural development, 5. Aid effectiveness (AE), harmonisation and alignment
- The **Global Donor Platform for Rural Development** takes the responsibility for the thematical and organisational preparation for the **theme 5** together with the SG Secretariat and the Facilitation team, as it was agreed by the Steering Group of the Forum,
- **Theme 5 will be**, different to the other themes, treated as a **cross-cutting issue throughout all working groups on themes 1-4**, therefore AE resource persons will participate in all working groups
- The **key note speaker** for Theme 5 will reflect, after a short overview of current AE issues in general, on AE issues especially relevant in the ARD sector. He will also introduce the envisaged CoC process and stress its potential as a practical means on how to translate the AE principles into practice in ARD programs.
- The key note speech will be followed by a **short synthesis presentation of the AE results** of the working groups under themes 1-4 of the previous days, as well as a **presentation on the envisaged Platform-facilitated process towards a CoC**.
- The two presentations will set the stage for the **following three facilitated discussions on a) SWAPs, b) aligning to national strategies and c) division of labour. A fish bowl will close the session on theme 5.**
- The expected **outcome for theme 5** is to make participants aware of the **practical implications of the aid effectiveness agenda on ARD programs** and to discuss jointly the **way towards a 'Code of Conduct for effective aid management in agriculture and rural development'**.
- The Platform will present a **first document as a basis for discussion and review** by the participants. The document will suggest minimum standards for donors on how to plan and implement joint ARD programs under the AE principles, based on practical as well as empirical experiences taken from current rural/agricultural development programs which are already to a certain extent applying these principles .

2. Agenda:

June 18, 19 & 20:

- In order to integrate AE throughout the working groups, **Platform AE resource persons** will participate in the discussions of all working groups, and **provide background knowledge and hands-on experience** to the discussions around the 'AE guiding questions' presented by the moderator of the respective working group. The resource persons will ensure – together with the moderator - that the AE discussions are target-orientated and provide concrete results. (list of resource persons and indication of working groups attached, outline of tasks of resource persons to be presented by Facilitation team). Some working groups will be more relevant to AE issues as others.

- The Platform AE resource persons who participate in the working groups will **synthesise the results together with the lead facilitator and the Platform secretariat of the AE discussions** on Wednesday evening.

Thursday, June 21:

- The agenda for Thursday morning is suggested as follows:

9.00 – 9.20: Key note speech Theme 5. Topics: AE, AE at sector level, short intro CoC. *Speaker: Bernard Petit*

9.20 – 9.45: Synthesis of AE discussion results working groups 1-4: *Sonja Bartelt*

Presentation of Platform-facilitated process towards a CoC: *Miriam Heidtmann*

9.45-9.50: Introduction to the working groups: Steve Jones

10.00 – 11.30: Three parallel facilitated panel discussions, with conclusions to be drawn for the CoC

Group 1: **SWAPs in ARD.**

Discussants: Miriam Heidtmann (Platform Secretariat), Klaus Talvela (Platform International Facilitator), Alison Evans (ODI), Fernando Songane (Mozambique, PROAGRI Coordinator, Ministry of Agriculture), Tiina Huvio Foreign Ministry Finland – Nicaragua)

Group 2: **Aligning donor assistance to national strategies.**

Discussants: Michael Wales (FAO Investment Center/Platform Chair), Wim Olthoff (EC), Cheikh Sourang (IFAD), Michael Brüntrup (DIE), Anastase Murekezi (MoA Rwanda)

Group 3: **Current trends for division of labour among donors.**

Discussants: Sonja Bartelt (Platform Secretariat), Simon Mizrahi (OECD DAC), Helen Wedgewood (DFID), Marc Debois (EC), Brave Ndisale (AU Commission), Wendy Mann (UN)

- Each group must nominate speakers to present the outcome of the discussion in the panel fishbowl

11.30-12.30: Fish Bowl: presenting outcomes of the three sessions, opening discussion to all participants on AE and the CoC **on the central question of the Forum. 'How can the EU be a better partner for Africa? Is the CoC such an instrument? What else is needed?**

2. Procedure:

a) Preparations leading to the conference:

- The envisaged Platform-facilitated process 'Towards a **CoC for effective aid management in ARD programs**' will provide the **'thread'** to theme 5. The preparation

of a first document for review and discussion will be coordinated by the Platform previous to the Forum. AE practitioners with whom the Platform have been working for the last 3 years will jointly prepare the draft. These practitioners will also be participating in selected working groups as resource persons, among others. The document will suggest minimum standards for donors on how to plan and implement joint ARD programs under the AE principles, based on practical as well as empirical experiences taken from current rural/agricultural development programs which are already to a certain extent applying these principles .

- The first document in the CoC process will be **based on evidence gathered in the following studies commissioned by the Platform:**
 - **'Global Analysis of SWAps in ARD'**, prepared by ODI
 - **'Rural focus of PRSPs'**, prepared by IFAD, together with GTZ&NORAD
 - Also, the 1st draft will draw upon the messages of a Platform background paper to the subchapter 'Improving aid effectiveness in agricultural programs' of the current **World Development Report 2008**. Finally, the lesson-learned from the **Platforms in-country facilitation service** will be included in the 1st draft.'
 - It is expected that the draft will have been reviewed by the members of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development before the Forum..
 - Based on the document, the Platform will formulate **guiding questions for discussion for respective working groups**. As such, the participants will be invited to reflect on the proposed procedure and content of the future CoC and to critically evaluate it.
 - In order to prepare and **sensitize participants for the discussion around AE and the envisaged CoC**, the Platform will prepare a note on the organization of Theme to be hand out together with the 1st draft at the beginning of the conference.
- The Platform **will collaborate with the leaders of 'theme 1-4'** on a regular basis to synchronize AE inputs (presentations and guiding questions) with the contents of the different working groups.
- The Platform considers the following **working groups as particularly relevant for AE:** 1.5 "The role of migration and remittances in rural development", 3.1. „Planning and managing rural development", 3.8. "Best practice and current thinking on provision on research and extension", 3.9. "How can political systems become more conducive to rural growth and poverty reduction?", 3.10. "Does decentralisation strengthen rural voice?" 4.1. "Pan African Strategies" and 4.3. "Regional research organisations". We suggest featuring the Aid Effectiveness **Resource person on the panel** of these working groups to ensure that AE will be an integral part of the outcomes of these working groups.

The Platform **resource persons** are a diverse group of technical advisors, donor field staff, partner country representatives, researchers and representatives of the private sector who are actively involved in on-going harmonisation and alignment efforts in agriculture and rural development under the principles of the Paris Declaration (see list of resource persons in the annex.)

- The Platform will be included in the preparation of the key note speech on Theme 5

b) During the conference:

- the Platform will provide a **Platform display, Platform information material and a Platform resource person during the open market space**

c) After the conference:

- the Platform Secretariat as well as its communication specialist will be present during the press conference scheduled on Friday morning
- the Platform will ensure that insights gained for the process towards a CoC for effective aid management in ARD' will be incorporated in the following process.

3. Topics for consideration by the Steering Group of the Forum:

- As the key note speech on Theme 5 is scheduled to take place only on the last day of the professional forum, the Platform suggests to ensure that the topic 'aid effectiveness' is appropriately addressed in the opening speech to the forum to set the right frame for discussions in the working groups, where AE will have to be integrated as a cross-cutting theme.
- The Platform and the Steering Group need to agree on how the CoC/outcomes of the professional forum will be communicated to the High Level Forum.

4. Towards a Code of Conduct for effective aid management in ARD programs

During the Montpellier Forum in 2002, at the same time when the need for a 'Global Donor Platform for Rural Development' was articulated, participants called for a Code of Conduct for donors supporting ARD programs in order to ensure improved coordination and more effective outputs of these programs. Based on the 'Action Points' of Montpellier 02, Christoph Kohlmeyer (BMZ) and Jim Harvey (DFID), both now in the Steering Committee of the Platform, had proposed principles to be included in such a CoC (see 'Improving Donor Coordination for Rural Development', Harvey, Kohlmeyer, McIntosh 2004).

The Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (Platform) has meanwhile been established as a well-accepted initiative to contribute to improved donor coordination for Rural Development. After three years of firming up the Platform network of donors and partner countries as well as the extensive information gathering, practical experiences as well as empirical evidence on applying aid effectiveness principles to the ARD sector, the Platform feels that the time is right for launching the process towards such a Code of Conduct. The Berlin EU Forum 2007, as a follow-up event to Montpellier 02, provides the fitting frame for the launch of the process.

At the Berlin Forum, the Platform will propose the envisaged process towards such a 'Code of Conduct' as well as a first document for discussion which will comprise minimum standards for donor organisations on how to plan and execute ARD development programs under the aid effectiveness principles as laid out in the OECD-DAC framework around the Paris Declaration.

At this stage, the Platform considers the way towards a CoC as a process, which will take a certain time. The acceptance and adherence to such a CoC represents the end of the process which actually might require years of informing, lobbying, monitoring etc., whereas the formulation process of the CoC is expected to be finished relatively soon (possibly early 2008).

The Platform considers the Berlin EU Forum as an important first step towards the formulation of the CoC as well as for whole process, as it provides the opportunity to 'sound the field' within the EU development community and their partners in regard to expectations, doubts, recommendations, challenges towards the CoC.

At this stage, the Platform draft towards the CoC contains the principles mentioned already in the Harvey/Kohlmeyer paper of 2004, updated to reflect the current discussion and terminology, as well as further principles derived from recent Platform studies and from practical experiences through the facilitation service provided to joint ARD programs in selected countries.

The principles relate to government leadership, aligned finance management, private sector interface, service delivery at decentralized level, joint arrangements for technical assistance, studies and missions etc and will be complemented by statements on a) drivers & needs of attention b) mechanisms & instruments c) pitfalls and challenges. As such, the document is at this stage a compilation of proven principles and recommendations for implementation of ARD programs from which the future CoC will be derived.