

**CSOPartnership**   
for Development Effectiveness

HLM  
ADVOCACY  
FAQ

16 November 2016

## PURPOSE OF THE ADVOCACY BRIEFING PAPER

**GENERAL** Provide CSO delegates to HLM2 with necessary information to persuade other actors to champion, support or not block CSO positions. Everyone is encouraged to use these as reference talking points - in every opportunity they could have from spontaneous interventions from the floor to random corridor encounters.

**SPECIFIC** Identify and analyse key issues in the HLM2

State CSO position in each and provide evidence/arguments supporting each position

Identify key milestones/opportunities where these positions can be articulated

# KEY ISSUES IN HLM2

## 1 Upholding Aid & Development Effectiveness Commitments

**Background:** Busan presented a turning point in which a new set of principles such as democratic ownership, inclusive partnerships, transparency and accountability, and a commitment to people-centred development were agreed upon. For the CPDE, these agreements represent the basic minimum going forward applying to all development actors – a floor, not a ceiling.

**Analysis:** The HLM2 is about political will and decisive action. Since Busan, there has been a gradual, systematic narrowing of space, militarism and intensification of killings, threats, harassment and intimidation for civil society despite agreements to the contrary. At the same time, governments are placing increasing emphasis in the role of the private sector in development with little attention to its accountability and responsibility towards sustainable development. HLM2 is a flash-point and it is an important event to ensure that ADE commitments are upheld and all stakeholders commit to being accountable.

## 2 Locating Effective Development Cooperation in relation to the SDGs

**Background:** The 2030 Agenda with the Sustainable Development Goals reaffirms fundamental effectiveness principles including references to country ownership and leadership as well as on accountable forms of governance. However, the agenda falls short on the level of commitment required to deliver on such an ambitious agenda. Voluntary multi-stakeholder partnerships are expected to proliferate with the aim doing just this. This can encourage initiative and co-operation but pose challenges due to fragmentation, limited transparency and lack of accountability.

**Analysis:** The GPEDC Monitoring Framework has been identified as a source of evidence for SDG Goal 17.16 on Global Partnership which is the link of the GPEDC in supporting the SDGs. The HLM2 will be vital in deciding how EDC through the GPEDC and the GPEDC monitoring framework will engage the SDGs.

## 3 Renewing GPEDC Mandate

**Background:** Some governments in the GPEDC have tried to accelerate the pace of renewing the GPEDC mandate in the recent steering committee meetings. There have been attempts at turning the GPEDC mandate into “(i) strengthening political momentum, monitoring and implementation of all types of development co-operation; (ii) supported by knowledge sharing, learning and innovation” and (iii) making specific offers to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) (and other UN fora), especially on SDG 17. This threatens to turn the GPEDC into nothing more than a learning-hub.

**Analysis:** Knowledge sharing is already occurring even without the GPEDC. But EDC is not a mandate by any multi-stakeholder platforms other than the GPEDC. This turn of events threatens to seriously undermine the GPEDC’s primary purpose, accountability mandate, and the GPEDC’s value-added as a unique multi-stakeholder platform, which is at the core of GPEDC’s value proposition. At the HLM2 it is critical that this process is not expedited and goes through the proper process and channels.

## 4 Enabling Environment for CSOs as Independent Development Actors

**Background:** A feat of the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan (2011) is the recognition of civil society as an independent development stakeholder, and of the international commitment to a broad and inclusive partnership for development. Despite this, shrinking spaces for civil society at all levels from national to global is still ensuing. Enactment of repressive laws such as anti-terrorism laws further legitimise violence and the increasing number of violence. An Enabling Environment where civil society is institutionalised as independent development actors must be realised. UN fora), especially on SDG 17. This threatens to turn the GPEDC into nothing more than a learning-hub.

**Analysis:** References to civil society's role as an independent development actor, as well as having an Enabling Environment is scarce both in the 2030 Agenda and the Nairobi Outcome Document of the HLM2. CSOs should be regarded in parity with States and the Private Sector. The HLM2 will require all development stakeholders to uphold this very niche at this cross-road and emphasise the need to be accountable to the people.

## 5 Role of Private Sector in Development Cooperation

**Background:** In recent years there has been an increased focus on partnership with the private sector, specifically MNCs, TNCs, and local big businesses to address development challenges. This has moved beyond the promotion of public-private partnerships (PPPs) to include greater private sector involvement in the identification of development solutions, and the design and implementation of development activities. Countries have made numerous statements at the international level promoting the private sector as a partner in development.

**Analysis:** The HLM is important as both the outcome document and the run of the HLM have a large private sector emphasis reflecting just this. The private sector consists of a wide body of actors with differing needs and agenda. Each of them play a role in ensuring development cooperation. Yet some fall short from the cause as they have pursued projects without considering the impact on host communities. This partnership is not a reliable indicator for EDC either. Projects under PPP schemes usually result to further marginalisation of already marginalised and vulnerable sectors and even put States at even more debt. It is for this reason that CSOs must take this same opportunity to ensure that all stakeholders, especially the private sector, adhere to the highest standards of transparency and accountability the kind of accountability that is to the people and not mired in empty processes and aligned towards stockholders and private business interests.

## 6 Development Cooperation in Fragility & Conflict Situations

**Background:** In recent years there has been a trend where human rights, international humanitarian laws, inclusion and participation of social or mass movements, people's organisations, and communities are further marginalised in fragile situations and in conflict and post-conflict areas. This has become increasingly alarming in development cooperation as these situations are aggravated as States ramp-up militarism and military spending which in a number of times replace official development assistance. These directly or indirectly create an environment which fringes on the basic and fundamental human rights such as on health, education, and housing of people in these situations. Militarism is also used as a policy of global control and influence which runs counter to the principles of EDC. This reality violates peoples' rights to life and liberty; curtails rights of expression and self-determination with the end goal of destroying any form of resistance. A restricted environment does not lead to development cooperation much less EDC.

**Analysis:** The root-cause of this reality can be attributed to geopolitical quandary between major powers such as China, Russia, and the United States. The global community should acknowledge that the effectiveness agenda offers the potential to address these challenges, specifically the effect of militarism which further aggravates worldwide poverty, loss of lives, homes, and livelihood, destruction of communities, biodiversity and the environment. At the HLM CSOs should make it clear that we will only be able to do so through the commitments made in the Busan Agreement, which directs development cooperation where it is most needed, fragility & conflict situations being one of the most critical today.

## DONORS MUST UPHOLD ADE COMMITMENTS

### ***How is the ADE progress so far?***

There is still limited progress on Development Effectiveness principles as shown by the Second Monitoring Round. Although the report shows that there has been a degree of progress observed, the results are mixed with some still terribly lacking. This lack of progress is all the more troubling as these issues are the core elements to make development co-operation effective. Upholding ADE at this HLM should mean ensuring promises are not broken and the hard-fought commitments of the development community since Paris, Accra, Busan, and Mexico are not disregarded.

### ***What do we do with ADE?***

Upholding ADE commitments can only be done through trust and accountability among development partners. This means that all actors, including the private sector, must first be in line with all development effectiveness principles. Governments as duty-bearers should also align their foreign and security policies to development cooperation and human rights principles and commitments if we are to expect any degree of progress.

### ***Why are donors so important for ADE and what do they need to do?***

Donors have a responsibility to see their commitments through. There can be no backtracking. There must also be a stop to diverting development assistance from cases such as the refugee crisis to cover in-donor costs and new tools to support the private sector (whose impact, development orientation and transparency are still to be tested). Situations such as the refugee crisis should instead be funded through other instruments. Donors must also combat the militarisation of aid such as in the TOSSD which only legitimises the use of militarism through aid.

## EDC SHOULD BE A STAND-ALONE AGENDA TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGs

### ***Where is the junction between EDC and the SDGs?***

Effective development co-operation, with its breadth that covers not only aid and development effectiveness but other forms of development including development finance, is a major pillar of ensuring successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

### ***How are the EDC principles/agenda important?***

The voluntary nature of partnerships as it is described by the 2030 Agenda is susceptible to fragmentation, limited transparency and lack of accountability. A stand-alone Effective Development Co-operation agenda is an essential framework that will contribute to the effective implementation, follow-up, and review of the SDGs.

### ***What is the role of this HLM and the 2MR with EDC and its link to the 2030 Agenda?***

The recently published 2MR report shows the limitations of the current framework being used. Aside from mixed results and a lack of progress with ADE principles, there is also work to be done specifically with making mutual accountability an overarching indicator through which all the dimensions of behaviour and policies changes are brought to an inclusive and institutionalized multi-stakeholder review process. It is imperative that the HLM2 further consolidate a robust monitoring framework based on genuine multi stakeholder dialogue at the global, regional and country levels to be able to effectively mainstream the EDC Agenda and help supplement the SDGs.

## GPEDC MUST BE A FORUM FOR MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION ACTORS

### ***Why is mutual accountability important for GPEDC?***

GPEDC's focus on mutual accountability ensures we do not lose track of the unfinished business from Paris and Accra, as well as the commitments agreed in Busan.

### ***Why is the GPEDC's multi-stakeholder nature very important for the partnership?***

GPEDC is not only the only multi-stakeholder platform on effective development co-operation it is also one of the few that includes non-state actors as peers in its core governance structure.

### ***What does GPEDC stand for and what are the implications of turning it into a 'learning-hub'?***

Unlike other global fora, GPEDC also supports the implementation of commitments at the country level. The link between global and local can make a big difference to developing countries as they try to hold providers accountable for their commitments, both globally and on the ground. By merely reducing the GPEDC as information provider and a source of evidence for the SDG and FFD follow-up risks losing its relevance. EDC is not simply information sharing. This can be done with or without the GPEDC.

## DONOR & AID-RECIPIENT GOVERNMENTS MUST PROVIDE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CSOs AND RECOGNISE THEM AS INDEPENDENT DEVELOPMENT ACTORS

### ***What do we necessitate from the 2nd HLM?***

The HLM2 should reiterate the recognition of CSOs as independent development actors in their own right and commit to an enabling environment for CSOs. The continued progress of Effective Development Cooperation hinges on true and accountable multi-stakeholder partnership where all development stakeholders have equal abilities to meaningfully engage in the processes.

### ***What is happening and what needs to be done to remedy this?***

The recent 2MR report shows that although there has been some progress made in the area of episodic consultations, since Busan in 2011, CSOs are facing debilitating and growing challenges as development actors in their own right. The report also acknowledges that "the quality of consultations still varies" and there are still persisting "obstacles that prevent effective engagement". Governments and development providers in the GPEDC must not stop here. They should take this as an initiative to further address the continued closing of civic space, which undermines CSOs' ability to advocate for human rights, for marginalized groups, and for greater accountability on the part of the governments and international institutions.

### ***What needs to happen?***

For CSOs, including peoples and community organisations and social movements to be regarded as equal partners. Governments and development providers should commit to this and make substantial progress over the next two years toward fully realizing an enabling environment for CSOs consistent with agreed international rights.

# CPDE POSITION ON KEY ISSUES

## GOVERNMENT SHOULD ENSURE PRIVATE SECTOR ACCOUNTABILITY IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

### ***What is the role of governments in this?***

Governments bear the primary responsibility for implementing internationally recognised guidelines and principles concerning business behavior. Development cooperation should be focused on reducing poverty, inequality and supporting sustainable development in a social, economic and environmental perspective.

### ***How is the HLM an opportunity to ensure Private Sector accountability?***

GPEDC can play a crucial role in helping to achieve meaningful and sustainable results by supporting the private sector in complying with and internalising development effectiveness principles and internationally agreed conventions on human rights, including women's rights, disabilities and labor.

## DIRECT DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION WHERE IT IS MOST NEEDED AND UPHOLD COMMITMENTS ON PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT ESPECIALLY IN COUNTRIES IN FRAGILITY AND POST-CONFLICT SITUATIONS

### ***What is the role of the HLM and the GPEDC in this aspect?***

The GPEDC has a role in ensuring that Effective Development Cooperation approaches deliver peace and security for people in situations of conflict and fragility.

### ***What is lacking in the current global efforts in this endeavor?***

There should be Inclusive and accountable partnerships using HRBA (human rights based-approach) to development in dealing with situations of conflict and states in post-conflict and fragile situations. We must further uphold principles of human rights and international humanitarian laws. There should be the inclusion and participation of social or mass movements, people's organizations and communities, civil society in peace building processes. States should reduce and realign militarism and military spending to support basic and fundamental human rights such as on health, education, and housing.

What do we mean by directing development co-operation where it is most needed? Development effectiveness principles are applied or referred to effectiveness in fragile, conflict affected states, situations of marginalisation of people. Civil society stakeholders from these settings should also be able to participate fairly and equitably in securing effective development cooperation.

# MILESTONES & OPPORTUNITIES FOR ARTICULATING CSO POSITIONS

## PROCESSES

### ***National and delegation preparations:***

As CSOs it is important for us to not only be independent actors, part of our role as civil society is also to reach out to our national governments about our stand and to work towards co-operation. To get on the same page and with complementing messages prior to the event will pave the way to a more powerful impact at the forum. This matters to all CSOs but especially to those whose countries will be attending and will be playing a crucial role at the forum

### ***Outcome document:***

The outcome document will be the single most important output of the HLM. CPDE has been engaging this process since it started. The document is set to be finalised by the ministerial segment and it is therefore the duty of every CSO representative to embody the messages we are trying to get across and to appear harmonious in every step of the way.

## OFFICIAL EVENTS IN THE HLM

### ***Plenary:***

Plenary sessions are the core of the ministerial session at the HLM. There will be 7 sessions through the 4-day forum. This is here where important issues, reports, and propositions will be discussed to help set the course for the future of GPEDC. This is the main avenue where CSO messages will need to be heard and delivered. These are the most critical parts of the HLM and CSOs must have a large presence. It is up to CSOs to raise the bar higher and dare say what others will not.

### ***Amphitheatre:***

Amphitheatre sessions will run parallel to plenary sessions. They however do not share the same concept. These amphitheatres are designed as preparatory session that will inform the plenary session after it not the one alongside it. Because of this, it is also of vital importance that CSOs take the field at these sessions to ensure that the purposes of each session are not altered in any way that may harm the purpose of the HLM2. This will also be an opportunity for civil society to build a foundation and a proper precedence for any key messages CSOs may raise at the plenaries.

### ***Side Events:***

Side-events are important supplements to any forum. CPDE will be hosting its side-event on universalising effective development co-operation. This will showcase the core and the logic of our messages and every CPDE delegate is highly encouraged to attend as well as encourage others to come as well. This will be held on the 30th of November from 14:30-15:30.

### ***Marketplace:***

The marketplace is an area at the HLM proper where organisations are able to promote their products and activities. CPDE will be holding our marketplace on Renewing commitments to EDC and Accountability: showcasing CPDE researches on Development Effectiveness. This venue will be an important network opportunity to share our messages and provide everyone with an access to CSO evidence on what we are working on.

### ***Corridor talk***

It is also important to remember that the world doesn't change through powerful speeches and stunts alone. Most messages come across to different actors through personal conversations and short anecdotes. With this in mind it is important to note that the messages outlined above are not for public interventions alone. These need to be grasped by each and every civil society representative on a personal level to enable us to reach people who are otherwise beyond our grasps during formal sessions.



# MILESTONES & OPPORTUNITIES FOR ARTICULATING CSO POSITIONS

## WORKING WITH COMMUNICATIONS

### ***Using CPDE communications outlets:***

Communication is key to getting our messages across. Although it is important to have positions and messages in hand, it is also up to us that this be heard by a wider audience and not just by technocrats that we've grown used to in these fora. CSOs can make use of CPDE's social media channels and the website. This is our opportunity to write posts, share pictures, voice our opinion and messages, and promote what we are trying to say, online.

### ***Using your own networks and contacts:***

Similar to the national preparations above, this will also be the opportunity for civil society to use its networks to share and get on the same page in terms of our messages. As CSOs our messages are often divisive from mainstream bureaucratic-driven statements. Our sound-bites instead offers inspiration and a new perspective that we often forget can dazzle and inspire others. This will be important to strengthen our existing communication channels and ensure that we have a lasting impact beyond just the official days of the HLM.