

## National Workshop on Development Effectiveness Concept Note

### Historical Background: Development Effectiveness Process

The Development Effectiveness process revolves around the impact of development actors on the lives of poor and marginalized populations. The process aims to deal with the root causes as well as the symptoms of inequality. It was launched in parallel with the developmental efforts underlying the 2000 Millennium Declaration. A summit was held to discuss ways for "financing development" in **2002 in Monterrey**. The Monterrey Summit was held under the impact of the international financial crisis that erupted in the late 1990s (especially 1997). While the Monterrey Summit had aimed to look into the financing of development programs, namely the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the discussion shifted towards the causes and consequences of the international crisis, leading developing countries to propose the serious need for structural reform in the global trading system, international trade relations, and the nature of debt.

Later, the OECD launched a track to look into ways to activate aid, which led to organizing a high-level summit for member States in Rome, 2003. The Summit aimed to elaborate the principles and mechanisms to activate aid to serve the foals of development in general. The track and search for the principles continued until the second high-level summit in Paris, 2005, which issued the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. The **Paris Declaration** included five basic principles. It was the first time donor states seriously proposed a change in the concept and foundations of the relationship between donors and recipients, focusing on the need to establish relations on the basis on partnership.

**The Paris Declaration is focused on five mutually reinforcing principles:**

1. **Ownership:** Developing countries must lead their own development policies and strategies, and manage their own development work on the ground. This is essential if aid is to contribute to truly sustainable development. Donors must support developing countries in building up their capacity to exercise this kind of leadership by strengthening local expertise, institutions and management systems. The target set by the Paris Declaration is for three-quarters of developing countries to have their own national development strategies by 2010.
2. **Alignment:** Donors must line up their aid firmly behind the priorities outlined in developing countries' national development strategies. Wherever possible, they must use local institutions and procedures for managing aid in order to build sustainable structures. In Paris, donors committed to make more use of developing countries' procedures for public financial management, accounting, auditing, procurement and monitoring. Where these systems are not strong enough to manage aid effectively, donors promised to help strengthen them. They also promised to improve the predictability of aid, to halve the amount of aid that is not disbursed in the year for which it is scheduled, and to continue to "untie" their aid from any obligation that it be spent on donor-country goods and services.
3. **Harmonisation:** Donors must coordinate their development work better amongst themselves to avoid duplication and high transaction costs for poor countries. In the Paris Declaration, they committed to coordinate better at the country level to ease the strain on recipient governments, for example by reducing the large numbers of duplicate field missions. They agreed on a target of providing two-thirds of all their aid via so-called "programme-based approaches" by 2010. This means aid is pooled in support of a particular strategy led by a recipient country—a national health plan for example—rather than fragmented into multiple individual projects.
4. **Managing for results:** All parties in the aid relationship must place more focus on the result of aid, the tangible difference it makes in poor people's lives. They must develop better tools and systems to measure this impact. The target set by the Paris Declaration is for a one-third reduction by 2010 in the proportion of developing countries without solid performance assessment frameworks to measure the impact of aid.
5. **Mutual accountability:** Donors and developing countries must account more transparently to each other for their use of aid funds, and to their citizens and parliaments for the impact of their aid. The Paris Declaration says all countries must have procedures in place by 2010 to report back openly on their development results.

The Third High-Level Forum was held in Accra, Ghana, to follow-up on the Paris Declaration. Civil Society Organizations were invited as observers. A consultative mechanism was prepared in the framework of preparations for the Summit; CSOs were invited to organize a parallel forum and monitor the governmental forum in general. An international network of CSOs was formed, called Better Aid, which prepared the documents related to the positions of civil society around the world. The Accra Action Agenda was launched in the Accra Summit in 2008, as an implementation mechanism for the principles of the Paris Declaration. In addition to the need for civil society as a vital partner in development, it confirmed the principle of respecting the national system for delivery of aid. This means the donor countries would deliver aid

through officially designated national bodies and not through parallel mechanisms. Full partnership with CSOs in the Aid Effectiveness process was also adopted in Accra. Civil society representatives focused on a vision that the aim of development is to achieve development and its goals. Consequently, aid would become an effective means to achieve development. In this sense, civil society is raising the slogan of the need to transition from the principle of Aid Effectiveness into the principle of Development Effectiveness. In this context, the Accra Declaration stressed the need for an enabling environment, which includes, in addition to the appropriate legal framework, the necessary conditions to enable civil society to play its role as an independent and responsible partner.

Civil society representatives also established a process in parallel with Better Aid, in the context of developmental efforts, called the Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness. Through this framework, CSOs called on donor countries to be more active, transparent, and accountable. At the same time, it aimed to adopt criteria for activating the role of civil society to be an active, transparent, and strong partner in the development process. The Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness held a meeting in Istanbul in 2009 and issued the Istanbul Principles for CSO Development Effectiveness.

#### **Istanbul CSO Development Effectiveness Principles**

Civil society organizations are a vibrant and essential feature in the democratic life of countries across the globe. CSOs collaborate with the full diversity of people and promote their rights. The essential characteristics of CSOs as distinct development actors – that they are voluntary, diverse, non-partisan, autonomous, non-violent, working and collaborating for change – are the foundation for the Istanbul principles for CSO development effectiveness. These principles guide the work and practices of civil society organizations in both peaceful and conflict situations, in different areas of work from grassroots to policy advocacy, and in a continuum from humanitarian emergencies to long-term development.

1. Respect and promote human rights and social justice CSOs are effective as development actors when they ... develop and implement strategies, activities and practices that promote individual and collective human rights, including the right to development, with dignity, decent work, social justice and equity for all people.
2. Embody gender equality and equity while promoting women and girls' rights CSOs are effective as development actors when they ... promote and practice development cooperation embodying gender equity, reflecting women's concerns and experience, while supporting women's efforts to realize their individual and collective rights, participating as fully empowered actors in the development process.
3. Focus on people's empowerment, democratic ownership and participation CSOs are effective as development actors when they ... support the empowerment and inclusive participation of people to expand their democratic ownership over policies and development initiatives that affect their lives, with an emphasis on the poor and marginalized.
4. Promote Environmental Sustainability CSOs are effective as development actors when they ... develop and implement priorities and approaches that promote environmental sustainability for present and future generations, including urgent responses to climate crises,

with specific attention to the socio-economic, cultural and indigenous conditions for ecological integrity and justice.

5. Practice transparency and accountability CSOs are effective as development actors when they ... demonstrate a sustained organizational commitment to transparency, multiple accountability, and integrity in their internal operations.

6. Pursue equitable partnerships and solidarity CSOs are effective as development actors when they ... commit to transparent relationships with CSOs and other development actors, freely and as equals, based on shared development goals and values, mutual respect, trust, organizational autonomy, long-term accompaniment, solidarity and global citizenship.

7. Create and share knowledge and commit to mutual learning CSOs are effective as development actors when they ... enhance the ways they learn from their experience, from other CSOs and development actors, integrating evidence from development practice and results, including the knowledge and wisdom of local and indigenous communities, strengthening innovation and their vision for the future they would like to see.

8. Commit to realizing positive sustainable change CSOs are effective as development actors when they ... collaborate to realize sustainable outcomes and impacts of their development actions, focusing on results and conditions for lasting change for people, with special emphasis on poor and marginalized populations, ensuring an enduring legacy for present and future generations.

Guided by these Istanbul principles, CSOs are committed to take pro-active actions to improve and be fully accountable for their development practices. Equally important will be enabling policies and practices by all actors. Through actions consistent with these principles, donor and partner country governments demonstrate their Accra Agenda for Action pledge that they “share an interest in ensuring that CSO contributions to development reach their full potential”. All governments have an obligation to uphold basic human rights – among others, the right to association, the right to assembly, and the freedom of expression. Together these are pre-conditions for effective development.



The Fourth High-Level Forum was held in Busan in 2011, in the midst of the current multi-faceted global financial, economic, climate, food, and energy crisis. Civil society participated fully in the conference agenda; it was a key participant in the discussions at the negotiations table. CSOs considered that the crisis was systemic and not a normal or economic crisis. It cannot be addressed through traditional measures taken at the level of G8 or G20, such as pumping some funding in the global economy to get it back running, formally addressing the issues of transparency, or through measures against some rule-breaking companies. The crisis requires the development of a vision towards building a new world order, based on measures to control the free movement of capital and impose some restrictions. It also includes the

reconsideration of current developmental models, which focus on economic growth and GDP levels. A new paradigm is certainly needed to replace the current one, which is represented by a crisis that reached the shores of industrial countries, such as the US and European countries. In the framework of post-Busan follow-up, CSOs decided to unite the CSO Effectiveness and the Better Aid processes into a platform called CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness. The platform aims to implement the principles of the Paris Declaration and the Accra Declaration and reach social justice established on the principles of respecting human rights and providing an enabling environment for civil society.

### **Aid Effectiveness (or Development Effectiveness) Process: Between the Millennium Declaration and the 2030 Agenda**

The MDGs, which emerged from the Millennium Declaration issued by the United Nations Secretary General in 2000, especially Goal 8 on global partnership and international commitment to achieve development in developing countries, is the basis that should be used to discuss the Aid Effectiveness process. The importance of Goal 8 lies in the fact that 192 countries around the world, including industrial countries, are committed to an international partnership to achieve development, through the following principles, which are included in the text of Goal 8:

**Global Partnership:** Develop a fair global trading and financial system that contributes to development through commitment to human rights, strengthening governance, activating development policies, and reducing poverty, unemployment, and marginalization rates on the national and international levels. This was the first time the issue of trade and trade relations was raised from a developmental point of view.

**Debt:** Address the debt of developing countries comprehensively and seriously, through national and international measures to restructure or cancel public debt on the long run. Developing countries allocate a large part of their public budgets to cover their debt, which could be transferred to development programs, service provisions, and citizens' rights. Despite the fact that actual debts have been paid many times over, debt is still increasing due to interest. Budgets that were freed as a result of debt cancellation should be allocated to fund development programs and poverty and social marginalization eradication policies.

**Aid:** Consider the quantitative and qualitative enhancement of aid, where industrial countries committed to allocating 0.7% of national income to development aid in developing countries. Before the Millennium Declaration, industrial countries had not committed to this pledge, as Europe was only providing 0.26% of its national income and only five countries reached the 1% mark. They were the Scandinavian countries and Canada. Thus, there is a need to reiterate this commitment.



### **2030 Agenda: A Step Back in the Process?**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in September 2015 to form the new international process for development, spoke about "global partnerships for sustainable development." Goal 17 on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing global partnership for sustainable development is meant in part to mobilize funds, transfer technology, and activate international trade and investment. However, the goal focused mainly on building "partnerships" between the various stakeholders. It called to revitalize international partnership to achieve sustainable development and accompany them with partnerships between parties of the development process to collect and share knowledge, experiences, technology, and financial resources, to achieve the sustainable development goals in all countries, particularly developing countries. It also called on encouraging and promoting effective partnerships between the public and private sectors and with civil society, by taking advantage of experiences gained from partnerships and their resource mobilization strategies.

While this aim to promote partnerships is necessary to provide resources and developmental efforts, it needs first to enable stakeholders, especially CSOs, to work effectively in an enabling environment. This is not limited to the legal framework and includes the right to access information and resources and the ability to effectively participate in public policy-making. It also requires enabling the business sector to participate and opening its horizon, with an emphasis on respecting human rights standards. On the other hand, development partnership and public policy-making is a responsibility for all partners, and thus they should be accountable based on the principle of mutual accountability.

Consequently, it is important to focus on follow-up mechanisms, through transparency and accountability, and to promote the role of civil society in the process by providing the enabling environment and necessary resources to accomplish the task.

### **Workshop Objectives:**

- Highlight and focus on the principles of Development Effectiveness and the need for all developmental actors in Lebanon to respect them.
- Focus on the principle of partnerships among stakeholders to enhance developmental performance, through making use of expertise and resource to achieve developmental goals.
- Focus on the need for accountability, particularly mutual accountability, looking into its mechanisms, and promoting the role of civil society in transparency and accountability.
- Partnerships require a favorable environment for development stakeholders' work and the principles of mutual accountability, when partnerships are expanded.

### **Outputs:**

- Agreement between all participants on a set of principles in the framework of development effectiveness principle as a basis for common developmental work.
- Suggestions for future work in the framework of the Development Effectiveness process.