



Development cooperation in the age of the Sustainable Development Goals: Strengthening the role of parliaments

**Parliamentary Forum at the
Second High-level Meeting (HLM2) of the
Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC)**

**29 November 2016
Lenana Hall, Kenyatta international Convention Centre - Nairobi, Kenya**

PROGRAMME

9:30 – 10:00 Opening Session

Welcoming remarks by the organizers:

- **Hon. Mr. Ekwee D. Ethuro**, Speaker of the Senate (Kenya)
- **Mr. Martin Chungong**, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
- **Minister of State, Ms. Miet Smet**, President of the Association of European Parliamentarians with Africa (AWEPA)

10:00 – 10:40 Briefing on the GPEDC - What role for parliaments?

Representatives of the GPEDC Steering Committee will present the work of this multi-stakeholder partnership since its inception in 2011 and discuss expectations of the partnership going forward. This will include a reflection on the specific role of parliaments in supporting the country-level work of the partnership as part of national development cooperation structures and related processes.

Presenters:

- **Mr. Alessandro Motter**, Senior Advisor, Economic and Social Affairs, IPU
- **Ms. Christine Andela**, Collectif des ONG pour la Sécurité Alimentaire et le Développement Rural; Civil Society Organisations (CSO) Partnership for Development Effectiveness
- **Ms. Brenda Killen**, Deputy Director, Development Co-operation Directorate,
- **Mr. Noel Gonzalez Segura**, Acting Director, Agencia Mexicana de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AMEXCID)
- **Ms. Casey Dunning**, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of Development Cooperation, USAID

10:40 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30 Session I: Strengthening Official Development Assistance through parliamentary oversight and related processes

Official assistance (financial and non-financial), together with contributions from CSOs and private foundations, remains a key component of development cooperation in its own right, by providing direct support to public services and infrastructure, and as a catalyst of other flows of development finance. Yet, only a few countries have scaled up aid to the official global target of 0.7% of Global National Income (GNI) and progress toward improving the effectiveness of aid (i.e. national ownership, alignment of development plans, use of country systems, aid on budget, etc.) remains slow and with mixed results. A key factor in this is insufficient parliamentary oversight compounded by weak capacities and the relative marginalization of parliaments from aid coordination processes, including the key process for the national development cooperation policy.

This panel discussion will spotlight the steps that parliaments and development partners can take to move the aid effectiveness agenda forward.

Moderator: **Mr. Jonathan Glennie**, Director, sustainable Development, Ipsos MORI

Presenters:

- **Hon. Abdul Matin Khasru**, Member of Parliament, Bangladesh
- **Hon. Maureen O’Sullivan**, Member of Parliament, Ireland
- **Hon. Mwalimu Simfukwe**, Member of Parliament, Zambia
- **Ms. Charlotte Petri Gornitzka**, Chair of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC)
- **Mr. Ben Phillips**, International Director of Policy, Action Aid

Leading questions:

- *How can parliaments ensure that an inclusive and effective national development cooperation policy, or aid policy, is in place where needed? How can parliaments ensure the policy is implemented?*
- *Should more aid be used catalytically to attract other development cooperation flows or invested directly to meet the needs of the poor?*
- *Is allocating 0.7% of GNI to aid a realistic target, at this political juncture? How can parliamentarians help improve both the quantity and quality of aid?*
- *What are the institutional obstacles to putting more aid on budget so that it is subject to parliamentary oversight?*
- *What keeps donors from investing more in strengthening parliamentary oversight capacities? And how can parliaments in donor countries help?*

12:30 – 14:00 Luncheon offered by the Parliament of Kenya

14:00 – 16:00 Session II: Mobilizing domestic resources – national taxation, illicit flows, and the international tax regime

A country's own resources provide the most reliable source of development finance that people can control through their elected representatives. While a number of countries remain heavily dependent on aid, many are phasing out of aid and looking for ways to raise their own domestic revenue. Yet progress on this front continues to face a number of challenges, such as weak state administrations that are unable to assess and collect taxes, corruption of public officials, and large informal sectors that have little incentive to contribute to the public purse.

In many developing countries, a large share of domestic resources come from the contribution of transnational companies, particularly extractive industries (oil, minerals etc.), in the form of taxes and royalties. Potential revenue for development is lost each year due to tax avoidance techniques utilized by these companies. This is compounded by opaque ownership structures, the existence of tax havens and a weak international tax regime to track illicit flows. Additional resources are lost due to international tax competition in which countries lure foreign investors by offering lower tax rates or overly generous subsidies.

This session will discuss the legislative and regulatory reforms parliaments should advance to improve tax collection at home and to strengthen the international tax regime so as to generate additional resources for sustainable development.

Moderator: **Ms. Kudzai Leslie Makombe**, Deputy Director, Bilateral Programmes and Partner Relations, AWEPA

Presenters:

- **Lord David Chidgey**, House of Lords, United Kingdom
- **Hon. Jefferson Kanmoh**, Deputy Speaker, Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); Member of Parliament, Liberia
- **Hon. Carmen Quesada Santamaria**, Member of Parliament, Costa Rica
- **Ms. Winnie Byanyima**, Executive Director, Oxfam International
- **Mr. Joseph Stead**, Senior Policy Analyst, Centre for Tax Policy and Administration, OECD representative

Leading questions:

- *Improving domestic tax collection is important but how can this succeed in raising sufficient resources unless the tax base expands through equitable and inclusive growth?*
- *Combating international tax evasion by wealthy individuals and transnational corporations continues to prove elusive despite recent reforms: what additional measures may be required? Should a binding international treaty be contemplated?*
- *Should countries work toward a common tax regime for foreign corporations? What role can parliaments play in this regard?*
- *What anti-corruption measures should parliaments support to ensure all public resources are put to good use?*
- *How can parliament help prevent capital flight that undermine economic prospects, or to manage its consequences?*

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 – 18:00 Session III: Leveraging public and private partnerships – parliamentary oversight and political considerations

Public-private partnerships (PPPs) can provide essential public services and infrastructure which many developing countries' governments may otherwise be unable to finance on their own. While PPPs have always had a role in development, they have become more common in recent years. A new generation of PPPs is being created that includes new forms of "blended finance" (mixing aid flows with private investments). Yet, finding a convergence of interests between the public and private sectors is not always easy. The success of these partnerships is not guaranteed, and examples of failures – in terms of unexpected liabilities, affordability of the public services to be provided, or the long-term viability of

the partnership - abound. When problems occur, it is sometimes because of a lack of transparency and accountability to the parliament and the public at large.

This session will review the conditions that must come together for public-private partnerships to succeed and in which parliaments can play a role. These include: exploring alternative financing before entering into a partnership, reporting potential liabilities through the budget process, greater transparency of contractual arrangements, and regular reporting to parliament on the results of PPPs.

Moderator: **Mr. Jonathan Glennie**, Director, Sustainable Development, Ipsos MORI

Presenters:

- **Hon. Petra Bayr**, Member of Parliament, Austria
- **Hon. Rosa Maria Bartra Barriga**, Member of Parliament, Peru
- **Hon. Shamsul Iskandar Mohd Akin**, Member of Parliament, Malaysia
- **Mr. Jeroen Kwakkenbos**, Policy and Advocacy Manager, European Network on Debt and Development (EURODAD)

Leading questions:

- *What alternative financing mechanisms can governments consider before entering into a new partnership with a private entity? How can parliaments ensure that all options are considered?*
- *How can parliaments ensure that development cooperation is not wasted to leverage partnerships that may not succeed?*
- *What actions can parliaments take to ensure greater transparency of PPPs contracts?*
- *Should domestic companies compete for PPP contracts on the same level playing field as international corporations?*
- *How can parliaments ensure that essential public services supplied through PPPs benefit all citizens fairly and effectively?*

18:00 – 18:30 Closing session – adoption of a Parliamentary Statement

- **Hon. Mr. Ekwee D. Ethuro**, Speaker of the Senate (Kenya)

This brief session will provide an opportunity to adopt the Parliamentary Statement to the Second High Level Meeting circulated to participants in advance of the meeting. Amendments to the Statement based on the discussion held during the day will be considered at this time.