

THE ADDIS ABABA STATEMENT ON DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS

3rd Africa Regional Meeting on Development Effectiveness

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 28-30 September 2011

Representatives of African governments, parliaments, regional economic communities and institutions, civil society organisations including women and youth, academia and private sector, drawn from 43 African countries, met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to deliberate on the draft African Consensus and Position on Development Effectiveness in preparation towards the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, South Korea.

Organised under the auspices of the Africa Platform for Development Effectiveness (APDev) which is jointly coordinated by the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Agency, the meeting was opened by the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission, H.E. Mr Erastus Mwencha.

Building on the outcomes of the First and Second Africa Regional Meetings on Development Effectiveness held in Pretoria (March 2010) and Tunis (November 2010), Participants consolidated Africa's key priorities for Development Effectiveness, focusing on:

1. The unfinished Aid Effectiveness Agenda
2. Capacity for Development Effectiveness
3. Cross-Continental Partnerships particularly South-South Cooperation, and the new Development Cooperation Architecture;
4. Regional dimensions of Development Effectiveness
5. Beyond Aid – Mobilising Africa's resources for development
6. The Post-Busan Agenda

The key outcomes of the 3rd Regional Meeting are as follows:

- a. Aid is only one of the many resources for Africa's development. Thus, Africa needs to unlock domestic resources for development by stimulating productive economic sectors for inclusive and wealth creation.
- b. Aid must be used as a catalyst to support Africa's priorities with a specific view to unlock the African domestic development resource base, both human and natural
- c. For development efforts to be effective, Africa must achieve policy coherence between aid and non-aid policies for development. Only then can Africa, in the long term, free itself from aid.
- d. Principles, norms and values that underpin the capacity development agenda should take into account gender equality, social protection and human rights issues and should include accountable and transparent institutions.

- e. Depart from traditional ways of capacity building/gap filling (technical assistance and training) to more comprehensive approaches of capacity development which address the need for transformation and results.
- f. South-South learning and knowledge creation, management and sharing was emphasised as an important mechanism for capacity development.
- g. That Africa needs a strong, unified and collective voice in negotiations on the emerging new aid architecture.
- h. Regional integration is indispensable for furthering the development of Africa and ensuring aid and development effectiveness.
- i. The contribution of regional organisations to development effectiveness must incorporate the principles of complementarity, variable geometry, subsidiarity and policy coherence at national, regional and continental levels.
- j. Africa must strengthen regional parliaments including the Pan-African Parliament. These regional legislative bodies can advocate and promote regional and continental legislative harmonisation.

Recognising the importance of the Busan Forum, the meeting agreed that the common African position must be well articulated and pursued at the forthcoming preparatory OECD Working Party on AE due to take place in Paris in October 2011. All stakeholders, state and non-state actors should work together in coordinating their efforts to influence the content of the Busan Outcome Document (BOD) and the structure of negotiations in Busan.

Rwanda was identified as country champion to advance and coordinate Africa's interests and positions on Development Effectiveness in the lead up to Busan and after. To this effect, the Rwandan delegation accepted in principle to take up this role with due consultations with the leadership of its Government and the African Union Commission.

Africa's participation in Busan is critical to fulfilling the agenda on making development more effective. It was further noted that Africa will be presenting a common consensus and position on AE in Busan. This is a historic moment.

The 3rd Regional Meeting expressed appreciation to the organizers and partner institutions for the support for making the process a success.

Addis Ababa, 30th September 2011.