

AAA CONSULTATION PROCESS

FOR DECISION BY MEMBERS OF THE SC MEETING ON 17 MARCH:

The following paper builds on discussions and comments made by members of the Steering Committee in recent meetings:

■ **Composition of the Steering Committee** — It is proposed that the *Steering Committee* be expanded on an *ad-interim* basis to serve as a negotiation group for AAA. Two options are suggested (**paras. 9-10**): 1) add to the current SC membership the chairs of the DAC and the Ghana contact group as *ex-officio* members; or 2) Add three high level members of the Ghana contact group as a way of strengthening partner country representation. Which of the two options are preferred? And should the Working Party at its meeting on 2-3 April be invited to endorse this decision?

■ **Linkages with Roundtables** — Do members agree with the proposals included in this paper (**paras 11-12**)? What amendments would members of the Steering Committee like to suggest?

■ **Endorsing the AAA** — Do members agree with the proposals included in this paper for endorsing the AAA at Accra (**para. 17**)? What amendments would members of the Steering Committee like to suggest?

Following agreement by the Steering Committee this paper will be issued on **18 March** for DISCUSSION and APPROVAL at the WP-EFF meeting on 2-3 April.

1. At its meeting on **9-10 July 2008**, the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness (WP-EFF) is expected to reach agreement on the final version of the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) that will be submitted for endorsement at the Accra High-Level Forum (HLF-3).
2. This paper describes the consultative process around the AAA and its linkages to the various preparatory events organised in the run-up to the HLF-3. More specifically, it explains:
 - When the consultative drafts of the AAA will be released for discussion and how they will be reviewed.
 - How the AAA will capture and reflect discussions at the various preparatory events organised in the run-up to the HLF-3.
 - How the final version of the AAA is expected to be endorsed at the HLF-3.

I. CONSULTATIVE DRAFTS OF THE AAA

3. The Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) will be developed through a broad-based process of dialogue at both country and international levels. The purpose of the AAA is to deepen implementation of the Paris Declaration (March 2005) with a view to achieving the commitments and targets that were agreed in 2005. The AAA will also need to respond to emerging aid effectiveness issues identified since 2005, which may need further work beyond Accra. In addition, to the AAA a “Chairman’s Summary of the High-Level Forum” will cover main issues addressed in the ministerial segment and nine the roundtables.

4. The consultative drafts of the AAA will be elaborated by the High Level Forum Secretariat with a view to reflecting important issues, advancing the aid effectiveness agenda and facilitating agreement. There will be three milestones in developing the consultative drafts that will be submitted for endorsement at the HLF-3:

- A *First Draft* will be prepared by **18 March 2008**. It will be discussed at the WP EFF meeting in April, regional preparatory events, and other venues.
- A *Revised Draft of the AAA* will be prepared by **[10] June 2008**, reflecting the comments on the first draft.
- A *Final Draft*, reflecting the comments made by the Working Party on the revised draft, will be submitted for endorsement at the HLF-3 by **[20] August**.

5. The drafts of the AAA will also be informed by the findings of important studies and analyses such as the *Accra Progress Report*, the *2008 Survey on Monitoring the Paris Declaration* and the *Evaluation of the Paris Declaration*.

6. All of the consultative drafts will be circulated broadly and made available on the HLF-3 website (www.accrahlhf.net).

II. PREPARATORY EVENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AAA

7. To deepen understanding of aid effectiveness issues, build ownership of the Accra agenda, and develop broad consensus around key issues, the international community is conducting a number of consultation meetings before the HLF-3. These consultations include a broad set of participants: representatives from partner countries, non DAC donors and other providers of development aid, and civil society. They are designed to foster continued learning about aid effectiveness, including from South-South cooperation, and elicit input into the development of the HLF-3.

A. Working Party on Aid Effectiveness

8. The preparation of the HLF-3 is being guided by the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness, an international partnership hosted by the OECD-DAC, in which equal numbers of bilateral donors and partner countries are represented. Multilateral banks, the OECD, the United Nations, and a number of thematic funds and partnerships also participate in the Working Party. Two important meetings of the Working Party will discuss and shape the drafts of the AAA:

- **2-3 April 2008** — Members of the Working Party will discuss the *First Draft* of the AAA and are invited to send their written comments to the HLF Secretariat by **[18 April]**. A *Revised Draft*

reflecting the Working Party and other's comments will be released before the next Working Party meeting (target: by mid June 2008).

- **9-10 July 2008** — Members of the Working Party will discuss the *Revised Draft* and are expected to reach agreement on the Final Draft that is submitted by Working Party for endorsement at the HLF-3. The *Final Draft* will be shared with all participants of the HLF-3 by **[20 August 2008]**.

9. The Working Party on Aid Effectiveness mandated the *HLF-3 Steering Committee* to provide advice on the process and content of the HLF-3 (see Table 1). The HLF-3 Steering Committee will review and supervise the elaboration of various consultative drafts with a view to reaching agreement by the Working Party by the time of the **9-10 July** meeting.

Table 1: Composition of the expanded HLF-3 Steering Committee

Chair: WP-EFF Chair (Jan Cedergren); **Vice-Chair:** Ghana (JB Siriboe); **Vice-Chair** (Chris Hall)

MULTILATERAL REPRESENTATIVES	PARTNER COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES	OTHER REPRESENTATIVES
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. World Bank 2. UNDP 3. Regional Dev. Banks 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. South Africa 2. Vietnam 3. Nicaragua 4. Ghana 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ CSO Advisory Group Chair (Canada) ■ [Chair of the OECD Development Assistance Committee]
BILATERAL REPRESENTATIVES	GHANA'S CONTACT GROUP (ex-officio)	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. United States 5. United Kingdom 6. Japan 7. European Commission 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> [5. Chair of the Contact Group] [6. African Representative*] [7. Asian Representative*] [8. Latin American representative*] 	

(*) The regional representatives for Ghana's Contact Group have yet to be appointed.

10. The Government of Ghana has appointed a special advisor, Mr. KY Amoako, to facilitate dialogue with partner countries on the AAA. To this end, Mr. KY Amoako is establishing a Contact Group of representatives from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

B. Accra Roundtables

11. Nine roundtables have been established to foster in-depth discussion on selected issues to facilitate and support decision taking and policy endorsement, and articulate a way forward on a number of issues that are key to advancing aid effectiveness.

Table 2: List of the Nine Accra Roundtables

ROUNDTABLES	DONOR CO-CHAIR	PARTNER COUNTRY CO-CHAIR
1. Ownership	■ Switzerland	■ Colombia
2. Alignment	■ EC	■ Bangladesh
3. Harmonisation	■ Germany	■ Uganda
4. Results	■ JV-MfDR (Netherlands)	■ South Africa
5. Mutual Accountability	■ Ireland	■ Tanzania
6. Civil Society	■ Canada	■ [Nepal (tbc)]
7. Fragile Situations	■ France	■ DR Congo
8. Sector Application	■ Sweden	■ Honduras
9. Aid architecture	■ World Bank*	■ Ghana

*The donor co-chair for this Roundtable is Mr Richard Manning, who will organise this Roundtable together with the co-chair from Ghana and the World Bank.

12. The Co-Chairs of the Roundtables are invited to submit their comments on the *First Draft of the AAA* by [27 May 2008].

C. Regional Preparatory Events

12. Various regional and sub-regional preparatory events are under preparation in the months leading up to the HLF-3. The tentative schedule for these events is as follows:

- 4-7 April Pacific Island countries (Fiji)
- 21-22 April Southeast Asian countries (Bangkok)
- 28-30 April African countries (Kigali)
- 5-6 May South Asian countries (Bangkok)
- 8-9 May Central and West Asian countries (Bangkok).
- 19-23 May Central and Latin American countries (Washington to be confirmed).
- [May Middle Eastern countries (date and venue to be confirmed).]

13. The co-sponsors of the regional preparatory events in Africa, Asia and Latin America are invited to send comments on the *First Draft* by [27 May 2008]. These comments should reflect discussions at the regional workshops.

D. Civil Society Organisations

14. The *Advisory Group on Civil Society and Aid Effectiveness* (AG-CS) has launched an extensive consultation process to help establish a broad consensus on issues of civil society and aid effectiveness. During 2007 regional consultations were held in Hanoi, Vietnam; Lusaka, Zambia; Cotonou, Benin; Managua, Nicaragua; and Kathmandu, Nepal; and an international meeting was held in Ottawa, Canada, in February 2008. The AG-CS is invited to send comments on the *First Draft* by [27 May 2008]. These comments should reflect discussions at the regional workshops.

E. Other important events

15. A number of other important events will also be discussing the AAA. This includes the **WB-IMF Spring Meetings** (12-13 April), the **OECD-DAC High-Level Meeting** (21-22 May) and the **UN Development Cooperation Forum** (30 June – 1 July).

Table 3: Timeline to Accra

	HLF-3 CONSULTATIONS	AAA CONSULTATIVE PROCESS
Feb.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ottawa CSO meeting (3-6 February) 	
Mar.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A <i>First Draft</i> will be prepared by 18 March 2008. It will be discussed at the WP EFF meeting in April, regional preparatory events, and other venues.
Apr.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ WP-EFF (2-3 April) ■ Pacific countries event (4-7 April) ■ WB-IMF Spring Meetings (12-13 April) ■ South-East Asian countries Event (21-22 April) ■ Latin America Event (22-24 April) ■ African countries Event (28-30 April) 	
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ South Asia Event (5-6 May) ■ Central/Western Asia Event (8-9 May) ■ AfDB Annual Meeting (15-16 May) ■ DAC HLM Meeting (21-22 May) 	
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ UN DCF meeting (30 June – 1 July) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A <i>Revised Draft</i> of the AAA will be prepared by June 2008, reflecting the comments on the first draft. It is issued to all members of the WP-EFF for discussion at the meeting on 9-10 July.
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ WP-EFF (9-10 July) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A <i>Final Draft</i>, reflecting the comments made by the Working Party on the revised draft, will be submitted for endorsement at the HLF-3.
Aug.		
Sept.	<p>ACCRA HLF (2-4 Sept.) Accra Agenda for Action is endorsed by participants at the HLF-3.</p>	

III. ENDORSING THE AAA

16. Following the Working Party meeting on 9-10 July a Final Draft of the AAA will be issued on a no objection basis to all participants of the HLF-3 [by] [deadline for an objection: 15 August 2008]. The Final Draft of the AAA will be endorsed by Ministers on 4 September at the Ministerial session by silent consent to the Chair's conclusion (no endorsement ceremony will be organised). Should a participating country or organisation wish to disassociate itself with the final endorsed AAA they should inform the [Government of Ghana] by 25 September 2008. Following that date countries and organisations that have not signalled objections are considered as having endorsed the AAA. No revisions will be made to the AAA after 4 September 2008.