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**DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE  
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## **Working Party on Aid Effectiveness**

**ACCRA AGENDA for ACTION (AAA)**

**Consultation Process**

**2-3 April 2008**

*This paper has been reviewed by the High-Level Forum Steering Committee. It is presented for DISCUSSION and APPROVAL at the next meeting of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness on 2-3 April 2008.*

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**English - Or. English**

**ACCRA AGENDA FOR ACTION  
THE CONSULTATION PROCESS**

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 subsequently be submitted for endorsement at the Accra High-Level Forum (HLF-3). 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**

2. 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 the nine roundtables.

3. 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 Consultative Draft* will be prepared by **18 March 2008** and will be discussed in a range of international fora including the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness and the regional preparatory events.
- A *Revised Draft of the AAA* will be prepared by **12 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 released by **20 July** for endorsement at the HLF-3.

4. All of the consultative drafts will be circulated broadly and made available on the HLF-3 website ([www.accrahlff.net](http://www.accrahlff.net)). The drafts of the AAA will also be informed by the findings of important studies and

analyses such as the *Progress Report on Aid Effectiveness*, the *2008 Survey on Monitoring the Paris Declaration* and the *First Phase of the Evaluation of the Paris Declaration*.

## II. PREPARATORY EVENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AAA

5. 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 co-operation, and elicit input into the development of the HLF-3.

### A. Working Party on Aid Effectiveness

6. 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 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** — at this meeting, the *First Consultative Draft* will be discussed and written comments will be invited by **18 April 2008**. A *Revised Draft* reflecting the Working Party and other's comments will be released before the next Working Party meeting by 12 June 2008.
- **9-10 July 2008** — at this meeting, the *Revised Draft* will be discussed with a view to approving the *Final Draft* to be circulated to all participants of the HLF-3 by **20 July**.

### B. Accra Roundtables

7. 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 1: 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 & AfDB         | ■ 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.

8. The Co-Chairs of the nine Roundtables will be invited to discuss in a short Position Paper proposals on key elements of the AAA that fall within the remit of the respective roundtables. The

Roundtable Position Papers should be submitted to the Chair of the Working Party by **27 May 2008**. A communication clarifying expected contributions from the Roundtables will be sent to all nine Chairs of the Roundtables.

**C. Regional Preparatory Events**

9. 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:

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <i>4-7 April</i>   | <b>Pacific Island</b> countries (Fiji)                             |
| <i>21-22 April</i> | <b>Southeast Asian</b> countries (Bangkok)                         |
| <i>28-30 April</i> | <b>African countries</b> (Kigali)                                  |
| <i>5-6 May</i>     | <b>South Asian</b> countries (Bangkok)                             |
| <i>8-9 May</i>     | <b>Central and West Asian</b> countries (Bangkok)                  |
| <i>6-8 June</i>    | <b>Central and Latin American</b> countries (Colombia)             |
| <i>[Date</i>       | <b>Middle Eastern</b> countries (date and venue to be confirmed).] |

10. The co-sponsors of the regional preparatory events in Africa, Asia and Latin America will be invited to send a Chairman's Summary reflecting discussions at these events to the Chair of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness by **27 May 2008**<sup>1</sup>. A communication will clarify expected contributions from the co-sponsors of the regional preparatory events.

**D. Civil Society Organisations**

11. Civil Society Organisations will have an opportunity to engage in discussions during the regional preparatory events, and directly with members of the Steering Committee and WP-EFF in a special meeting scheduled for 1 April 2008. CSO comments are being co-ordinated as part of a CSO parallel process by the CSO International Steering Group (ISG). CSOs have also been very active in the consultation process led by the Advisory Group on Civil Society and Aid Effectiveness (AG-CS) 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 Forum was held in Gatineau, Canada, in February 2008. The ISG and the AG-CS are invited to send comments on the First Draft by **27 May 2008**.

**E. Other important events**

12. 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).

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<sup>1</sup> In the case of the Latin American event the deadline is 10 June 2008.

**Table 2: TIMELINE TO ACCRA**

|       | HLF-3 CONSULTATIONS  | AAA CONSULTATIVE PROCESS  |
|-------|--|---|
| Feb.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Ottawa CSO meeting (3-6 February)</li> </ul>  |   |
| Mar.  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 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.</li> </ul>   |
| Apr.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ WP-EFF (2-3 April)</li> <li>■ Pacific countries event (4-7 April)</li> <li>■ WB-IMF Spring Meetings (12-13 April)</li> <li>■ South-East Asian countries Event (21-22 April)</li> <li>■ African countries Event (28-30 April)</li> </ul> |   |
| May   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ South Asia Event (5-6 May)</li> <li>■ Central/Western Asia Event (8-9 May)</li> <li>■ AfDB Annual Meeting (15-16 May)</li> <li>■ DAC HLM Meeting (21-22 May)</li> </ul>   |   |
| June  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Latin America Event (6-8 June)</li> <li>■ UN DCF meeting (30 June – 1 July)</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A <i>Revised Draft</i> of the AAA will be prepared by 12 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.</li> </ul> |
| July  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ WP-EFF (9-10 July)</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 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.</li> </ul>   |
| Aug.  |  |   |
| Sept. | <p><b>ACCRA HLF (2-4 September 2008)</b><br/>Accra Agenda for Action is endorsed by participants at the HLF-3.</p>   |   |

### III. REVIEWING THE DRAFTS OF THE AAA

13. A dedicated platform of partner countries and donors — the *AAA Consensus Group* — is charged with reviewing and supervising the elaboration of the Revised Draft and the Final Draft of the AAA. The AAA Consensus group builds on the HLF-3 Steering Committee by increasing the number of partner country representatives. It includes all members of the High-Level Forum Steering Committee<sup>2</sup>, four representatives from Ghana's partner country **Contact Group**<sup>3</sup> (See Appendix A) and the Chair of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee.

<sup>2</sup> The Working Party on Aid Effectiveness mandated the *HLF-3 Steering Committee* to provide advice on the process and content of the HLF-3.

<sup>3</sup> The Government of Ghana has appointed a special advisor, Dr. K. Y. Amoako, to facilitate dialogue with partner countries on the AAA. To this end, Dr. K. Y. Amoako is establishing a Contact Group of representatives from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

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

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

#### IV. ENDORSING THE AAA

14. Following the Working Party meeting on 9-10 July a Final Draft of the AAA will be issued by 20 July 2008 to all participants of the HLF-3. The deadline for raising objections is 15 August 2008. The Final Draft of the AAA will be endorsed by Ministers and delegations on **4 September** at the Ministerial session by silent consent to the Chair's conclusion (no endorsement ceremony will be organised). 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.

**APPENDIX A**  
**CONTACT GROUP FOR THE ACCRA HIGH-LEVEL FORUM ON AID EFFECTIVENESS**  
(Terms of reference prepared by the Government of Ghana)

### **Background**

From September 2-4, 2008, ministers, heads of development agencies, representatives from global funds, emerging economies and civil society organizations from around the world will gather in Accra for the **Third High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness**. Their common objective will be to identify some concrete actions that will accelerate and deepen implementation of the Paris Declaration, endorsed in March 2005, which laid down a practical and action-oriented roadmap to improve the quality of aid and its impact on development.

In the run-up to the Accra High-Level Forum, a range of consultations will inform the Accra dialogue process and feed into the **Accra Agenda for Action**—the compact to be agreed by governments and development agencies at the end of the forum. These include regional preparatory events with partner (developing) countries, consultations with civil society organizations, the Global Development Forum and donor consultations in the Development Assistance Committee (DAC). At the same time, the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness and the various Roundtables that make up the Accra High-Level Forum will be working towards identifying key actions that will make aid more transparent, accountable and result-oriented.

### **The Contact Group**

As host of the Accra High-Level Forum the Government of Ghana (GoG) looks forward to welcoming all the delegates to the event and will make every effort for its successful outcome. In that context, the GoG strongly believes that, more so than the previous high level forums, developing countries should be active in setting the agenda for Accra, and must actively work to ensure agreement on a number of high-impact actions that will improve and advance the implementation of the Paris Declaration. To that end, the GoG is convening a Contact Group of representatives from 15 countries from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean to play a strategic role in the negotiations leading up to the Accra Agenda for Action. In particular, the group will be convened to ensure that a coherent developing country position on the five key principles underlying the Paris Declaration—ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results, and mutual accountability—emerges from the various consultation processes leading to Accra.

Members of the Contact Group, one from each country, will be highly-respected and influential individuals -government officials, independent experts, researchers or think tank leaders—with extensive knowledge and experience on aid effectiveness issues. The Group will have two meetings – April 13-14 in Washington D.C. and June 3-4 and will also exchange views electronically. A set of background papers reflecting the perspectives of developing countries on the key issues is being prepared and will be made available to the Group before its first meeting next month.

The GoG has appointed Dr. K.Y. Amoako, as Special Advisor for the Accra High-Level Forum, with responsibility for convening and chairing the Contact Group. Dr Amoako is the former Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa and Founder and President of the African Centre for Economic Transformation (ACET), a newly-established policy research and advisory institution based in Accra. ACET provides policy advisory services to a number of African governments on issues related to economic growth.