



**DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE**

DCD/DAC/EFF(2003)14
For Official Use

Working Party on Aid Effectiveness and Donor Practices

Participation of Partner Countries

(Note by the Secretariat)

This note is submitted FOR CONSIDERATION at the second meeting of the DAC Working Party on Aid Effectiveness and Donor Practices to be held on 3-4 November 2003 (Item 7).

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JT00152724

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PARTICIPATION OF PARTNER COUNTRIES

I. BACKGROUND

1. As set out in its mandate, the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness and Donor Practices (WP-EFF) will involve partner countries in its work. In order to promote genuine partnership approaches and ownership of outcomes and final products, participants have expressed the desire to engage developing countries at an early stage.

- Modalities for interacting with partner countries have been discussed and agreed in the **Task Team on Harmonisation** and in the **Joint Venture on Public Financial Management**. This note summarises the process that led to the identification of partners in these two groups and provides the list of selected countries.
- It also indicates the countries and names of officials who are already engaged in the Round Table on procurement and therefore are expected to contribute to the work of the **Joint Venture on Procurement**.
- The discussion on ways of involving partner countries in the **Joint Venture on Managing for Development Results** will take place when the Joint Venture meets formally for the first time after the WP-EFF meeting.
- On **Aid Untying**, implementing the DAC recommendation as well as exploring the scope for broadening its application will continue to remain the prime responsibility of DAC Members and should not call for involvement of developing countries at this stage.

2. Based on the information provided below, Members of the Working Party are requested to:

- 1) provide their views on the selection of partners invited to participate in the work of its Task Team and Joint Ventures; and
- 2) consider whether there is value, in addition, to associate partners in meetings of the Working Party as a whole.

II. TASK TEAM ON HARMONISATION AND ALIGNMENT OF DONOR PRACTICES

3. The Task Team agreed that it should interact with partner countries throughout the stages of its work by inviting a selected range of partners to participate in its meetings. The selection was guided by a number of criteria. In particular, the Task Team sought to identify countries:

- representing different geographic areas and levels of development;
- committed to elaborating country action plans on harmonisation as defined at the Rome High Level Forum; and
- where there is a PRS in place and a willingness to lead aid co-ordination in particular regarding monitoring of donor alignment.

4. Members discussed the participation of “difficult partnerships” arguing that in such cases, where capacity is the weakest, harmonisation is all the more important. But they decided that these countries being part of the LAP¹, the Task Team should foster links with the LAP who would take the lead to address the harmonisation needs arising in the context of difficult partnerships. Resulting from this discussion, the final selection includes both “champions” of harmonisation and some countries which have a mixed record. It is hoped that this more representative sample will also allow participating countries to learn from each other.

5. Agreement was reached on the following list of 14 partner countries:

Africa	Asia	Latin America	South Pacific
Ethiopia Morocco Mozambique Niger Senegal Tanzania Zambia	Bangladesh Cambodia Kyrgyz Republic Vietnam	Bolivia Nicaragua	Fiji

6. The Task Team is aware that this group includes 12 of the 16 frontier countries which associated themselves with the Rome Declaration and that this may be a sensitive issue for the 4 countries which were left out². However, this change at the margin was deemed necessary in order to limit participation to a manageable size.

7. In addition, Task Team members will seek to involve partners through a range of other modalities including dissemination events, regional workshops, joint country assessments and possibly video conferencing.

III. JOINT VENTURE ON PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

8. At its first meeting on 22 October 2003, the Joint Venture took note of the selection proposed by the Task Team on Harmonisation and decided to retain the same pool of countries but to reduce it to the following eight countries, adding South Africa which provides an interesting model for public financial management.

Africa	Asia	Latin America
Morocco South Africa Senegal Tanzania	Bangladesh Kyrgyz Republic Vietnam	Nicaragua

IV. JOINT VENTURE ON PROCUREMENT

9. As mentioned above, a Round Table format has been chosen to engage developing countries right from the start in the joint DAC-World Bank programme on strengthening procurement capacities. Developing countries are participating as full members in the ongoing work and will do so in the future. In

¹ LAP: Joint Learning and Advisory Process on Difficult Partnerships

² Jamaica, Honduras, Kenya, and the Philippines

addition, some countries, notably Ghana and Uganda, have accepted the role of pilots to test the practicality of different approaches.

10. The following 10 countries are participating in the work of the Joint Venture on Procurement:

Africa		Asia	Latin America
Ethiopia	Mr. G. Bekele Mr. Gazew Tefferi	Indonesia Mr. K.H. Wäscher	Dominican Republic Sen. Duran Garden
Ghana	Ms. H. Allotey Prof. Kwaku Appiah-Adu	Sri Lanka Mr. W.D. Jayasinghe	Nicaragua Ms. Haydee Acosta Ms. Ketty Zavala
Mozambique	Ms. P. Macamo Matavela		
South Africa	Mr. H. Malinga		
Tanzania	Mr. Nkinga Ms. B. S.J. Nyoni		
Uganda	Mr. Edgar Agaba		

V. NEXT STEPS

11. It was decided that the Secretariat would prepare a letter addressed to partner governments inviting them to nominate appropriate persons to attend the meetings of the Task Team on Harmonisation and the Joint Venture on Public Financial Management. The letter would specify that partner country representatives are invited in a personal capacity and would clarify the role that they are expected to play.

12. Indications would be given also about the profile of participants who should exercise authority in the area of aid co-ordination, PRS alignment and/or public financial management and might come from either a central or line ministry.

13. For the seven countries which will be participating in both groups, the possibility will be offered to send two participants in order to attract the specific expertise required for each group. At the same time, efforts will be made to organise meetings of the Task Team and the Joint Venture back-to-back. This should facilitate participation for partner countries (and DAC Members) represented by a single official covering both topics as well as stimulate synergies between the two groups. Members have earmarked funds to finance the participation of partner countries which, in most cases, will be managed directly by aid agencies.

14. Finally, it is suggested that the letter to partner governments be signed by the WP-EFF Chair on behalf of the Working Party as a whole.