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Reports on recent IPU specialized meetings

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

Nairobi (Kenya), 29 November 2016

The IPU has been a member of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) since it began in Busan (Republic of Korea) in 2011. The GPEDC brings together development cooperation donor and recipient countries, parliaments, local authorities, civil society organizations, businesses, foundations and other stakeholders to improve the quantity and quality of all flows of development cooperation, whether financial or non-financial, public or private.

The Parliamentary Forum in Nairobi was organized with the Parliament of Kenya and the Association of European Parliamentarians with Africa. It concluded with a Statement (see [Annex](#)) that addresses some of the key issues on the agenda of the second High-level Meeting (HLM2). Ninety members of parliament attended. The meeting was the culmination of a two-year process which started with the first High-level Meeting in 2014. Throughout that time, the IPU has helped to guide the GPEDC as a member of its Steering Committee.

The IPU contributed to the negotiation of the main outcome of HLM2 so as to advance the concerns of the parliamentary community. As a result, references to parliaments are to be found throughout the outcome document, particularly in paragraphs 41c, 43, 44, 45, 75b and 78.¹

Key commitments included in HLM2 outcome document are: that parliaments must oversee more effectively all development cooperation commitments, including those related to public-private partnerships; that national development cooperation policies must be submitted to parliaments for review; and that parliaments must be included with other partners in national dialogue platforms for development cooperation. For their part, donors have committed to invest more in parliamentary strengthening programmes.

Following HLM2, the IPU will work more closely with other members of the GPEDC to support the implementation of all national commitments made in Nairobi, basing their support on a joint programme of work.

¹ <http://effectivecooperation.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/OutcomeDocumentEnglish.pdf>



Statement

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

Nairobi, Kenya, 29 November 2016

We, Members of Parliament participating in the Second High Level Meeting of the GPEDC, reaffirm our role in advancing all commitments on development cooperation to support the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and attendant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Welcoming the SDGs as a universal, transformative agenda whose negotiation included significant input from the parliamentary community, we commit to localizing the goals to our countries contexts and to implementing the goals through all relevant national structures and parliamentary processes. The realization of human rights, including the right to development, will drive our efforts in this regard.

We recognize the important role of development cooperation from all sources - public and private, financial and non-financial - to support the implementation of the SDGs alongside other streams of development finance such as trade, debt relief, foreign investments, and remittances. We emphasize the need for policy coherence between development cooperation and all policies for sustainable development to mobilize sufficient resources and maximize results on the ground.

We acknowledge that Official Development Assistance (ODA), while still critical, is only one of several development cooperation flows which include contributions from non-governmental organizations, local authorities, foundations and other actors. We further acknowledge the growing role of South-South and Triangular Cooperation as complementary to North-South cooperation.

We reiterate that, while development cooperation can be used catalytically to leverage other flows of development finance, its primary objective is to meet the needs of the poor and marginalized groups by complementing developing countries' domestic resources. Investing more aid in the public sector and in particular in key institutions of democratic governance, such as parliaments, will enable them to design and implement strong policies for the SDGs.

We welcome the efforts of the GPEDC to improve the effectiveness of development cooperation through more inclusive processes at global and country levels. While recording progress in the implementation of commitments, we call on all actors to scale up their efforts. Success will depend in large part in finding effective ways to bring development partners and parliamentarians together at the country level, where behavior change and stronger capacities are most needed. Regional and international opportunities for parliamentarians to exchange lessons learned and input into policy discussions are also very useful to involve parliamentarians as stakeholders in the implementation and evaluation process of the 2030 Agenda.

We are concerned that progress on mutual accountability, a key enabler of effective development cooperation, is persistently weak. While more developing countries than ever have adopted a national development cooperation policy (or aid policy) to date, it is important that *all* parliaments are consistently involved in this key process at all stages, from policy design, to implementation, review and evaluation.

We welcome the important acknowledgement, in the HLM2 Outcome Document, of parliaments' legislative, oversight and representative role as well as of the need to strengthen the capacities of parliaments and related structures.

To help move the GPEDC agenda forward, we as parliamentarians commit to promoting the following actions in conjunction with government counterparts, citizens, and all other relevant actors, as needed:

1. Demand that a national plan for the SDGs clearly defining targets, responsibilities, timeframes and funding requirements is drawn up in each country and that legislation and budgets are aligned with this plan. Parliaments must be involved from the beginning in this process and through inclusive engagement of all citizens, including the most marginalized.
2. Ensure that a national development cooperation policy that covers aid and all relevant "beyond aid" issues is drawn up in each country receiving any kind of development cooperation. Parliaments must be active participants in the design of national development cooperation policies as well as in their monitoring and assessments based on agreed targets and indicators of progress.
3. Advocate for a dramatic scaling up of development cooperation to strengthen parliaments' capacities to perform their legislative, oversight and representative role. Donor agencies must be required by law to collect data on technical assistance and other development cooperation in support of parliaments and to make such data available to global reviews of development cooperation.
4. Apply all available institutional tools to scrutinize public spending of foreign and domestic resources in order to reduce wastage, eliminate corruption, and increase value for money in development spending.
5. Ensure all global aid commitments, including the 0.7% of GNI, are met and that aid allocations are untied to the economic and strategic interests of donor countries, focusing instead on reaching the poor and most vulnerable.
6. Help ensure robust national tax systems and cooperate on international tax matters to fight tax evasion and illicit financial flows, support measures to prevent capital flight, and help reverse the global race to the bottom to attract foreign investments by lowering the corporate tax rate.
7. Ensure that all financing options are considered before entering into public-private partnerships (PPPs) and that all partnership contracts are negotiated in full transparency, including by recording potential liabilities on budget. Parliaments need to vet major PPPs agreements and blended finance agreements. International trade and investment agreements, tax agreements, and debt relief initiatives should be negotiated in full transparency and subject to parliamentary scrutiny.
8. Demand more financial support for parliaments and greater involvement of parliaments, alongside other stakeholders, in national, regional and international development cooperation coordination structures as part of efforts to strengthen mutual accountability.
9. Work with the government and other stakeholders to deepen the GPEDC presence at the country level, ensuring that national partners identify with the commitments and principles of the global entity. A national platform of the GPEDC, bringing together representatives of all relevant constituencies, including parliaments, needs to oversee the implementation of the national development cooperation policy and more systematically contribute data into the global monitoring process of the GPEDC.