

Outcomes



Central & West Asia

Consultations on the
High Level Forum on
Aid Effectiveness

Bangkok, 8–9 May 2008



For further information on the 3rd High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF3) please visit www.accralf.net.

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For further information on UNDP's programming on aid effectiveness in Asia and the Pacific region please contact Aidan.Cox@undp.org or Tom.Beloe@undp.org.

For further information from the organizing committee please do visit the websites:

www.adb.org

www.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/

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www.undp.org

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Central & West Asia
Outcomes [Draft]

A diversity of views was heard at the consultations and the report reflects this diversity – this is not a consensus document.

Governments and other stakeholders from the region will be asked to comment on the text before finalisation.

The consultations in Bangkok have been made possible with the support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), UK Department for International Development (DFID), the Government of Japan, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the World Bank.



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Executive Summary

1. The Central & West Asia HLF Consultation aimed to bring countries in the region together with the following key objectives:

- to support partner countries in preparing for the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-3);
- to ensure that the Central & West Asian voices genuinely contribute to the design and outcome of the Accra High Level Forum; and

2. The Consultation sought to achieve these objectives by bringing together seven countries from the region – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia and Tajikistan – including senior officials from across the breadth of government, spanning central policy ministries (such as Finance, Planning and Foreign Affairs); donor focal points (acting as representatives for the in-country donor community) and representatives from civil society organisations from Kyrgyz Republic and Mongolia.

3. J.B. Siriboe, Chief Director of Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning of the Government of Ghana, host of HLF-3, addressed the Central & West Asia consultations, via video, and reiterated his government's commitment to supporting HLF-3 to deliver substantive outcomes on aid effectiveness through the Accra Agenda for Action.

4. Participants were made aware of the range of meetings and preparations in the lead up to HLF-3 and the organising committee for the consultations declared a commitment to support systematic inclusion of the sub-region in HLF-3 preparations. Governments in the region were urged to be vocal and forthright in conveying their messages for

Accra and the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) at these events, or opportunities to influence would be lost.

5. In-country consultations and preparations were seen discussed as necessary for the AAA to be successfully agreed in Accra. Future country consultations ideally would involve Ministers, so that

countries in Central & West Asia can provide formal feedback to the AAA Consensus Group on the draft AAA (visit www.accralf.net). The sub-regional consultation was fortunate to have the participation of His Excellency Japarov Akylbek, Minister of Economic Development and

Trade of the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as Deputy Ministers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade and the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Tajikistan. There is high level government interest from the region in the HLF-3. Minister Akylbek discussed how the HLF-3 delegation from Kyrgyz would include top level participation from either the President or Prime Minister.

6. The Contact Group, led by KY Amoako in his advisory capacity to the Government of Ghana, was recognised as an initiative available to the region to leverage their voices at the international level. Representatives of the Kyrgyz Republic will meet with other Asian members – Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Viet Nam and Samoa – on 26 May in Bangkok and draw on the four Asia-Pacific Consultation outputs to contribute to the drafting of the AAA. These governments will work with UNDP Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific to ensure governments in the region are kept involved in the key next steps in preparing for Accra and drafting the AAA.

High level government interest from the region in the HLF-3

7. Some participants working on gender issues raised the importance of including gender equality concerns within the consultations and ensuring key commitments on strengthening these dimensions of development are included in the AAA.

8. Capacity development was emphasised by participants time and again over the two days and highlighted as a key constraint to delivering results. It was recognised that donors also had capacity deficits, particularly in aid effectiveness, and needed to develop new skills. Participants were invited to join the Community of Practice in Managing for Results – <http://cop-mfdr.adb.org>

9. There are opportunities for participating governments from the region to serve as panellists or key note speakers at the HLF. Country delegations interacted directly with six of the nine RT Co-Chairs which were present, and the organising committee said it would be willing to work with RT Co-Chairs to identify further panellists from Central & West Asia. The organising committee is also willing to support governments in the region develop case studies for the HLF-3. The Asian Development Bank informed the meeting that it will also prepare an Asia-Pacific Regional Perspective document highlighting the key points from the four sub-regional consultations in the Asia-Pacific region. This document is to be tabled at the HLF-3.

10. The Menu of Options for the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) was seen to be a useful framework for discussing the AAA. Participants shared a great number of ideas for strengthening the AAA through comment on the Menu of Options paper (See annex 2 of this report). Extremely important for the region was the issue of language. As example, this consultations meeting was the first at which any of the HLF3 associated literature (the Accra Agenda for Action; Menu of Options; and Generic Terms of Reference for the HLF-3 Round

Tables) was provided in Russian and although this was a good step forward, for many their national languages would have been more appropriate still. Development partners might do more to ensure access to the appropriate consultative documents on the AAA, the Round Tables and the HLF3 meeting more broadly.

11. Participants on the whole felt that there were options and combinations of options in the menu that could be agreed. Rapid and significant investment in awareness-raising and local level discussion of the HLF3 literature in appropriate languages will enhance participation from the region. Feedback on the Menu of Options suggested that jargon and the use of vague wording confused the meanings of commitments. Whilst there was some difficulty in translating key headline concepts and principles such as 'Ownership' and 'Accountability' there was still further confusion over nuanced language such as 'enhanced', which participants preferred to be spelt out more clearly for example through language such as 'enforced'. The language of menu of options needs to be clarified – there is too much behind the words and whilst a short document is needed somehow longer explanations will also be required.

12. Participants discussed how governments needed to formulate clear aid policy and, for example, tell donors the sectors where they want them to contribute and the role they want the donors to fulfil such as policy advice, technical assistance and financial resource. Donors were also asked to consider developing joint strategies among themselves. Almost all the countries in the region received large amounts of assistance from non-traditional donors in line with their development plan, which bring a number of advantages, while they agreed that a coordinated dialogue and coordination between traditional and non-traditional donors to share the goal.

13. The Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia and Tajikistan are already signatories to the Paris Declaration and the Kyrgyz Republic and Mongolia both participated in the 2006 and 2008 Survey on Monitoring the Paris Declaration. Participants discussed both the value-added of the Paris Declaration in creating impetus for aid effectiveness at the country level and the process by which non-signatories could join the sign the Declaration. During proceedings and subsequent to the consultations three other countries have expressed interest in becoming signatories.

Three other countries also expressed interest in signing up to the Paris Declaration

14. The Asian Development Bank highlighted that it will develop an Asia-Pacific perspectives paper that brings together the key points from the four sub-regional consultations in the Asia-Pacific region, and table this at the Accra HLF.

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16. Feedback from the participants of the Central & West Asia HLF Consultation was very positive,

ranking the overall quality of the Consultation at 3.75 out of a possible 4.0. Only three of the seven countries participating have signed the Paris Declaration, and participants noted that “I am much better equipped... to lobby government official to sign up to the Paris Declaration”, “Our country has not yet signed the Paris Declaration – I will present the results to the Minister of Finance”, and that the Consultation had been “very useful for partner countries and donors to prepare for Accra”. The exchange of experiences across countries was “very informative” and “my daily work includes all aspects of what we discussed here”. Other practical implications included to help “develop a PIU exit strategy”, “disseminate the Paris Declaration Evaluation results,” and “disseminate [knowledge gained] among CSOs and other interested parties in my country”. While simultaneous translation posed challenges and one participant recommended delegations should “include more people who work with donors”, country colleagues concluded that it was “good to bring together countries from the same region with similar experiences”, that “identifying further actions was very useful” and that a similar “sharing of experiences should be done again” (see also Annex 3 for full summary).



1 | Introduction

17. The Central & West Asia HLF Consultation aimed to bring countries in the region together with the following key objectives:

- to support partner countries in preparing for the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-3);
- to ensure that the Central & West Asian voices genuinely contribute to the design and outcome of the Accra High Level Forum; and

18. The Consultation sought to achieve these objectives by bringing together the critical actors with knowledge and influence on aid effectiveness from within the region and internationally. The seven countries from the region – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia and Tajikistan– were represented by a diverse array of colleagues:

- Senior officials came from across the breadth of government, spanning central policy ministries such as Finance, Planning and Foreign Affairs.
- Donor focal points from Armenia and the Kyrgyz Republic, briefed to share the perspectives of a broader range of donors and share back with them on their return the consultation's outcomes.
- Representatives from civil society organisations from Kyrgyz Republic and Mongolia.

19. Six of the Nine HLF Round Table Co-Chairs also attended and were able to both brief and listen to the priorities and recommendations from the region.

20. The organising committee provided support, and included the Asian Development Bank

(ADB), Government of Japan, OECD Development Cooperation Department (OECD DCD), the UK Department for International Development (DFID), UNDP and the World Bank. Some agencies and donors with regional offices attended as observers.

21. The Central & West Asia HLF Consultation (8–9 May) was the fifth regionally-based consultation ahead of Accra. It followed the Pacific consultations held in Fiji from 4–7 April; the East & South-East consultations held in Bangkok (21–22 April); the African Consultation in Kigali (29–30 April); and the South Asian Consultation (5–6 May). These will be followed by consultations planned for Latin America & the Caribbean, and the Middle East.

22. The regionally-based consultations are complemented by workshops organised on specific topics of the nine HLF Round Tables, as well as discussions attached to existing events such as the annual meetings of the African and Asian Development Banks.

23. This Outcomes Document provides information on the preparatory process for the Third High Level Forum as well as the key components of the meeting itself. Secondly, the Outcomes Document conveys *headline messages* from Central & West Asia to those drafting the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) and the Co-Chairs of the 9 Round Tables. More detailed feedback on the AAA Menu of Options is set out in Annex 1, and Annex 2 provides one page summaries for each Round Table.

Conveys headline messages from Central & West Asia to Accra

2 | Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness: process & event

24. This year, from 2–4 September, 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 is to identify 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.

HLF-3: An Opportunity to Engage

25. HLF-3 provides a unique opportunity for partner countries and other stakeholders to influence the highest levels of governments and organisations, and reinforce networks for mutual learning and sharing of experiences. Over 800 delegates will take part in the Accra HLF, including ministers and senior officials from over 150 countries, heads of multilateral institutions and representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs). The HLF is organised in three tiers:

HLF Tier 1: Nine Round Tables

26. The Round Tables provide for in-depth discussion on nine topics. What are the bottlenecks? What actions can we (partner and donor governments) take to remove them and boost aid's contribution to the Millennium Development Goals? Preparations around each Round Table can influence the AAA drafting process, and also have value in their own right – shaping the aid effectiveness agenda over the longer run, beyond Accra and towards HLF-4 in 2011. The nine Round Tables are shown in Box 1.

HLF Tier 2: The Accra Agenda for Action

27. On the final day in Accra, heads of agencies, senior officials and Ministers will negotiate and endorse the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) which will highlight a small set of politically appealing, high impact actions for both donors and partner governments to take in advancing progress towards the Paris Declaration commitments and targets.

Box 1: 9 Round Tables at Accra High Level Forum

1. Country ownership
2. Alignment: use of country systems, untying aid, aid predictability
3. Harmonization: rationalising aid delivery, complementarity, division of labour
4. Managing for results and development impact
5. Mutual Accountability
6. The role of civil society organisations in advancing aid effectiveness
7. Aid effectiveness in fragile states and conflict situations
8. Sector application of the Paris Declaration: health, education, infrastructure
9. Implications of the new aid architecture for aid effectiveness: South-South partners, vertical funds

28. During the Central & West Asia consultations, via video, J.B. Siriboe, Chief Director of Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning of the Government of Ghana, host of HLF-3, reiterated his government's commitment to supporting HLF-3 to deliver substantive outcomes on aid effectiveness through the AAA. He emphasized that the event in Ghana was not only for Africa, but for all regions of the world. It was important that all voices were heard and reflected in the AAA and outcomes of the HLF-3. Sara Fyson, of the Aid Effectiveness Division, OECD DCD, presented the process for finalising the draft AAA. Participants had an opportunity to discuss the AAA during the consultation meeting, but also to contribute directly by emailing comments on the 18 March draft to aaa@accraHLF.net. Comments need to be received before 27 May so as to contribute to the revised draft (12 June) and the final draft (20 July). All versions will be accessible at www.accraHLF.net.

The 'marketplace' at Accra will showcase and share knowledge, ideas and good practices

29. The AAA Consensus Group will lead the drafting of the AAA. It includes all members of HLF-3 Steering Committee, the Chair of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee, and four representatives from Ghana's partner country Contact Group. The Contact Group, comprising of 15 countries from all various regions, has been

established to inform and influence the final drafting of the AAA. It includes Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam from Asia.

30. A Menu of Options for the AAA has been drafted for each of the areas that partners and donors identified in the 1st draft of the AAA as requiring greater specificity and level of ambition. It contains a broad spectrum of possible actions proposed at three different operational levels (actions by partners, actions by donors and joint actions by partners/donors). The options are drawn from proposals submitted by members of the Working Party on aid effectiveness and civil society organisations on 18 April 2008. The proposals have deliberately been simplified so as to offer a clear set of alternative or complementary options for consideration.

HLF Tier 3: Market Place

31. Accra includes a "marketplace", which runs in parallel to the Round Tables and AAA sessions, and allows all stakeholders to showcase and share knowledge, ideas and good practices. Participants can submit their materials by writing to: secretariat@accrahlf.net.



3 | Messages and Feedback from Central & West Asia

(i) Effective Consultation and Preparation for the HLF are Critical to its Success

32. During the Central & West Asia Consultation, participants learned more about the many events and meetings preparing for Accra – such as the Capacity Development Meeting in Bonn (May) and the Ownership workshop in Colombia (June). Governments stated that some continuity in representation from the sub-region was essential to maximise their effectiveness. Mr Stephen Groff, Deputy Director, OECD Development Cooperation Directorate, urged governments in the region to be vocal and forthright in conveying their messages for Accra and the AAA, or opportunities to influence would be lost.

33. It was asked if countries could still endorse the Paris Declaration, and what was the value of this. The Paris Declaration is a framework for thinking and talking about Aid Effectiveness using a common language and clarifying responsibilities of different actors. The ultimate benefit to partner countries should be better quality and delivery of aid. Delegates from Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Armenia expressed an interest in hot to take forward endorsement, and some are already taking forward plans to endorse the Paris Declaration. For more detail see <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/57/30/36083092.pdf>.

34. The sub-regional consultation was fortunate to have the participation of His Excellency Japarov Akylbek, Minister of Economic Development and Trade of the Kyrgyz Republic as well as Deputy Ministers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economic Development and

Trade and the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Tajikistan. There is high level government interest from the region in the HLF-3. Minister Akylbek discussed how the HLF-3 delegation from Kyrgyz would include top level participation from either the President or Prime Minister.

35. Delegates were encouraged to convey what occurred at the Consultation to their colleagues and networks at country level who had not been able to attend. This was seen as one key way to reach out across the region and help countries prepare for HLF-3. It was recognised during the consultations that discussion on the HLF3 had only begun recently and partially in the region. More and better translation of the relevant HLF3 documentation would be of great help governments in participating more fully in the process. This translation and further investment in national consultations and discussions would require rapid and significant investment from development partners.

36. The Contact Group, led by KY Amoako in his advisory capacity to the Government of Ghana, was recognised as an initiative available to the region to leverage their voices at the international level. Representatives of the Kyrgyz Republic will meet with other Asian members – Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Viet Nam and Samoa – on 26 May in Bangkok and draw on the four Asia-Pacific Consultation outputs to contribute to the drafting of the AAA. These governments will work with UNDP Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific to ensure governments in the region are kept involved in the key next steps in preparing for Accra and drafting the AAA.

More and better translation of the relevant HLF3 documentation would be of great help governments in participating more fully in the process

37. Some participants working on gender issues raised the importance of including gender equality concerns within the considerations of aid effectiveness and consultations on the HLF3. They asked that key commitments on strengthening impact on gender equality be included in the AAA.

38. Capacity development was emphasised by participants time and again over the two days and highlighted as a key constraint to delivering results. It was recognised that donors also had capacity deficits, particularly in aid effectiveness, and needed to develop new skills. Participants were invited to join the Community of Practice in Managing for Results which has capacity development as its thrust. Please visit <http://cop-mfdr.adb.org>

39. The need to evaluate the progress of Paris Declaration by CSO and NGOs were pointed out as the current evaluation concerns only with the government.

(ii) Strengthening the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA)

Ownership

40. Many of the delegates from Central & West Asia felt the language of the Paris Declaration could be improved: firstly, terms like ‘ownership’ and ‘accountability’ needed better definition, secondly the language could be simpler and more direct in the AAA and the Menu of Options (e.g. replace words like ‘enhance’ with ‘ensure’).

Where language used metaphor – such as ‘tied aid’ – participants felt that more effort could be made to take the language universal, jargon free and easily translatable. Also making Paris Declaration and High level Forum documents available in local languages would help spread awareness of the whole process.

41. Better information creates better ownership. Delegates from the Kyrgyz Republic shared their experience of how the consultation process stimulated by their desire to localise the Paris Declaration, had developed greater ownership in country. Others discussed how donors should

provide full information on all aid disbursements to governments (according to the classification used by partner countries), so they in-turn can discuss the information with parliaments; civil society; direct beneficiaries and other citizens affected. Donors should include and information regarding off-budget aid, including funding to NGOs and provide projections over three years. Donors should make their own reviews and reports available to in-country stakeholders proactively and in the right language, as these contain rich information on improving aid effectiveness. To better use this information, donors should also provide technical assistance to develop the capacity of national statistical services.

42. Participants discussed conditionality sharing a number of different views including the importance of conditionality being proportional to quantity of aid disbursed; monitoring the impacts of conditionality for partner country ownership and for donors to be realistic about conditionalities and to align them to government priorities. There was also discussion over the importance of transparency in the negotiations.

43. Partner countries need the participation of parliaments, CSOs, citizens and donors to determine country priorities. This process requires political leadership and where successful, creates ownership of goals by partner countries. This is important to build trust in partner countries of donors.

Alignment

44. Delegates from Georgia, the Kyrgyz Republic and Mongolia shared common experiences on the need for stronger alignment of donors with partner countries development priorities, and for more effort to be put into overcoming the obstacles to doing this. Donors can only align to country priorities where they are carefully planned and clearly expressed. It was noted that donors are sometimes ‘obsessive’ about their national agendas and this can overshadow their staff’s potential to work to identify synergy with government’s own priorities. To match donor and partner country priorities, some mechanism is required for dialogue between donors and partner countries.

Better information creates better ownership

45. There was strong demand expressed for better performance measurement tools regarding the quality of systems – this will be key to measuring progress on improving country systems and increasing transparency about why donors do not use systems. Experience from the region suggests that country systems are improving, with regulations and legislation in place, though in some cases capacity to implement and use systems is lagging. Georgia noted that improvements in their procurement systems had not yet translated into increased donor use.

46. Best way to build capacity of country systems is to use them e.g. by channelling donor funds through them while providing technical assistance. The Kyrgyz Republic expressed a need for greater technical assistance from donors to implement good Public Financial Management systems in its two pilot ministries. Additionally, participants expressed the importance of national development strategies being based on thorough capacity development assessments.

47. It was recognised that increasing locally sourced technical assistance and reducing the expensive use of technical assistance from the donor countries will require a systematic approach - requiring changing the nature of the expectations of the delivery of TA; changes in delivery mechanisms including more south-south partnerships, as well as more significant donor and government investment in providing training to build up local expertise / improve local.

48. Participants discussed the targets on untying of aid and some argued that the Paris Declaration (or localised versions) should include a specific indicator on untying aid, ideally with 100% of aid untied as target – although others agreed an absolute target may not be achievable.

Harmonisation

49. Governments should formulate a clear aid policy and tell donors the sectors where they want them to contribute and the role they want the donors to fulfil such as policy advise, technical

assistance and financial resource. Donors should also look at developing joint strategies among themselves. Some argued that donors should not be overly focused on their 'attribution' or visibility at a project level and should develop better understanding with their constituencies of the benefit of pooled efforts.

Best way to build capacity of country systems is to use them

50. Participants discussed the potential negative impact of donors excessively pursuing harmonization without considering its impact on alignment and ownership – spending too much time on elaborate coordination amongst themselves mechanisms and too little time on working better with government.

51. Some partners shared their experience of the difficulty of deciding on division of labour issues due to their lack of knowledge of donors policies. Partners asked that division of labour exercises be under partner country leadership. New and emerging donors should be more transparent in their aid financing and also subscribe to the Paris principles, especially ownership.

Managing for Results

52. While there was general consensus on the need for and the progress in aligning donors behind national goals of development, more progress on the alignment of procedures & approaches was highlighted as needed. The alignment of donors' results frameworks and donor support for government systems for managing for development results was considered as one such area that needed further attention. Managing for results should not apply just to donor funded activities, but to all development activities of government.

53. Managing for results and project indicators should be defined during project design. There should be a small number of clear and simple indicators. At the same time, indicators should not be narrow or exclusively econometric – there are many other facets to development.

54. Donors should aim to build comprehensive capacity in national statistical institutes, and not just fund piecemeal surveys. Developing this

capacity is essential for evidence based decision making and managing for results. Donors' independent evaluations are important tools for partner countries, and should be proactively shared with partner countries by donors.

Mutual Accountability

55. Consultative groups of governments, CSOs and donors are needed as a structure to ensure better accountability, alignment, harmonisation and ownership. Constructed as working groups at the sector level these can also work well.

56. Governments and donors need to be more proactive in involving CSOs. These groups have been underrepresented at this consultation as they are at Accra.

57. CSOs also need to demonstrate their accountability and independence so as to reinforce their legitimacy.

58. Governments should be accountable to their parliaments and citizens first, countries do not have an accountability but a 'responsibility' to donors, accordingly argued that 'accountability' is not the right term.

(iii) Messages from Central & West Asia for the Accra Round Tables

59. The Bangkok consultation offered Government delegations an opportunity to: (i) influence the issues that will be discussed at the Accra Round Tables; and (ii) to share their own experiences, to present case studies, to offer examples of good practice and innovation; and (iii) to influence the commitments and contribute to the announcements that will be made at the HLF-3.

60. The nine Round Table (RT) working group discussions underscored that countries in the region have a number of experiences that they are willing to share and which could help advance the agenda of aid effectiveness at the HLF-3. These are captured in detail Annex 2. Some participants at first

expressed concern that the 'headings' for the topics to be discussed at the round tables were not easy to relate their experience to. The discussions were greatly enhanced by countries which had particular experience on the specific topics and after these participants had shared their perspectives others made the connection between the HLF3 topics and their country experience.

61. Participating governments from the region were keen to know more about how they could offer to serve as panellists or key note speakers at the HLF. Country delegations interacted directly with six of the nine RT Co-Chairs which were present, and the organising committee said it would be willing to work with RT Co-Chairs to identify further panellists from Central & West Asia. The organising committee is also willing to support governments in the region develop case studies for the HLF-3.

62. The preparatory process (of meetings, analytical work, country studies) differs for each of the Round Tables. More information will become available at www.AccraHLF.net. Policy and research documents on each of the nine Round Tables can be found at www.AidEffectiveness.org.

(iv) Using Evidence for Action: the 2008 Survey on Aid Effectiveness and the Paris Declaration Evaluation

63. The Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia and Tajikistan are already signatories to the Paris Declaration and the Kyrgyz Republic and Mongolia both participated in the 2006 and 2008 Survey on Monitoring the Paris Declaration.

64. The 2008 survey is intended as a tool to assess the current state of play on aid, to facilitate dialogue between development partners and to identify actions needed to reach a common vision to meet targets of the Paris Declaration by 2010.

65. The Kyrgyz Republic's experience of the survey fulfilled the above expectations, and led to concrete actions to develop a roster of technical assistance to be used jointly by development partners.

Emerging donors should also subscribe to the Paris principles

66. However, one civil society representative said the survey was one-sided and only reflected the government view, and it was important to dig deeper for more accurate information. CSOs could play a role here, but only where they had sufficient space and capacity.

67. Niels Dabelstein, of the Danish Institute for International Studies, presented on the Evaluation of the Paris Declaration

- He stressed that it is a joint evaluation by the development partners, and that country level evaluations were led by partner countries and managed in-country. The Paris Declaration can be localised to reflect partner countries context. Partner countries also participate in evaluation of donors.
- He also stressed different expectations and use of Paris Declaration, which varied from “statement of intent” to a set of “non-negotiable decree”.
- The Paris Declaration is primarily a political document, and progress requires political will to change behaviour, to change the rules governing day-to-day behaviour. An evidence based

Paris Declaration is primarily a political document

approach looks at effective development, not at disbursing donor funds.

- “What gets measured, gets done”. This is important and true, but don’t focus too narrowly on indicators, other aspects not so easily measurable are important too.
 - In response to a question as to the evidence that the Paris Declaration had reduced transaction costs. There was no evidence that it had increased partner countries transaction costs, but some indications that it might have reduced them. It appeared that donors’ transaction costs had risen slightly, probably the cost of changing how they do business, but this is probably transitory and should reduce donors’ transaction costs too.
- To respond whether there was any evidence presenting the aid effectiveness connecting to development effectiveness, he said the time-frame of three years since Paris was too short to tell. There is an assumption that better aid effectiveness will result in better development effectiveness, but this can not be proven and requires further assessment.



Annex 1 | Comments on AAA Menu of Options

The following represents the comments of the participants of the workshops on the Accra Agenda for Action and the Menu of Options from Central & West Asia. Comments are drawn together from break-out as well as plenary sessions. A wide range of sometimes contradictory views were expressed, which are presented here together.

The text of the AAA Menu of Options is available on the OECD website at [http://www.oilis.oecd.org/olis/2008doc.nsf/ENGDATCORPLOOK/NT000010A2/\\$FILE/JT03244885.PDF](http://www.oilis.oecd.org/olis/2008doc.nsf/ENGDATCORPLOOK/NT000010A2/$FILE/JT03244885.PDF) And also through the www.AccraHLF.net website.

#	OPTIONS FOR ACTION	COMMENTS/PROPOSALS/ACTIONS
PILLAR I – OWNERSHIP & ALIGNMENT		
A	Medium-term predictability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To really follow country leadership, relevant ministries, local governments, and donors all must have close communications and coordination in order to avoid duplication. • Partner and donors agree to monitor medium term predictability of aid flows and set disbursement/fiscal targets. • Donors should provide data in the form that government requires e.g. according to the classifications that they use. • Donors need to provide information on all their technical assistance (not just TA co-financed by government) • New/Emerging donors should be brought into the Paris Declaration commitments – but this may take time. • Some donors may find their budgeting frameworks do not allow them to go beyond three years predictability. • Focus on the big donors as a priority (smaller donors will follow their lead).

#	OPTIONS FOR ACTION	COMMENTS/PROPOSALS/ACTIONS
B	Conditionality	<p>Harmonise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonise and simplify conditionalities: be proportional to aid disbursed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » link the amount of aid received with the cost of related conditionalities » transparent mechanism to monitor the cost of conditionalities for partner countries » set targets/limits for the number of conditionalities – and value added – depending on country capacity • Donors should harmonise among themselves conditionalities relating to multi-donor budget support. <p>Align</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donors should be realistic about conditionalities – examples were provided of conditionalities linked to procurement laws where it proved unhelpful and unrealistic. • Donors should align their conditionalities to government priorities and the local context. <p>Transparency and negotiation of conditionality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The negotiation of conditionalities is not always clear – how are they selected? Need commitment from donors on transparency. • The language of menu of options needs to be clarified – there is too much behind the words (wording that is as precise as possible should be chosen in order to reduce/eliminate ambiguity and convey accurate meaning)..
C	Capacity Development / Technical co-operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 1 supported – more demand-driven technical cooperation. • Option 1 (Donors) – add language “...with focus on results and sustainability”. • Option 4 on promoting local markets supported, but need to be realistic – some countries do not have the expertise there yet – so take a longer term approach. • Donors sometimes provide technical support that is not required. • Technical cooperation must suit a country’s capacity and context • Technical cooperation support should not be linked into loan financing. • Donors provide training to build up local expertise / improve local Technical Assistance capacity. (Donors increasingly use local TA/ expertise). • Partner countries should aim to decrease dependence on donors’ expertise.

#	OPTIONS FOR ACTION	COMMENTS/PROPOSALS/ACTIONS
D	Country Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 1 is strongly supported: Need good performance measurement tools – this is key to measuring progress on improving country systems and increasing transparency about why donors do not use systems. • Option 2 and the importance of sequential reforms is key. Donors need to use systems and support improvements to them at the same time. They go hand in hand. • Option 3 - Donors should not just avoid creating new Parallel Project Implementation Units – need to consider what to do with existing ones (consider sustainability). • Donors need to be more transparent on why they do not use country systems even when they are of high standard. • Preference for Options 3 and 4 – direct use of country systems. (N.B. translation problem with “default” in Russian document).
E	Untying aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 4 strongly favoured – Untie all aid. • The Paris Declaration should have indicator for untying aid: e.g. is to halve the proportion of tied aid and this should be achieved by 2010. Partner countries can localise PD and set their own targets on untying aid. • Emerging donors need to be brought into this commitment too. • Governments should improve their procurement systems and donors should accept that system step by step. • Donors promote local and regional procurement. • Be realistic about local sourcing given capacity constraints within local markets for goods and services.
PILLAR II – HARMONISATION		
F	Division of labour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem: Partners have difficulty on deciding on division of labour due to lack of knowledge on policies of donors. Donors do not share the principles on which they work. • Preference was to combine Options 1 and 4: • Option 1 (policies & frameworks): Partners & donors agree good practice principles. Option 4 (adopt international good practice principles): Donors and partner countries to identify a set of countries where they implement division of labour under partners' leadership.
G	Incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem: AAA and menu of options language not clear. • Preference: Option 2 (Review Policies) and Option 4 (Top level commitments). • Additional point: Donors should be transparent about their incentives with the partner countries.

#	OPTIONS FOR ACTION	COMMENTS/PROPOSALS/ACTIONS
H	Countries in fragile situations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problems: • Definition of fragility needs to be made clear. Who decides “fragility”? • Absence of a sub-regional perspective in situations of fragility. • Preference: Option 1 (Monitor implementation) and Option 3 (International Goals). • Option 3(b) Change language: “At country level they define a single set of prioritized state- and peace building objectives...” (delete “limited”). • Option 2 Change language: “Donors and partners should jointly conduct, and share transparently at country level, conflict & fragility assessments, and integrate these into programming design.” (include “transparently”).
I	International aid architecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preference: Option 1 (Collective commitments), Option 2 (Enlarging the tent) and Option 4 (Avoid fragmentation). • New donors should have a common framework for implementation of Paris Declaration including principles on incentives and mutual accountability. • Donors provide full information on aid flows. Need to be specific: provide this information to both governments and civil society organizations. • Allocation of funds for women’s program issues, human rights programs to meet policy goals.
PILLAR III – MANAGING FOR RESULTS		
J	Managing for results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should emphasize joint evaluations, rather than single agency evaluations – more efficient, better ownership, more likely to result in change. • Option 1: (Culture of managing for results): Strongly supported, e.g. by tying performance reviews to results achieved rather than money disbursed. • Option 2: (Strengthening systems): Good, but must be accompanied by donor capacity development support for such systems (generally this ranks low among donor priorities) and by building the general capacity of (statistical) departments (not just funding donor driven ad hoc surveys). • Option 4: (Public accountability): To strengthen local administration & civil society, beneficiaries must be actively engaged throughout as stakeholders, not seen simply as informants.

#	OPTIONS FOR ACTION	COMMENTS/PROPOSALS/ACTIONS
PILLAR IV – MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY		
K	Transparency & accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combine Option K (Transparency & Accountability) with Option L (Mutual Accountability). • Throughout Option K must emphasise transparency & accountability for use of results as well as inputs. • Information must be accessible to beneficiaries and civil societies (in local language). • Should answer question such as: Were the intended results achieved? What was the contribution to MDGs? Was it value for money? Efficient? Do so in a manner that is understandable for ordinary citizens. • Option K1: Use stronger language: “Ensure...” rather than “Enhance...” “...parliamentary reviews of budgets...”. Should include commitment by governments & donors to build their capacity to do these reviews effectively. • Option K2: Donors must provide indications of aid supply for three years ahead – otherwise it is not possible for governments to strengthen budgets. • Delete Option K3 (Review systems and procedures) – and strengthen and simplify language of Option K4 (donors) – “Donors adapt [better “change”] their procedures so that their aid can be channelled through regular government systems.” Include a timeframe for this (2011).
L	Mutual accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 1: Promotion of better public understanding – we can be more specific on the means to do this: consultation, media, interviews, etc. • Option 2 and Option 3 on International monitoring and accountability: of limited interest to country participants. • Option 3: International accountability: recommend replacing “independent reviews” with “independent evaluations in accordance with relevant international/national standards”.
M	Role of civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In general language unclear – drafters need to improve it. • Option 3(b): clarify what is meant by “comprehensive funding models”. • Option 2: Suggest moving to AAA Preamble – go straight to strengthening ownership, social diversity etc – or drafters to clarify e.g. “identify and clarify role of CSOs in addressing cross-cutting issues”. • Option3(c): “CSOs ... accountable for resources as well as results” (insert “resources”). • Option 4: Unclear wording: Governments, donors and CSOs define mechanisms through which CSOs can engage continuously in aid effectiveness – eg designing monitoring frameworks, carrying out monitoring, implementing. <p>Other Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstream CSOs in defining development agenda so as to enhance ownership. • Mechanism to retain identity of local CSOs (they can be more effective in implementation).



Annex 2 | The Accra Round Tables: Messages from Central & West Asia HLF Consultation

Round Table 1: Country Ownership

Obstacles

- (i) Areas of interest to donors sometimes do not match the national priorities.
- (ii) While donors are obsessed with their own objectives, priorities and sector preferences, partner countries are also often not able to indicate clear priorities.
- (iii) It is for recipient countries to see that they receive the assistance according to their priorities so as to have the maximum impact on development.
- (iv) Lack of trust between donors and partner countries makes for cumbersome procedures and bureaucratic delays in project approvals and implementation.
- (v) High turn over of staff within governments and lack of institutional memory.

Solutions and action points

- (i) To match donor and partner country priorities, some mechanism is required for donors and partner countries to simultaneously, and in consultation with each other, develop the national development strategies based on thorough capacity development assessment.
- (ii) Active involvement of elected bodies and civil society in priority setting as well as monitoring of aid effectiveness – with participation of CSOs – will lead to enhancement of democratic ownership.

(iii) For enhancing country ownership, paradigm of interaction between partner countries and donors should change; conditionalities should first be in line with and not in conflict with partner country priorities and only thereafter reflect donor priority.

(iv) Donor community should have a joint strategy which should coincide with the national development strategy of the partner country.

RT Co-chair take away

(i) There is need to clarify the concept and connotation of various terms, such as ownership and accountability.

(ii) Does ownership mean ownership by the central government (which is the main interlocutor for the donors) or of the state or of the nation that includes people and the civil society?

(iii) Similarly, for accountability, would mutual responsibility be a better term besides the question of being accountable to whom; to the people, to the government or to the donor.

(iv) Donors are also accountable to donor country people, parliament and public opinion. This puts limits on the extent to which donors can give assistance without conditionalities.

(v) Build trust and confidence between the donors and partner countries. Greater ownership may require that partner countries are in the driver's seat in the development agenda. Only then can each play its role in reaching the goal.

(vi) Capacity development was cited often with the demand that donors instead of only giving assistance should also develop the capacity in

the partner country. The other side of the coin is that the high turnover of personnel in partner countries can lead to the wastage of resources used for capacity development.

(vii) Capacity development is important to ultimately reduce aid dependence.

Country Experience (Kyrgyz Republic)

(i) Paris Declaration of 2005 and the consultation leading to its adoption, provided the stimulus to set out national priorities (reducing the number of priorities to 4 from 162 in the earlier strategy).

(ii) This allowed the donors to get a clear picture of the regions and sectors that were most important and where aid was required.

(iii) Under SWAP, the Government of Kyrgyz Republic is channelling the aid received for the health sector, which accounts for 20-25% of the sector.

(iv) Development aid is audited through the government system and the reports are reviewed by the government together with the donors and the civil society because aid effectiveness can lead to development results.

Round Table 2: Alignment: Use of Country Systems, Untying Aid, Aid Predictability

Use of Country Systems

(i) Country systems improving, with regulations and legislation in place, though in some cases capacity to implement and use systems is lagging.

(ii) Donors still have difficulty in using country systems. Georgia has made significant improvements to their procurement systems, and while they still have more to do, still find that some agencies are unwilling to use their country systems.

(iii) Sometimes donors use own systems due to lack of understanding of country systems. Partner countries should work to educate donors about country systems and how they work.

(iv) Best way to build capacity of country systems is to use them e.g. by channelling donor funds through them. The Kyrgyz Republic expressed a need for greater technical assistance from donors to implement good Public Financial Management systems in its two pilot ministries.

(v) Poor salaries for civil servants makes it difficult for governments to attract and retain staff, and thus to effectively build capacity. Georgia strengthened process of capacity building by reduced differential between public and private sector salaries.

(vi) Capacity development needs to be based more on demand (e.g. though needs assessment). Some donors have good and transparent training programs that effectively transfer skills.

Predictability

(i) Donors need to do more on providing accurate and timely information to partner countries on commitments and disbursements. Georgia stated that the lack of a disbursement schedule from donors made it extremely difficult for the national budgeting process.

(ii) One common online aid management and tracking systems, used by donors and partner countries, improve predictability and allow donor head office to directly update information.

(iii) Predictability is a major concern in Mongolia, so now together with UNDP are developing a web based aid system, to improve predictability.

(iv) Delays on the part of donors' in approving projects particularly undermines partner countries budgeting process.

(v) Donors' communication between HQ and country offices needs strengthening.

(vi) Donor systems may need reform to provide information on aid flows in format of partner country systems e.g. synchronising with partner countries' fiscal year.

(vii) Donors should harmonise among themselves, and share best practices.

Untying of Aid

(i) Progress by donors on untying aid has been mixed (generally multilaterals have done better than bilaterals). A political commitment led by donor head-offices is necessary to make continued progress.

(ii) Some partner countries are choosing to refuse aid that is tied, unless donor has a real and significant comparative advantage.

(iii) Practice of tied aid has resulted in donors sending outdated technologies. Need to have a close consultation between partner countries and donors in order to decide an 'appropriate technology'.

Round Table 3: Harmonisation: Rationalising aid delivery, complementarity, division of labour

(i) Governments should formulate a clear aid policy and tell donors the sectors where they want them to contribute and the role they want the donors to fulfil such as policy advise, technical assistance and financial resource. Harmonization within the government is also not enough, as each ministry does not propose the project for aid financing in aligned manner.

(ii) Instead of donors having their own strategies, they could be asked to adopt joint assistance strategies with a three year perspective. This can lead to increased predictability.

(iii) There is very little coordination among donors either in selecting sectors that they want to be engaged in or even within sectors.

(iv) There should be focus on sectors with the greatest need. Besides the national development strategy, there should be medium term strategy for sector in line with the national strategy.

(v) To foster harmonization, instruments like pooled funds, Sector Wide Approaches under joint country support strategy could be adopted.

(vi) Partner countries should focus on key policies in the quest for harmonized procedures among donors, e.g. procurement policy to be adopted. A country experience of reform in procurement laws in consultation with major donors indicated positive outcomes.

(vii) Too many Project Implementation Units (PIUs). Sometimes all the projects in the same sector have their own PIUs and even within the same project, each donor has its own PIU. PIUs could be limited to, say one per sector and they should work in coordination with the line ministries.

(viii) Participants discussed the potential negative impact of donors excessively pursuing harmonization without considering its impact on alignment and ownership – spending too much time on elaborate coordination amongst themselves mechanisms and too little time on working better with government.

(ix) Some partners shared their experience of the difficulty of deciding on division of labour issues due to their lack of knowledge of donors policies. Partners asked that division of labour exercises be under partner country leadership. New and emerging donors should be more transparent in their aid financing and also subscribe to the Paris principles, especially ownership.

(x) Some argued donors are possessive about projects and this prevents pooling of resources and results in some projects suffering from inadequate funds. Some argued that donors should not be overly focused on their 'attribution' or visibility at a project level and should develop better understanding with their constituencies of the benefit of pooled efforts.

Round Table 4: Managing for Results and Development Impact

Managing for Development Results

(i) General consensus on goals of development, but more alignment on procedures & approaches needed between donors & government for Managing for Development Results is to succeed.

(ii) Managing for Development Results should not be limited to donor funded activities, but should cover all work of government.

(iii) Accra Agenda for Action commitments should be linked to development effectiveness and achievement of the MDGs.

(iv) National monitoring systems should be established, with involvement of all stakeholders including CSOs.

(v) Design projects based on comprehensive system approach at country-level, and in view of the long term results; and identify performance indicators to assess progress.

(vi) Avoid narrow or exclusively economic metrics of performance. Economic Rate of Return can not fully express the value of a hospital, for example.

(vii) Better alignment by donors with national procurement systems and country strategies will contribute to progress on Managing for Development Results.

(viii) Some countries suggested the need for a new mechanism for evaluating results at the country level, (CPIA-Country Policy and Institutional Assessment, and CPPR-Country Portfolio Performance Review worked well in Tajikistan).

(ix) Donors' independent evaluations are important tools for partner countries, and proactively shared with partner countries by donors.

(x) Donors together with partner countries, should jointly design, monitor and evaluate projects and systems. This will synchronise expectations of development partners, and contribute to Capacity Development.

(xi) Paris Declaration commitment on joint participatory work not met by donors.

(xii) Donors should harmonise among themselves their reporting and monitoring formats.

Project Implementation Units (PIUs)

(i) PIU can have many modalities and there were different perspectives about their desirability and effectiveness.

(ii) PIUs jointly established by, and jointly accountable to, governments and donors can be highly effective.

(iii) PIUs integration with line Ministries is a key to improving aid effectiveness and capacity development.

(iv) Tajikistan, Georgia and Armenia all had experiences of PIUs failing due to lack of funds after donor funding ceased at the end of project. A supplementary mechanism is needed to support the absorption of PIUs into government structures.

(v) PIUs should not be dismantled in a rush to meet Paris Declaration indicators – PIUs should be integrated into government structures in a sustainable way.

(vi) Capacity of PIUs is sometimes weak and some partner countries found that high turn over of PIU staff undermines results based management.

(vii) Municipal Development Fund – alternative modality of PIU (Georgia) – positive mechanism for implementing priority investment projects.

Round Table 5: Mutual Accountability

(i) Partner countries argued that there was a need for a better knowledge of ODA support at the country level, and all donors should create a comprehensive data base on the aid volumes at the country level, and share it with the partner countries, for the latter to plan their program budgets better. It was argued that multilateral organizations had a better data base than the bilateral organizations. A good example was provided by the Kyrgyz Republic, which has a simple but effective bilingual database, which is updated twice a year.

(ii) The countries sought a far stronger commitment from the donors to provide timely complete

information (Para 49 of Paris Declaration), and suggested the need for establishing bilingual ODA database. A good example was provided by Republic of Kyrgyz, which has a simple but effective bilingual database, which is updated twice a year.

(iii) Some countries (Armenia, Tajikistan) pointed out the need for a stronger analytical capacity to understand and analyse ODA information, and to use the data base for better decision-making.

(iv) There is a proliferation of large number of donors in some countries (Tajikistan faces a challenge to deal with 87 organisations). In some cases, aid coordination units were set up under a project but the accountability of such units is to donors, and also sustainability of such units is under threat after the project ends. Projects supporting aid coordination must build capacity from the start inside regular ministry structures for these to be sustainable.

(v) Partner countries argued that donors pick up their favourite projects and do not align to the national development strategies of the countries. If donors allocate aid according to the country national development strategy and priorities, countries will have a better ownership and be more accountable to results. Partner countries sought commitment from donors for greater alignment of donor financing with national priorities.

(vi) Some countries argued that Governments should be accountable to their parliaments and citizens first, countries do not have an accountability but a 'responsibility' to donors, accordingly argued that 'accountability' is not the right term.

(vii) Some of the countries in the region argued that domestic accountability mechanisms are weak. For example, in Mongolia governments are unstable, change every couple of years, and therefore Governments have a short-term strategy, and it is difficult to hold governments accountable to parliaments.

(viii) Some countries suggested that strong functioning of the Consultative Group is critical to effective aid management. Separate coordination mechanisms – some exclusive to donors or to NGOs – are difficult to manage. There is need

to bring all 3 parties (donors, Government, and CSOs) together in a single mechanism to discuss national priorities.

(ix) Some countries argued that there is need for NGOs to share their accountabilities also. Some NGOs deliver services but most are politicised. There is need to have tripartite dialogue and better reporting/accountability of all three; there was also a need to share a positive list and a black list of NGOs, keeping in view experience with the NGOs.

(x) Emigration of skilled staff has led to capacity gaps – yet often Technical Assistance and consultants fail to transfer knowledge.

Discussion on AAA

(i) Draft AAA doesn't address a core challenge raised by region. AAA should include a firm commitment of donors needed to report all types of ODA accurately, and to provide three-year forward estimates of ODA levels.

(ii) There should be some commitment on the transfer of knowledge, from the donors/consultants to the government staff. Partner countries need to address the issue of frequent changes in government personnel, and coordination and transfer of knowledge between different Ministries.

(iii) Strategic directions of donors at the global level – is not clear, donors should clarify the change in their principles and policies over time. Donors should also post a list of unsatisfactory companies/consultants on the web site.

Round Table 6: The Role of Civil Society in Advancing Aid Effectiveness

Creating a Strong Civil Society

(i) Role of Civil Society is complementary to that of government and adds value.

(ii) Governments and donors need to be more proactive in involving Civil Society in consultation processes.

(iii) Important for 'good practices' to be shared between governments and civil society 'communities' in the region.

(iv) Importance of accountability of CSOs to establish legitimacy, especially in transparency of issues of financial management and corruption

(v) CSOs should engage in politics for development in a clear role of advocacy and avoid becoming an instrument of political parties.

(vi) Formal acknowledgment of CSOs by governments and donors is important to create a framework for structured dialogue.

(vii) Capacity Building – further support is needed for CSOs to play their role properly.

CSOs and High Level Forum Process

(i) Awareness of Aid Effectiveness agenda and HLF-3 within Civil Society in Central Asia is very poor.

(ii) Civil Society is underrepresented at Accra; as it has been in these consultation processes.

(iii) Round Table 6 on Civil Society needs to be better coordinated with other Roundtables.

(iv) CSOs need to be properly represented at all Round Tables and plenary sessions in Accra.

(v) Need for awareness raising seminars in all countries and agreement for multi-stakeholder regional seminar before Accra.

Country Experience

(i) Interesting country experience from Kazakhstan – evolution of role of civil society since independence. Hope to present case study at Accra.

(ii) Government of Kazakhstan established a research centre with accommodation facilities, which allows NGOs to hold seminars and trainings and to raise public awareness on activities of CSOs.

(iii) E-government has been set up and the internet is used as an effective communication tool between CSOs and government.

Round Table 7: Aid Effectiveness in Fragile States and Conflict Situations

Draft AAA Commitments

(i) First sentence is vague.

(ii) Needs to refer to regional and global conflicts.

(iii) Confidence-building measures need to be emphasized, necessary to distinguish clearly between fragility and conflict.

(iv) Conflict prevention should be highlighted – working to build understanding at community level.

(v) Kyrgyz Republic calls for creation of government think tanks on conflict – cover research not just teaching.

(vi) DAC Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile Situations should be implemented.

Country Experiences

(i) Georgia: Donor community can play a major role by targeting communities that are beyond the reach of government systems as well as in confidence building between the conflicting parties in the regions.

(ii) Tajikistan: Once national leadership had emerged, close cooperation between the donors and the leadership in the identification of key priorities.

(iii) Success came from good understanding of situation among donors. Close cooperation between the donors and the leadership in the identification of key priorities.

(iv) Kyrgyz Republic: Working closely with UNDP on Peace & Development project – focused on conflict prevention. Creating council which decides priorities, preparing database to inform design of conflict prevention strategy. OSCE and Human Rights organisations also involved – and government seeking a harmonised strategy among donors.

(v) Human Rights are fundamental to conflict prevention – and this should be highlighted at Accra.

(vi) Kazakhstan: also emphasises the value of focusing on conflict prevention, and to include civil society organisations.

(vii) Context matters: e.g. Cross-border tensions: Depending on the context the resolution could be found at the local, regional or international level,

(viii) Greater aid predictability is essential if the international objective of state strengthening is to be realistic.

(ix) Improve harmonisation: In fragile contexts, it is essential that donors speak with one voice: too often different branches (eg security, development, humanitarian) may have inconsistent approaches.

(x) Examples of good experience in fragile and conflict situations needed to be shared by the donors with countries facing similar situations.

Round Table 8: Sector Application of the Paris Declaration

(i) Essential to have a national sector strategy in place.

(ii) Many different forms of coordination mechanisms:

a. Sector working groups chaired by relevant ministers, co-chaired by relevant donor in the sector. Donors adopt implementation plan for each year and meet regularly to align day to day activities and have implement joint PIUs among donors. (Kyrgyz Republic)

b. Aid Effectiveness Coordination Council made up from Secretary of line ministries (Mongolia),

c. Ministry of Finance coordinated donor relations, using donor mapping of their competencies/ comparative advantage. Donors find this a useful tool for harmonisation. (Georgia)

(iii) Political commitment at the highest level is essential to implement sector strategies. Political bravery is also needed to choose where scarce resources will be allocated.

(iv) Capacity of line ministries are very important to improve effectiveness at sector levels.

(v) Application of Paris Declaration principles at sector level can facilitate planning at the national level.

(vi) Based on a development partner mapping and consideration of each donors comparative advantage at sector level, the government has suggested a division of labour between donors. Some donors have adopted their development strategies to reflect the Georgian government priorities.

(vii) Strong sector strategies can succeed and persist through periods of political instability or even 'fragility'.

(viii) Sector plans can not be developed or implemented in isolation as sectors are interdependent: e.g. health sector relies on good Public Financial Management which relies on good governance.

(ix) Learning experiences from one sector can inform planning in other sectors, even with very informal institutional consultation arrangements.

(x) Lack of harmonization among donors still exist within specific sectors. Each donor wants to take a lead and recognised that it can be a challenge for lead donor to get agreement from other donors to use their systems.

(xi) Conditionality needs to be negotiated between governments and donors – donors need to be more realistic and flexible, as the donors demand never-achievable conditions..

(xii) Donors need to work harder on predictability and transfer of information and meet commitments they have made.

Round Table 9: Implications of the Changing Aid Architecture for Aid Effectiveness

(i) Almost all the countries in the region received large amounts of assistance from non-traditional donors, especially China.

(ii) Countries appreciated the assistance by non-traditional donors and argued that these donors had a number of advantages. The non-traditional donors did not impose any 'conditionality' and the speed of processing of assistance was particularly high with good quality of works as well as extremely advantageous loan conditions. Timing is very important for the partner countries.. Transaction costs of such funds was much lower than that of funds from traditional donors.

(iii) Further, aid from non-traditional donor align (example China) with the country priorities as stated in the PRSP, including that for infrastructure investment, which is not necessarily the approach followed by traditional donors (IFIs). It was also observed that aid resources from non-traditional donors were also for poverty reduction and economic development.

(iv) However, countries also recognized the disadvantages of the increasing number of donors in general. Increasing number of donors causes proliferation of aid (87 official donors in Tajikistan).

(v) The non-traditional donors, in most cases, did not apply any safeguards, or environmental or social standards to their assistance, and this

aspect is negatively perceived. It was also observed that the issue of sustainability of infrastructure or services created under the project was not a priority of non-traditional donors. Partner countries called for non-traditional donors to be more transparent with financing and to do more to ensure partner country ownership of projects. They also do not recognize debt sustainability of the country at the time of providing loans to these countries. However, there was one case which country assess the safeguard aspects by itself and have rejected the project with insufficient safeguard measures. Such proactive measures by the partner country is important.

(vi) At the same time countries sought capacity development and transfer of knowledge from donors, rather than have the donors implement a project themselves.

(vii) Countries agreed that strong ownership was crucial to better manage increasing aid resources from donors, especially in the light of the increasing number of donors in country.

(viii) There was a need to recognize the diversity of donors as well as partner countries, and a need to enhance dialogue between and with new donors so that a more inclusive framework for Harmonisation and alignment can be facilitated.

(ix) Countries agreed that a coordinated dialogue and coordination between traditional and non-traditional donors for shared goal is beneficial for partner countries.



Annex 3 | Evaluation of Central & West Asia HLF Consultation: feedback from country participants

Thirteen participants provided feedback on the Central & Western Asia consultation, evaluation overall workshop quality at 3.75 out of a possible total of 4.0. In the region, only three out of seven countries taking part in the consultation have signed the Paris Declaration (Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Tajikistan) and participants emphasised the practical value of the HLF Consultation in raising country level awareness: “I am much better equipped, and understand recent developments, to lobby government officials to sign up to the Paris Declaration”, “Our country has not yet signed the Paris Declaration – I will present results to the Minister of Finance”, and that the consultation had been “very useful for partner countries and donors to prepare for Accra”.

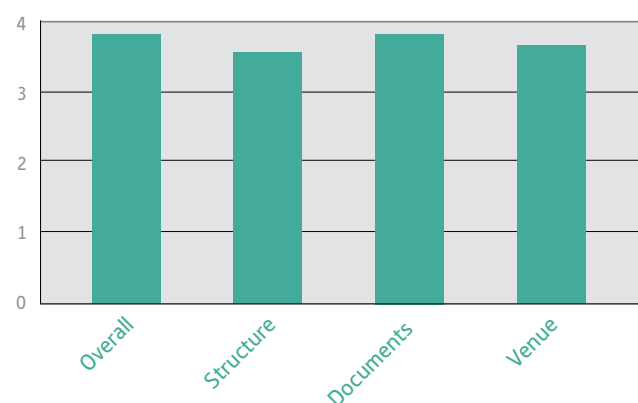
Others noted that the exchange with other countries had been “very informative” and “very useful for dealing with donors”, “My daily work includes all aspects of what we discussed here”. Other practical implications of the workshop included that it would “assist the government to develop a PIU exit strategy and promote joint evaluations” and several participants reported that they would “disseminate the Paris Declaration Evaluation results” and “disseminate [knowledge gained] among CSOs and other interested parties in my country”.

Country colleagues welcomed a “good exchange of knowledge and experience (including obstacles and achievements” and noted that it was “good to bring together different countries from the same region with similar experiences”.

The translation between English and Russian and back again posed challenges and increased the pressure on time, and participants noted “Good but language problems”, “Some problems with language, interpreters not familiar with terminology”. With respect to the draft AAA and Menu of Options, some participants concluded that “identifying further actions was very useful” and “very concrete discussions”, while another colleague felt too much time was spent “focused on drafting rather than substantive discussion”. One participant suggested that the “composition of country delegations could have been better structured to include more people who work with donors”.

Overview comments included an appreciation of the “sharing of experiences and networking across countries”, and “excellent support and organisation”, “well organised debates and discussions” and that “there is always more to learn and this should be done again and again”.

Country Participant Feedback (1=low; 4=high)



Annex 4 | Accra HLF-3: Round Table Chairing Arrangements

(as at 21 April 2008)

RT	CO-CHAIR DONOR	CO-CHAIR PARTNER	WITH SUPPORT FROM (to be completed)
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<i>RT</i>	<i>CO-CHAIR DONOR</i>	<i>CO-CHAIR PARTNER</i>	<i>WITH SUPPORT FROM (to be completed)</i>
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9. Aid architecture	<p>WB <i>Co-Chairs:</i> Richard Manning rmanning@mobileemail.vodafone.net Philippe Le Houerou plehouerou@worldbank.org <i>Contact:</i> Ms. Rocio Castro rcastro1@worldbank.org</p>	<p>Ghana <i>Co-Chair:</i> Dr Akoto-Osei (Minister of State of Finance) aakoto@yahoo.com <i>Contact:</i> Yvonne Quansah, Director/Aid & Debt Management Division yodoi@mofep.gov.gh Mary-Anne Addo, Director/ External Resource Mob.- Multilateral Div. m_a.addo@mofep.gov.gh m.a_addo@yahoo.com</p>	Japan, GPLG, UNDP



Annex 5 | Agenda for Central and West Asia HLF Consultation

Amari Watergate Hotel, Bangkok, 7–9 May 2008

Wednesday 7 May

18.30–20.00 Welcome for all participants: drinks and snacks at Pool side, 8th Floor, Amari Watergate

Day 1 Thursday 8 May

08:00–08:30 Registration and Welcome Coffee: Room C@7, 7th Floor

Session 1: Road to the High Level Forum in Accra

08:30–09:00 **Chair:** Mr Shahid Zahid, ADB

1.1 **Welcome:** Marcia Kran, Officer-in-Charge, UNDP Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific

1.2 **Introduction:** Aidan Cox, UNDP Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific

09:00–09:40 1.3 **Introduction to the High Level Forum**

Ghana: Welcome from the host of the High Level Forum (video)

OECD DAC: Mr Stephen Groff, Deputy Director, OECD Development Cooperation Directorate

Kyrgyz Republic: Mr. Akylbek Japarov, Minister of Economic Trade and Development

09:40–10:00 1.4 **Discussion**

10:00–10:45 1.5 **Managing Aid at Country Level**

10:45–11:15 Coffee

Session 2: Using Evidence for Action

11:15–11:30 **Chair:** Mr Chris Hall, World Bank

2.1 **Implications for Action: 2008 Survey and Paris Declaration Evaluation**

Panel: **OECD DCD:** Ms Sara Fyson, Aid Effectiveness Division, OECD Development Cooperation Directorate

Kyrgyz Republic: Mr. Sultan Ahmatov, Head of the Aid Strategy Department, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade

Niels Dabelstein, Evaluation of the Paris Declaration, Danish Institute for International Studies

11:30–12:00 2.3 **Sharing country experiences from the floor**

Session 3: Round Tables Working Group Discussions

RT Working Group Discussions will be chaired by a Government from the region, supported by an HLF3 RT Co-Chair (if available) and a member of the organising committee (ADB, Japan, UNDP or World Bank)

1. Country ownership

2. Alignment

3. Harmonisation

4. Development results & impacts

5. Mutual Accountability

6. Role of Civil Society Organisations

7. Fragility & conflict situations

8. Sector application of PD

9. New aid architecture and role of non-DAC donors

12:00–12:15 3.1 **Introduction to Round Tables Session:** Tom Beloe (UNDP Regional Centre)

12:15–13:30 Lunch at the Promenade Restaurant, 4th Floor

Session 3: Round Tables (cont.)

13:30–15:00 3.2 Round Table Working Groups 1, 5 & 8

RT 1: Ownership
(Room: A@7)

Introduction: Kyrgyz Republic Sultan Akhmatov
Facilitator: Tom (UNDP); Rapporteur: Manoranjan

RT 5: Mutual Accountability
(Room: Bangsue)

Introduction: Armenia; RT Co-Chair remarks, Mr James Polhemus, Irish Aid; Facilitator: Aidan (UNDP); Rapporteur: Manju (ADB)

RT 8: Sector Experiences
(Room: Bang Luang B)

Introduction: Mongolia Zolzaya Tsedendamba.; RT Co-Chair remarks, Dan Wilde; Facilitator: Antonio (ADB); Rapporteur: Eoghan (UNDP)

15:00–15:30 Coffee

15:30–16:00 **Chair:** Japan (Mr. Hitoshi Shoji)

3.3 Feedback from RT Working Groups 1, 5 and 8

Panel: 3 Working Group Introducers and any HLF Round Table Co-Chairs

16:00–17:30 3.4 Round Table Working Groups 3, 4 & 7

RT 3: Harmonisation
(Room: A@7)

Introduction: Azerbaijan; Facilitator: Tom (UNDP); Rapporteur: Manoranjan

RT 4: Managing for Results
(Room: Bangsue)

Introduction: Georgia; RT Co-Chair remarks, Mr. Dhires Ramklass, Government of Republic of South Africa; Facilitator: Manju (ADB); Rapporteur: Eoghan (UNDP)

RT 7: Fragility & Conflict Situations
(Room: Bang Luang B)

Introduction: Facilitator: Aidan (UNDP); Rapporteur: Shahid (ADB)

17:30–18:00 3.5 **Actions for Aid Effectiveness:** Informal brainstorming on country actions for more effective aid

Facilitator: Mr Aidan Cox, UNDP

18:30–20:00 Dinner reception at Pool side, 8th Floor

Day 2 Friday 9 May

08:00–08:30 Coffee

Session 3: Round Tables (cont.)

08:30–09:00 **Chair:** UNDP (Tom Beloe)

3.6 Feedback from Working Groups 3, 4 and 7

Panel: 3 Working Group Chairs and any HLF3 RT Co-Chairs

09:00–10:30 3.7 Round Table Working Groups 2, 6 & 9

RT 2: Alignment
(Room: A@7)

Introduction: Mongolia; Facilitator: Shahid (ADB); Rapporteur: Eoghan (UNDP)

RT 6: Civil Society
(Room: Bangsue)

Introduction: Kazakhstan; RT Co-chair remarks Tony Tujan, Advisory Group on CSOs; Facilitator: Antonio (ADB); Rapporteur: Rinko (OECD)

RT 9: Aid Architecture
(Room: Bang Luang B)

Introduction: Tajikistan; Facilitator: Sakudo Shunsuke (Japan); Rapporteur: Manoranjan

10:30–11:00 Coffee

11:00–11:30	<p>Chair: Mr Shahid Zahid, ADB</p> <p>3.8 Feedback from Working Groups 2, 6 and 9</p> <p>Panel: 3 Working Group Chairs and any HLF3 RT Co-Chairs</p>
<p>Session 4: Accra Agenda for Action (AAA)</p>	
11:30–12:15	<p>Chair: Mr Hitoshi Shoji, JBIC, Japan</p> <p>Facilitator: Mr Tom Beloe, UNDP</p> <p>4.1 What's in the AAA and how can you influence it? Mr Stephen Groff, Deputy Director, OECD Development Cooperation Directorate</p> <p>4.2 Walk around: Actions from Day 1</p> <p>4.3 Any clarifications? Discussion</p>
12:15–13:30	Lunch at the Promenade Restaurant, 4 th Floor
<p>Session 4: Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) (cont.)</p>	
13:30–15:15	<p>4.4 Three break out discussion groups on AAA</p> <p>Break Out 1 – Chair: Tajikistan; (Room: A@7); Facilitator: Tom (UNDP); Rapporteur: Manoranjan</p> <p>Break Out 2 – Chair: Kazakhstan; (Room: Bangsue); Facilitator: Manju (ADB); Rapporteur: Rinko (OECD)</p> <p>Break Out 3 – Chair: Mongolia; (Room: Bang Luang B); Facilitator: Aidan (UNDP); Rapporteur: Eoghan (UNDP)</p>
15:15–15:45	Coffee
	Co-Chairs: Mr Chris Hall, World Bank and Kyrgyz Republic
15:45–16:30	4.5 Feedback from 3 Break Out Groups and Discussion
<p>Session 5: Next steps and Closing</p>	
16:30–16:45	<p>Chair: Mr Aidan Cox, UNDP</p> <p>5.1 Next steps: actions at country and regional level to prepare for HLF and beyond</p> <p>Panel: Government of Mongolia Mr Chris Hall, World Bank</p> <p>Discussion</p>
16:45–17:00	5.2 Workshop Closing: Mr Shahid Zahid, ADB

Annex 6 | List of Participants:

Central & West Asia HLF Consultation



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