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# TAKING STOCK OF EFFECTIVENESS PRINCIPLES AT COUNTRY LEVEL

BRINGING EVIDENCE FROM ASIA-PACIFIC TO THE GPEDC SENIOR LEVEL MEETING

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*A Pre-SLM Side Event Hosted by the Governments of Nepal and Bangladesh*

Friday, 12 July 2019 • 5:00-7:30pm  
Millennium Hilton, One UN Plaza, New York

**Final Report**

*6 August 2019*

## I. Background and Context

The principles of effective development cooperation – country ownership, focus on results, inclusive partnerships, and transparency and mutual accountability – have been agreed at the global level and have formed a foundation for the relationship at country level between different partners with a stake in development cooperation. Progress on these commitments has been monitored over time. The changing nature of the development cooperation and finance landscape has also introduced new dynamics and partnership modalities, against the backdrop of the ambitious SDG agenda. The ‘unfinished business’ of earlier global aid effectiveness agreements, such as on the use of country systems, remains relevant for many developing countries, including but not limited to LDCs which rely on ODA. At the same time, all developing countries are contending with how to effectively unlock private finance for development, leverage the opportunities of South-South and Triangular Cooperation, and strengthen the policy and institutional frameworks to underpin more integrated approaches to mobilizing and effectively utilizing different types of finance – public and private, domestic and international.

The Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) is where different actors hold each other accountable for commitments on effective development cooperation. It also provides a forum for dialogue and collective exploration of emerging priorities and effectiveness issues. The GPEDC’s Senior-Level Meeting (SLM) took place on 13-14 July, ahead of the ministerial segment of the High Level Political Forum. The SLM considered the current situation of the global development effectiveness agenda and encouraged action and renewed commitment to effectiveness as core to accelerating progress on sustainable development.

As the SLM sought to further commitments on the global effectiveness agenda, it was critical that the deliberations were anchored in country-level reality and reflected the priorities of partner countries. The side event, co-hosted by the Government of Nepal (GPEDC Steering Committee member representing recipient countries in Asia) and the Government of Bangladesh (GPEDC Co-Chair), provided a **forum for consultation with countries in Asia-Pacific with respect to the effectiveness agenda. The primary objective of the side event was to capture the priorities of these countries on key issues being discussed at the SLM**, thus advocating for their concerns to be reflected in the SLM dialogue. The side event was structured around a set of discussion questions, framed to meet this objective and promote dialogue, including:

- (1) What does the ‘effectiveness agenda’ currently look like at the country level in Asia-Pacific? Does the GPEDC adequately reflect this and support effectiveness priorities at country level, including as related to countries’ efforts to achieve the SDGs?
- (2) What should be the balance between a focus on the ‘unfinished business’ of previous aid effectiveness commitments and newer dimensions (such as private finance and South-South Cooperation) in the global effectiveness agenda/GPEDC?
- (3) Reflecting on the recently concluded 3<sup>rd</sup> monitoring round, what is the value proposition of the monitoring survey to countries in Asia-Pacific? If/how should it evolve to better support efforts to drive progress on global commitments at country level?

**The outcome was a set of messages reflecting the priorities of countries in the region with respect to the effectiveness agenda.**

The side event was co-chaired by the senior delegates to the SLM from the governments of Nepal and Bangladesh, who opened the event, framing the issues and objectives. Key discussion questions were explored by inviting perspectives from several other speakers, senior representatives from governments of other countries in the region. Prepared remarks by the

speakers were supplemented by open discussion and inputs from other participants, in order to ensure a representation of views from participants.

The side event took place on Friday, 12 July, one day before the opening of the SLM. The side event program took place from 5:00-6:30pm and was followed by a reception from 6:30-7:30pm.

Support to plan and execute this event was provided by UNDP Nepal (EDFC project), with financial support from DFID, in coordination with the GPEDC Joint Support Team, and in partnership with the Asia Pacific Development Effectiveness Facility (AP-DEF).

The venue for the event was the Millennium Hilton, One UN Plaza, in New York.

## II. Side Event Speakers

A distinguished panel of speakers was convened for the side event, as follows:

- Government of **Nepal**: Mr. Rajan Khanal, Finance Secretary, Ministry of Finance
- Government of **Bangladesh**: Mr. Monowar Ahmed, Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance
- Government of **Myanmar**: H.E. Mr. U Thaung Tun, Union Minister, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations
- Government of the **Philippines**: Mr. Rolando Tungpalan, Undersecretary, National Economic and Development Authority
- Government of **Cambodia**: H.E. Mr. Rith Vuthy, Deputy Secretary General, Council for the Development of Cambodia
- Government of **Indonesia**: Ms. Diani Sadiawati, Senior Advisor to the Minister on Institutional Relations, Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas)
- Government of **Japan**: Mr. Susumu Kuwahara, Deputy Assistant Minister, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**): Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren, Chief, Country Office Liaison and Coordination Division, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific

*Moderator*: Mr. Shreekrishna Nepal, Joint Secretary, International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of Nepal

## III. Key Messages Emerging from the Side Event Discussions

The side event program featured excellent remarks from the invited speakers and rich discussions from participants who spoke from the floor. While the following is not intended as a transcript of the event, it is a summary of some of the key messages and stand-out messages, the main essence of which was distilled and delivered by Mr. Shreekrishna Nepal in his statement in the closing session of the SLM on 14<sup>th</sup> July (see Annex D for a transcript of his remarks):

- For LDCs, including Nepal, Cambodia, and Myanmar, as well as other countries which receive a significant amount of ODA, the quality of aid always matters. The original aid effectiveness commitments, the ‘unfinished business’, is important and has implications for how development cooperation is managed at country level. Progress on these commitments, such as on the use of country systems by development partners, is slow. This is despite partner countries making measurable improvements to country systems; Bangladesh for example highlighted that partner countries feel they are implementing their commitments.
- Several speakers discussed the role and contribution of GPEDC. Bangladesh highlighted that GPEDC still needs to garner high-level support and be well integrated into UN processes.

Myanmar mentioned that a recent ESCAP report predicts that the Asia- Pacific region will not achieve the SDGs but that this trend can be reversed and GPEDC has a role to play in that. Indonesia specifically commended the GPEDC for 'reviving' the effectiveness agenda. Japan emphasized the importance of the mutual accountability and transparency principle, noting that emerging provider countries tend to distance themselves from the aid effectiveness agenda, when these principles should serve as international rules across all international cooperation fora, including the G20.

- The development cooperation landscape in partner countries is changing, and rapidly. Countries are blessed by choice, but also challenged by the complexity of managing an increasingly complex development finance and cooperation landscape: public finance from emerging donors, private finance, South-South and Triangular Cooperation, and various blended modalities. This shift is driven in part by changes in the availability of concessional finance as more countries graduate to middle-income status; for example, Cambodia and Myanmar both spoke to this point from their particular country experiences. It is important not to lose focus on the original commitments; at the same time the GPEDC must continue to evolve so that the effectiveness principles can be embodied in modalities beyond ODA.
- Discussions at the side event endorsed the importance of a whole-of-society approach, and the engagement of all development actors, if we are to achieve the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals. In this connection, the GPEDC plays a valuable role as the place where all stakeholders come together on equal footing; this was emphasized by the UNDP speaker, among others. Yet more needs to be done at country level to create an enabling environment for multi-stakeholder dialogue and action, and efforts are already underway in this regard. Several countries at the side event mentioned their particular experience; for example the Government of the Philippines is doing more to engage the private sector. Bangladesh highlighted the importance of reforming country-level institutional arrangements to engage all stakeholders. GPEDC must continue to be the knowledge sharing platform for learning and exchange of experiences on how all actors can work together effectively.
- Countries represented at the side event strongly validated the value of the Global Partnership monitoring survey, as a source of evidence, as a way to gather evidence at country level, and as a basis for dialogue. Challenges of administering the survey were also noted, such as the challenge to ensure responses from all development partners at country level. There were specific examples, such as in Cambodia, of the monitoring survey being incorporated in the national strategies and ODA database. There were also calls to ensure that the results are translated into action, potentially by using monitoring results to establish clear targets and action plans to be implemented between monitoring cycles, as suggested by the Philippines.
- At the country level the development effectiveness principles remain very relevant. These principles have been localized, owned, and embedded into national policies, institutional arrangements, coordination mechanisms, and indeed into our core processes of development. Much is happening at the country level in partner countries, and there were numerous examples at the side event (including from Nepal, Myanmar, Philippines, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Bangladesh) of policies, institutional arrangements, and coordination mechanisms put in place at the country level to strengthen development effectiveness. So there is much experience to be shared. It is therefore important to continue to strengthen GPEDC as a critical platform for brokering knowledge sharing on how the principles of effectiveness are being translated into action at the country level.

## **Annexes**

Annex A: List of Participants at Side Event

Annex B: Statements Delivered by Side Event Speakers (those submitted)

B1: Statement delivered by Finance Secretary of Nepal, Mr. Rajan Khanal

B2: Statement delivered by Speaker from Government of the Philippines, Mr. Rolando Tungpalan

B3: Statement delivered by UNDP Speaker, Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren

Annex C: Press Release Posted on Ministry of Finance Website

Annex D: Statement Delivered by Joint Secretary, Mr. Shreekrishna Nepal, at the Closing Session of the GPEDC Senior Level Meeting, 14 July 2019

Annex E: Photos from the Side Event

E1: Photo of Side Event Speakers

E2: Room Photo of Side Event

## Annex A: List of Participants at Side Event (speakers marked by asterisk)

<b>Bangladesh</b>	<b>Mr. Monowar Ahmed*</b> , Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance
	Dr. Md. Rezaul Bashar Siddique, Joint Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance
	Mr. Anwar Hossein, Joint Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance
	Mr. Nawsher Ahmed Sikder, Senior Assistant Chief, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance
<b>Bhutan</b>	Hon. Mr. Bimal Thapa, Member of Parliament, National Assembly of Bhutan
<b>Cambodia</b>	<b>H.E. Mr. Rith Vuthy*</b> , Secretary of State, Council for the Development of Cambodia
	Mr. Huy Angtola, Development Policy Officer, Council for the Development of Cambodia
<b>Indonesia</b>	<b>Ms. Diani Sadiawati*</b> , Senior Advisor to the Minister on Institutional Relations, Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas)
<b>Myanmar</b>	<b>H.E. U Thaung Tun*</b> , Union Minister, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations
	Ms. Hmway Hmway Khyne, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Myanmar in New York
	Mr. Htin Linn Maung, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Myanmar in New York
	Mr. Thet Tin Lin, Director, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations
<b>Nepal</b>	<b>Mr. Rajan Khanal*</b> , Finance Secretary, Ministry of Finance
	Hon. Dr. Pushpa Raj Kadel, Vice-Chairman, National Planning Commission
	Mr. Shreekrisha Nepal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance
	Mr. Khomraj Koirala, Joint Secretary, National Planning Commission
	Mr. Narayan Dhakal, Undersecretary, Ministry of Finance
	Mr. Amrit Rai, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Nepal to the UN
	Mr. Nirmal Raj Kafle, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Nepal to the UN
<b>Philippines</b>	<b>Mr. Rolando Tungpalan*</b> , Undersecretary (Vice Minister), National Economic and Development Authority
	Ms. Kira Azucena, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the UN
	Ms. Rochelle Chen, Adviser, Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the UN

<b>Solomon Islands</b>	Mr. Samuel Wara, Director, Ministry of National Planning and Development Cooperation
<b>Japan</b>	<b>Mr. Susumu Kuwahara*</b> , Deputy Assistant Minister, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	Ms. Yu Abiko, Senior Policy Researcher, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	Mr. Junya Nakano, Minister, Permanent Mission of Japan to the UN
	Ms. Hiroko Amano, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Japan to the UN
<b>Korea (Republic of)</b>	Ms. Eunshil Han, First Secretary, Development Policy Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<b>European Union</b>	Mr. Felix Fernandez-Shaw, Director of International Cooperation and Development Policy, European Commission
<b>Germany</b>	Ms. Tanja Kasten, German Development Cooperation
<b>Kenya</b>	Mr. Evans Maturu, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<b>Switzerland</b>	Mr. Thomas Gass, Ambassador, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
	Ms. Andrea Ries, Senior Policy Advisor, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
<b>Togo</b>	Mr. Pierre Awade, Director of Aid and Partnership Mobilization
	Mr. Martin Chungong, Director General, Inter-Parliamentary Union
	Mr. Viktor Chistyakov, International Partnership and Development Organization
	Ms. Kasia Hanula-Bobbitt, Head of Policy and Advocacy, CONCORD Europe
	Ms. Yvonne O'Neal, Africa Development Interchange Network
	Ms. Jeannette Kah Le Guil
	Mr. Alex McDonald, Director of Data and Quantitative Research, Just Results
<b>UNDP/UN</b>	<b>Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren*</b> , Chief, Country Office Liaison and Coordination Division, UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific
	Dr. Stephan Klingebiel, Director, UNDP Seoul Policy Center
	Ms. Ashley Palmer, Aid Effectiveness Specialist, UNDP Nepal
	Mr. Dharma Swarnakar, Policy Advisor, UNDP Nepal
	Ms. Ingerid Huus-Hansen, SDG Support Officer, UN Resident Coordinator's Office, Nepal
	Ms. Juliaty Sopacua, Technical Advisor, UNDP Indonesia

## **Annex B: Statements Delivered by Side Event Speakers (those submitted)**

### **B1: Statement delivered by Finance Secretary of Nepal, Mr. Rajan Khanal**

Remarks of **Mr. Rajan Khanal**, Finance Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of Nepal

- Namaste and good evening!
- Excellencies, distinguished government officials, esteemed colleagues, GPEDC stakeholders, and fellow speakers: on behalf of the Government of Nepal, as co-host of this side event, I warmly welcome you to this evening's program.
- Let me first acknowledge our co-host, the Government of Bangladesh, represented here by Mr. Monowar Ahmed. I warmly thank Bangladesh for its partnership on tonight's event. I hope this will be a first step in our countries' collaboration on development effectiveness issues which are of mutual interest. I also thank UNDP and DFID, whose support has made tonight's event possible.
- Nepal became a member of the GPEDC Steering Committee following the Nairobi High Level Forum in 2016. One of the responsibilities of Steering Committee members is to consult with, and therefore represent the views of, the constituency we represent. This evening's event is one way we are fulfilling this commitment, by convening members of our constituency and providing a forum for consultation.
- Nepal's formal role on the Steering Committee is one expression of our support for the global platform the GPEDC offers. The commitments and exchange of experiences on development effectiveness at global level underpins our efforts at national level to improve the effectiveness of development cooperation in line with global principles, and to promote coordination and coherence.
- This is an agenda which remains extremely relevant in Nepal. As an LDC, Nepal continues to rely on ODA as a significant source of finance to fund our development priorities. ODA contributed roughly one fifth of our national budget last year. And, looking ahead to how to fill the SDG financing gap in Nepal, we estimate that we must double the amount of ODA flowing into Nepal by 2030.
- At the same time, just as the financing landscape is changing at global level, it is also changing in Nepal. The Government of Nepal recently approved a new international development cooperation policy. Unlike earlier such policies issued in 2002 and 2014, the new policy for the first time references new modalities around blended finance, for example. We know that we must make concessional international cooperation go further by using it as strategically as possible and to leverage additional commercial finance.
- While mobilizing private finance is critical for the SDGs, I would like to use this platform to particularly call for renewed attention to the 'unfinished business' of previous aid commitments. There are no shortage of voices drawing attention to newer financing instruments. But representing an LDC, let me emphasize that the core commitments of aid effectiveness matter to us, in very concrete and practical ways. Having medium-term predictability of aid flows allows us to plan and budget efficiently. Channeling cooperation



funds through our country systems not only helps us to incrementally strengthen those systems, but also reduces overall transaction costs.

- The results of the 3<sup>rd</sup> monitoring round show that we must advocate for continued attention to these core issues. The results revealed that development partners' alignment to partner country priorities is declining. Forward-looking visibility of development partners' cooperation at country level is also weakening.
- To partner countries, including Nepal, the 'quality' of aid still matters and progress on key commitments is slow. And while platforms like GPEDC rightly must embrace emerging cooperation and financing modalities including private finance, we must not allow the 'unfinished business' agenda to become a footnote in the global dialogue.
- Let me conclude by encouraging fruitful discussions this evening. Tonight's event is intended as a forum to crystallize messages to bring into the SLM dialogue. I therefore request all of you to take the opportunity during the SLM sessions over the next two days to share the messages which come out of this evening's event.
- I thank you all again for joining us this evening, and now hand over to Mr. Ahmed of Bangladesh.

## **B2: Statement delivered by Speaker from Government of the Philippines, Mr. Rolando Tungpalan**

Your excellencies, fellow workers in development, good evening. Arriving at 3 AM this morning, I would not be able to stay coherent if not for a prepared set of remarks which benefitted from substantive inputs from our development partner, UNDP Philippines. I am pleased to take part in this very important pre –SLM event and I join my fellow speakers in congratulating the Government of Nepal and the Government of Bangladesh for hosting this event. That this event is made possible with the support of the UNDP, DFID, and AP-DEF simply demonstrates what partnership can deliver effectively.

In the interest of time and with no powerpoints to vividly depict how effectiveness principles as agreed to in Busan have been useful at the country level, allow me to dwell in the next five to seven minutes the Philippines' experience.

The Philippine Government has faithfully given meaning to the effectiveness principles - country ownership, focus on results, inclusive partnerships, and transparency and accountability. These principles are embodied in various laws, Presidential Executive issuances, and guidelines, encompassing the whole development planning-programming-implementation- monitoring and evaluation process. Taking off from our Long Term Vision (Ambisyon 2040) which draws from a series of surveys and consultations on the people's aspirations, our current Medium Term Philippine Development Plan (PDP 2017-2022) was crafted likewise with the active involvement of stakeholders- government, academe, civil society, private business sector, youth and women, and development partners. National, regional, and sectoral consultations were held not only enriching the quality of the Plan but also fostering meaningful ownership by the people.

The current Plan adopted the President's 0 to 10 Point Agenda, President Duterte's campaign platform, and embedded the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Accompanying the Philippine Development Plan is a Results Matrix (RM) which defines the indicators, means of verification, baseline values, and targets corresponding to the Plan's objectives. The Results Matrix serves as our National Results Framework. Clearly, our Government has its focus on results that matter most.

The Plan and Results Matrix are further translated into a Public Investment Program (PIP), a comprehensive set of major programs and projects whose outputs and outcomes are linked to the Plan. In turn, the Plan/RM/PIP serve as the principal bases for mobilizing the range of resources defined in Financing for Development—domestic revenues, loans and grants, private-public sector investments- and for the the various Country Assistance/Strategy of our development partners.

Plan formulation and execution is characterized by inclusive partnership with various stakeholders, not just adopting a whole-of-government, but to a very large extent, whole-of – society approach.

Transparency and mutual accountability is fostered through the more institutionalized mechanisms as our annual Socio economic Reports (SER) and our Annual ODA Portfolio Reviews, both of which are widely disseminated and submitted to Congress. Available likewise in our Ministry's website, these documents and reports serve to promote higher level of accountability and transparency.

So where is GPEDC in this setting? It would go against the basic principle of country ownership and country driven if the “brand” GPEDC is highly visible; instead, the principles of effective development cooperation GPEDC espouses are clearly what characterizes how we manage development for results. Yes, we get to know more about GPEDC in global or regional meetings or events such as this, but its identity at the country level is overshadowed by the more important principles adhered to at the country level, in helping to achieve results on the ground.

However, the GPEDC Monitoring Rounds, to which the Philippines has consistently participated in all three, serve not only to track progress but also generate lessons and evidence useful to ensuring achievement of objectives.

With respect to the link between GPEDC and SDGs, it is important to stress that, as the SDGs and the nationally determined indicators are embedded in the PDP and RM, the same principles of effective development cooperation are closely adhered to. This is vividly demonstrated in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) our Government has submitted earlier and for this HLPF. And our GPEDC Country Monitoring Reports cites progress on SDG goals, particularly Goal 17 and on the effectiveness agenda.

Let me now address the specific areas of concern for this forum.

### **What does the ‘effectiveness agenda’ currently look like in the Philippines?**

The effectiveness agenda in our country continues to highlight ownership and alignment of development cooperation towards our national development goals. Given our wider access to credit (with the sustained credit rating upgrades) and the fiscal space enjoyed by Government, we are in the best position to work closely with our development partners to focus on where greater value added can be achieved with their support, taking into account the knowledge, skills, and experience our partners. In this manner, development cooperation becomes more targeted and catalytic in areas most needed to achieve the country's goals. And such collaborative and coherent approach eliminates fragmentation and donor-driven development cooperation.

Engagement of stakeholders and forging multi-stakeholder partnerships has been a key feature of our managing development. The GPEDC Monitoring Rounds and the Voluntary National Review for the SDGs showcase the quality of these documents as these have been enriched by stakeholders' active engagement, and a strong government leadership. These established dialogue mechanisms, and the institutionalized planning committees and our NEDA Board Committees avoid the ad hoc, one off approach that do not have the elements for implementing commitments and sustaining the gains.

On the other hand, these mechanisms enhance inclusivity, generate broader and active involvement of various actors, strengthen transparency and mutual accountability, and ownership.

Surely, effective development cooperation is crucial to ensuring the achievement of the SDGs. And the SDGs cannot be achieved by governmental, or even inter-governmental collaborative actions alone, but having strong partnerships between and among governments, businesses, civil society, academe and others, bringing together finance, knowledge and experience, and other assets to achieve shared objectives.

**How does the Philippines see the balance between a focus on the 'unfinished business' of previous aid effectiveness commitments and newer dimensions such as private finance and South-South Cooperation?**

The Philippines recognizes that development is achieved through the collective contribution of various actors. As highlighted in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, government partnership has expanded, broadened to many important actors and modalities such as private- public partnership, private foundations, South-South Cooperation, civil society organizations, and other private sector entities. The 'unfinished business' is now a task shared by everyone.

The effectiveness commitments embodied in the Paris Declaration and the Accra Action Agenda have encouraged behavior change towards use of country systems, country results framework and making aid more predictable.

Acknowledging the important role of the private sector not only in finance and investments but even in helping realize the aspirations of the Filipino people for a secure and comfortable life, the Government has given greater meaning to the "private sector as the engine of growth". One of the notable mechanisms and for a is the launch of the Philippine Development Forum- Sulung Pilipinas – in2016 to unveil the Administration's socio-economic agenda. This has become an annual consultation between government and the private sector, generating not only greater awareness of our development priorities but also support, participation, and the needed trust.

Through UNDP, a Business Advisory Council for the SDGs is convened to identify the contribution of the business sector. It allows for dialogue with Government on how best the private sector can respond to the gaps in meeting the SDGs or even initiating actions to ensure sustainability.

**What is the value proposition of the monitoring survey to Asia-Pacific countries? How should it evolve to drive progress on global commitments at country level?**

The Philippines recognizes the benefit of being able to identify progress and challenges towards achieving development effectiveness through the GPEDC monitoring exercise. The results of the monitoring exercise provide evidence from data generated where progress is made and where challenges remain. As findings are discussed with stakeholders, there is a deep sense of inclusiveness and genuine engagement among stakeholders to work together in addressing challenges.

During the third monitoring round, the Philippines Statistics Authority shared that the results can help in the monitoring of the SDGs, while representatives from Congress believe that the results will be useful for policy making.

To drive progress on global commitments at country level, joint action plans containing results-oriented action steps between concerned stakeholders need to be drawn and implemented, outcome of which may then be presented during the subsequent monitoring rounds or at any appropriate forum. This process sustains the momentum and thus, interest and commitments, generated by the GPEDC monitoring rounds.

### **Advancing the Effectiveness Agenda: Some Concrete Actions for Consideration**

To drive the effectiveness agenda, the monitoring mechanism should be institutionalized by integrating the data gathering process in existing M&E platforms. This will allow for continuing dialogue in between monitoring rounds (not just during the call for the next round).

A continuing dialogue can also be the venue for development partners to actively align with the Philippines' development priorities- beyond a strategic level. Development Partners have expressed that while they generally align with national development goals and strategies, further discussions may be needed with regard to jointly setting targets and indicators, with government taking the lead. Discussions on this can be further pursued in light of the mutual accountability indicator of the GPEDC's monitoring framework. SDG indicators on development cooperation could be the basis or reference for alignment and setting of targets such as SDG targets on "respecting countries' policy space and leadership" (SDG 17.15) and "multi-stakeholder partnerships for development" (SDG 17.16).

### **Closing Statement**

I hope that through this short presentation on the Philippines experience, I have contributed to the wealth of knowledge and evidence on country-level actions in pursuit of global commitments. Indeed, change we want can happen on the ground where the effectiveness principles - strong country ownership, focus on results, inclusive partnerships, transparency and mutual accountability are at play.

Thank you and good evening.

### **B3: Statement delivered by UNDP Speaker, Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren**

#### **Chief, Country Office Liaison and Coordination Division, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (as delivered)**

- Distinguished delegates, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to thank the co-hosts, Nepal and Bangladesh, for their leadership in convening this event.
- The Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation occupies a very important space in the global dialogue on development. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires financial resources on a very large scale. But financing alone is not enough. Effectiveness, the question of "how" we do development, is just as important. It is critical that resources are used within a framework of accountability and transparency; that there is strong ownership by partner countries and a focus on results; and that development is pursued through inclusive partnerships.

- While these four effectiveness principles, agreed at the global, level matter greatly, it is equally important to translate them in each distinct country context. We know that progress will be driven, and sustainability protected, at the country level. That is one reason why fora such as this are so important to share examples of how global aspirations are translated concretely into different country contexts.
- The monitoring exercise of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation also illuminates the link between global effectiveness commitments and country-level realities. The record 86 governments, which took part in the 2018 monitoring exercise, recognize that effectiveness principles are a multiplier for their development efforts. The results of this exercise provide them with country-specific data and evidence, which can be used to better align partnerships to national priorities and accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. UNDP has long supported governments on the effectiveness agenda at the country level. In countries such as Lao, Nepal, and Bangladesh, for example, we have supported the government to convene national dialogues on development cooperation.
- Our work at the country level also recognizes the need for integrated policy and implementation approaches which address the interconnected nature of the Sustainable Development Goals and the complexity of the development challenges countries face.
- Allow me give one concrete example of how UNDP supports policy coherence and an integrated approach to development financing. Initially in our capacity as Secretariat of the Asia-Pacific Development Effectiveness Facility, UNDP pioneered the Development Finance Assessment. Most countries on the panel here received this support, with the Philippines among the first, in 2014.
- The Development Finance Assessment methodology emphasizes policy coherence, in a particular country context, around the use of different finance flows, both external and domestic, to achieve national development priorities. Through this methodology, countries can obtain a quantitative mapping of all finance flows. They are also able to look at the policy reforms and institutional mechanisms needed to align finance with national development priorities, and to consider the principles of effectiveness which drive progress.
- I reference the Development Finance Assessment also because it illustrates well one way UNDP supports countries to bring together three interlinked global agendas: first, the Sustainable Development Goals which articulate the global results aspired to, the “what”; second, Financing for Development which looks at the finance needs; and third, the effectiveness principles which consider the “how” of development.
- To conclude, I would like to underline again the importance to continue to champion development effectiveness as a multiplier of country development efforts and a contributor to accelerating the achievement of the SDGs, with the Goals well integrated in national policies and plans, at all relevant levels.
- I thank again the co-hosts. UNDP has welcomed the opportunity to support this event, which has brought us together to discuss issues at the heart of how we will collectively, and effectively, work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

## **Annex C: Press Release Posted on Ministry of Finance Website**

PRESS RELEASE

12<sup>th</sup> July 2019

### **Nepal's Ministry of Finance leads regional consultation in New York ahead of the Senior Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation**

On 12 July 2019 the Ministry of Finance of Nepal, together with co-host Bangladesh, convened a consultative side event on the eve of the Senior Level Meeting (SLM) of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) in New York, which takes place on 13-14 July. As the GPEDC's Senior Level Meeting will advance global commitments on development effectiveness, the side event provided a forum for consultation with countries in the Asia-Pacific region to capture country-level perspectives, towards ensuring that the priorities of countries in the region are reflected in the deliberations of the SLM. Nepal, a member of the GPEDC Steering Committee representing recipient countries in Asia, organized the side event to ensure that the views of their constituency are well represented in the GPEDC global dialogue.

The side event, organized with the support of UNDP and DFID, brought together over 40 participants, including government representatives from 10 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as from civil society, private sector, parliaments, multilateral organizations, and cooperation provider countries. A panel of eight distinguished speakers featured government representatives from Nepal, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Japan, and UNDP.

In Nepal, there is a significant financing gap to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The National Planning Commission has estimated that the average investment requirement is approximately Rs 2,025 billion per year, or about 48% of GDP on average, with Official Development Assistance (ODA) expected to shoulder about 18% of this financing requirement. In his remarks, Finance Secretary Mr. Rajan Khanal noted, "Representing an LDC, let me emphasize that the core commitments of aid effectiveness matter to us, in very concrete and practical ways. To partner countries like Nepal, the quality of aid still matters." He also appreciated the role of the GPEDC, stating, "the commitments and exchange of experiences on development effectiveness at global level underpins our efforts at national level to improve the effectiveness of development cooperation".

"Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires financial resources on a very large scale, but financing alone is not enough", said Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren of UNDP's Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific. "Effectiveness, the question of *how* we do development, is just as important. It is critical that resources are used within a framework of accountability; that there is strong ownership by partner countries and a focus on results; and that development is pursued through inclusive partnerships."

Mr. Shreekrishna Nepal, Joint Secretary of the International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division of Nepal's Ministry of Finance will be speaking in the closing session of the Senior Level Meeting on 14 July, where he will share key messages and expressions of action which emerged from the side event discussions.

12 July 2019  
New York, USA.

## **Annex D: Statement Delivered by Joint Secretary, Mr. Shreekrishna Nepal, at the Closing Session of the GPEDC Senior Level Meeting, 14 July 2019**

### **Statement by Mr. Shreekrishna Nepal for SLM Closing Session**

- Co-chairs of the GPEDC, Distinguished Colleagues, all protocols observed, thank you for the opportunity to speak in this closing session. In our capacity as GPEDC Steering Committee member, Nepal, together with Bangladesh, held a side event on Friday, “Taking Stock of Effectiveness Principles at Country Level”. Allow me to share several key actions from those discussions.
- First, for LDCs and other recipient countries, the quality of aid always matters. There is still more to do in using country systems, which reinforces ownership. The original commitments are very important and have real implications on the ground. Governments should continue to strengthen country systems, at the same time, development partners should rely on these systems and demonstrate that they are walking the talk.
- Second, the development cooperation landscape in partner countries is changing rapidly. Countries are blessed by choices but are also challenged to manage an increasingly complex development finance and cooperation landscape. While we must not lose focus on the original commitments, the GPEDC also must evolve so that the effectiveness principles can be embedded in modalities beyond ODA.
- Third, speakers at our event endorsed the importance of a whole-of-society approach, and the engagement of all development actors. We understand that more needs to be done at country level to create an enabling environment, and efforts are already underway in this regard. GPEDC must continue as a knowledge platform on how all actors can collaborate effectively.
- Fourth, speakers at our side event strongly validated the value of the Global Partnership monitoring survey, as a source of evidence, as a way to gather evidence at country level, and as a basis for dialogue. But we must do more to ensure complete and reliable reporting and that the results are translated into action, potentially by using monitoring results to establish clear targets and action plans to be implemented between monitoring cycles.
- Fifth, at the country level the effectiveness principles remain very relevant. They have been localized and embedded into national policies, institutional mechanisms, and core development processes. There is much experience to be shared. GPEDC must continue as a platform for knowledge sharing on how the principles are being translated into action at the country level.
- To conclude, Nepal remains committed to work on effectiveness principles, being part of Global Partnership for effective development. Thank you once again for this opportunity.

## Annex E: Photos from the Side Event

### E1: Photo of Side Event Speakers



***From left to right, back row to front row:*** Mr. Shreekrishna Nepal (Nepal), Mr. Susumu Kuwahara (Japan), H.E. Mr. U Thaung Tun (Myanmar), Mr. Rajan Khanal (Nepal), H.E. Mr. Rith Vuthy (Cambodia), Mr. Rolando Tungpalan (Philippines), Dr. Pushpa Raj Kadel (Nepal), Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren (UNDP), Ms. Diani Sadiawati (Indonesia), Mr. Anwar Hossein (Bangladesh)



## E1: Room Photo of Side Event

