

PLATFORM

FOR THE OPERATION OF

THE VIETNAM PARTNERSHIP GROUP

ON AID EFFECTIVENESS

This Platform sets out the aid effectiveness institutional arrangements in Vietnam that support implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Hanoi Core Statement on Aid Effectiveness, with particular focus on the Partnership Group on Aid Effectiveness.

2. The structure and arrangements described below seek to support efforts of all stakeholders to maximize Vietnam's achievement of the goals of the Paris Declaration and the Hanoi Core Statement.

3. The institutional structure comprises:

- i. the Government of Vietnam (GoV) Inter-ministerial Task Force on Official Development Assistance (IMTF).
- ii. the Partnership Group on Aid Effectiveness (PGAE).
- iii. Sector Partnership Groups and International Support Groups (SPGs and ISGs).
- iv. Non-government stakeholders.

Inter-Ministerial Task Force (IMTF)

4. The IMTF is the GoV body mandated by the Prime Minister to undertake the role of solving problems arising in the process of ODA project formulation and implementation, and to engage on the aid effectiveness agenda in Vietnam. The IMTF comprises representatives of relevant GoV agencies.

5. IMTF members participate in PGAE activities, thereby contributing to progress in formalizing PGAE recommendations with regards to aid effectiveness and related matters that need decisions of the Government.

The Partnership Group on Aid Effectiveness (PGAE)

Vision

6. PGAE works to maximise the effectiveness of the use of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Vietnam. By so doing ODA will assist Vietnam achieve its development goals in the most effective way. With this vision PGAE seeks to achieve the objectives of the Paris Declaration and Hanoi Core Statement on Aid Effectiveness.

Role

7. PGAE is a forum on aid effectiveness that coordinates GoV, donors and other stakeholders to implement the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Hanoi Core Statement on Aid Effectiveness.

8. PGAE plays a coordination role on the aid effectiveness agenda. It takes a pro-active role in sharing information and in building consensus on aid effectiveness issues. In particular it:

- i. makes links between the technical and aid effectiveness policy agendas;
- ii. explores and deals with policy and strategic issues in aid effectiveness;
- iii. develops and supports the realization of aid effectiveness through annual plans;
- iv. coordinates efforts of all stakeholders especially SPGs and ISGs, and non-government stakeholders etc., on aid effectiveness platforms; and
- v. provides professional advice on how to take the aid effectiveness agenda forward.

9. In its coordination role, PGAE works collaboratively with stakeholders such as IMTF, SPGs and ISGs, and non-government stakeholders to help ensure their forward plans and agendas reflect the priorities identified by GoV and donors for aid effectiveness.

10. PGAE periodically informs the IMTF of its activities and results achieved, as well as making recommendations to the IMTF regarding the aid effectiveness agenda.

Structure

11. Membership of the PGAE consists of:
 - i. representatives of relevant GoV agencies;
 - ii. representatives of the IMTF;
 - iii. representatives of bilateral and multilateral donors' agencies;
 - iv. its associate members, such as representatives of civil society organizations and international non-government organizations.
12. PGAE operates under the direction of two co-chairs:
 - i. one from GoV - MPI.
 - ii. one from donors (for a one-year term based on a donors' selection process).
13. The GoV - MPI and Donor Co-chairs' operate on the direction of the PGAE. Their responsibilities include maintaining communication and liaison with GoV agencies and donors respectively.
14. PGAE is supported by the PGAE Secretariat (FERD/MPI), the PGAE Friends of Co-chairs and Thematic Groups:
 - a) PGAE Secretariat: The Secretariat assists the Co-chairs to:
 - i. organize and coordinate PGAE activities, especially with regards to PGAE plenary meetings;
 - ii. to implement assignments agreed by the Friends of Co-chairs;
 - iii. support the PGAE in monitoring and reporting the progress in implementation of the PGAE annual plans;
 - iv. and maintain the aid effectiveness network and communication between PGAE and other stakeholders.
 - b) Friends of Co-chairs: This informal body is set up on an ad-hoc basis as a Task Force to implement urgent and non-thematic assignments on the order of the Co-chairs. Membership of the Friends of Co-chairs is opened to interested stakeholders' representatives, on the invitation of the Co-chairs.

- c) Thematic Groups: These Groups are set up on an ad-hoc basis to conduct specific in-depth activities that no other partnership groups or international support groups undertake, on the order of the Co-chairs. The number of Thematic Groups is generally reasonably limited and corresponds with needs established by the PGAE. Thematic Groups are not permanent bodies:
- i. When establishing Thematic Groups, the Co-chairs determine a specific timeframe in which the work assigned will be completed.
 - ii. Following the completion of the mandated work, the relevant Thematic Group will be disbanded by the Co-chairs.
 - iii. Thematic Groups do not duplicate the work of other bodies, such as SPGs.

Working Mechanism

15. The PGAE operates under the following principles and arrangements.
- i. PGAE follows the consensus working principle and it has no authority over its members.
 - ii. PGAE members agree to abide by the decisions of the PGAE to the best of their ability.
 - iii. PGAE activities are based on annual plans.
 - iv. PGAE seeks facilitation from the IMTF of specific proposals that require GoV's decision in order to bring about changes in the implementation of the aid effectiveness agenda.
 - v. PGAE Co-chairs share information with the IMTF after each PGAE plenary meeting, or as otherwise deemed necessary by the Co-chairs or the IMTF, on progress achieved towards meeting the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Hanoi Core Statement on Aid Effectiveness agendas, including matters requiring decision by GoV. Two donors' members of the PGAE Friends of Co-chairs typically accompany the Co-chairs to meetings with the IMTF. The two donors' members are selected by the donor members of the PGAE Friends of Co-chairs on the basis of competency to address issues to be discussed with the IMTF.
 - vi. PGAE reports on progress in the aid effectiveness agenda to the GoV and the donors at the mid-term and annual Vietnam Consultative Group Meetings, and as otherwise decided.

- vii. PGAE organizes annual monitoring and evaluation activities under the Hanoi Core Statement Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.
- viii. PGAE organizes plenary meetings every quarter. The aim of these meetings is to facilitate open discussion and debate on topical issues on aid effectiveness.
- ix. Technical presentations may add to the discussions and debates in PGAE Plenary meetings. Reports from Thematic Groups that have made tangible progress on issues mandated to them may also assist this process. The Co-Chairs of the PGAE will liaise with the Groups in order to identify opportunities to engage them in issues under consideration in the plenary meetings.
- x. Between quarterly meetings, PGAE Secretariat, the Friends of Co-chairs and Thematic Groups carry out activities in line with the annual plan endorsed by the PGAE.
- xi. PGAE gives direction and controls activities of the Thematic Groups and maintains close and open communication with the SPGs and ISGs and non-government stakeholders especially Civil Society Organizations. Results of deliberations of these groups will be made available to inform the discussions and debates in PGAE plenary meeting, as necessary. PGAE also supports SPGs as required.

Resources

16. Recognizing that the Comprehensive Capacity Building Programme on ODA Management (CCBP) has provided significant and crucial support to PGAE, PGAE continues to mobilize CCBP as a vehicle to support the PGAE Aid Effectiveness Agenda.

Sector Partnership Groups and International Support Groups

17. The PGAE acknowledges and highly appreciates the important role that Sector Partnership Groups play in the achievement of the objectives of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Hanoi Core Statement on Aid Effectiveness and welcomes their participation in PGAE Aid Effectiveness Agenda.

18. The role of SPGs and ISGs is to facilitate implementation of the aid effectiveness agenda with a particular focus on technical aspects of aid

coordination at the sectoral level. In so doing they strengthen ownership of the aid effectiveness agenda in line ministries.

19. In close coordination with the PGAE, SPGs develop and implement work plans that are the sector level manifestation of the broader aid effectiveness issues of their and PGAE's interest.

20. SPGs and ISGs play a crucial role in providing the PGAE with clear evidence to inform strategic discussion and decisions through the PGAE processes. The groups make presentations on progress of the issues that are part of their work programs. The PGAE Co-chairs may invite Representatives of SPGs and ISPs to do such presentations; and the SPGs and ISPs may propose such presentations to PGAE.

21. Representatives of the SPGs and ISPs may participate in PGAE plenary meetings on the invitation of the PGAE Co-chairs.

22. Participation by representatives of the SPGs and ISPs in PGAE plenary meetings facilitates constructive two-way engagement.

Non-government stakeholders

23. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), International Non-government Organizations (INGOs), the private sector and other community groups are increasingly engaged in the aid effectiveness agenda. They play an important and productive role in assisting Vietnam to reach its development goals, including through helping to achieve the objectives of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Hanoi Core Statement on Aid Effectiveness.

24. These non-government stakeholders have a role in terms of advocating on development issues, funding development activities with their own resources, and tracking how effectively ODA is used in Vietnam. They have a key role in feeding to the PGAE and other partnership groups lessons learnt on the ground from their activities. They engage communities in the development process, thereby contributing to the improvement of ODA utilization in Vietnam, especially with regards to aid effectiveness.

AID EFFECTIVENESS ARCHITECTURE

