

Bangladesh PRSP Implementation Forum

Session V: Aid Harmonisation and Aid Effectiveness

Speaking Notes on Issue 5: Establishing a GOB-DP mechanism for PRSP Implementation and Monitoring

Much has already been said in this session about the principles of aid harmonisation and aid effectiveness. Our comments on behalf of the LCG will focus on a few practical actions all partners can jointly put into effect this coming year.

Aid harmonisation and effectiveness is about mutual responsibilities – responsibilities of both government and of development partners including NGOs and the private sector. Government's preparation of a national strategy for poverty reduction and its leadership of this PRSP Implementation Forum are important first steps towards aid harmonisation.

In appreciation Development Partners have engaged constructively, have prepared to make this Forum an outcome oriented one and have outlined the many action areas for the coming year in which they are prepared to work in partnership with government, NGOs and the private sector.

The logical next steps would be:

- (a) GOB to continue its leadership role and to finalise a prioritised, realistic and costed action plan for the next year, based on the policy matrices and on the actions agreed here at the Forum for year 1.
- (b) DPs are already aligning their support behind the PRSP and the costed plan for year 1 (noted under point (a) above) would provide valuable guidance on priority areas for support.
- (c) The PRSP mentions a Steering Committee as well as a Monitoring Unit on government's side and GOB is also finalising a harmonisation action plan. On the DP side we have a large number of Local Consultative Groups. These, i.e., the GOB system and the DP system also need to be harmonised.
- (d) We would therefore welcome government's leadership of a group set up to plan and agree a joint GOB-DP mechanism for PRSP implementation and monitoring. This would not only monitor GOB implementation but also the support agreed by DPs. It would therefore be a mechanism for joint implementation and monitoring of our mutual responsibilities and offer a common forum for policy dialogue on the basis of the PRSP and MDGs objectives.
- (e) The PRSP recognises the role of civil society in monitoring PRSP outcomes and DPs would welcome and support this development.

In conclusion, Honourable Minister and Chair, I should note again the tremendous appreciation among DPs both of GOB's leadership of this forum to start off the harmonisation process and of GOB's commitment to harmonisation.