



# Paris Declaration

## At a Glance

Harmonization, Alignment, Results

### What is it?

- The Paris Declaration is the outcome of the 2005 Paris High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. In the Declaration 60 partner countries, 30 donor countries, and 30 development agencies, including the World Bank, committed to specific actions to further country ownership, harmonization, alignment, managing for development results, and mutual accountability for the use of aid.

### Why is the Declaration important?

- The Declaration reflects the development community's determination to increase the effectiveness of aid and achieve lasting development results. To this end it contains a monitoring mechanism: 12 indicators, with targets, which will be used in 2008, 2010, and beyond, to review and report on the degree to which the international community has followed through on the commitments.
- The Declaration is important to the World Bank because its implementation will help increase the impact aid has on reducing poverty, raising economic growth, building capacity, and attaining the MDGs. Responsibility for implementation rests with management and staff at all levels.

### What do the indicators cover?

- For partner countries, the indicators cover good national development strategies, reliable country systems for procurement and public financial management, the development and use of results frameworks, and mutual assessment of progress.
- For donors, the indicators cover such things as alignment with country priorities, joint analytic work, use of common arrangements and strengthened country systems, harmonized support for capacity building, and more predictable aid flows.

### How to start implementation?

- Encourage and help government to identify and articulate country priorities.
- Invest time and effort to promote donor coordination and thus more coherent and responsible donor behavior.
- Work with government officials, donor representatives, and as appropriate, civil society to deepen the discussion of the Paris Declaration with a view to applying the commitments in the country. This discussion may be part of existing processes (e.g., local donor meetings, CGs/Roundtables) or a specially planned workshop.
- Work with the government and partners to establish baseline data for each priority area.
- With the government and partners, agree on a time-bound agenda for action, a set of realistic targets, and a monitoring process with a focus on achieving results.
- In countries that have endorsed the Paris Declaration, take advantage of the global monitoring exercise to engage key stakeholders in this process.

### Where to find help?

- Read the Paris Declaration (including its indicators and targets) and other relevant documents at [www.aidharmonization.org](http://www.aidharmonization.org) or [www.mfdr.org](http://www.mfdr.org).
- Use the list on the other side of this sheet as a source of practical ideas.
- Consult Regional colleagues and OPCS for advice and staff/financial support.



The World Bank

## Menu of Country-Level Actions

*This menu is based on the Paris Declaration (see other side). In implementing the Declaration, Bank staff could use this list to identify actions that are appropriate to each country's specific situation.*

# Harmonization & Alignment for Development Results

### Ownership/country leadership

- Encourage countries to take leadership in coordinating development assistance among line ministries and among donor agencies.
- Work with government and local donors to prepare a roadmap for harmonization and alignment, setting country targets and identifying monitoring mechanisms.
- Facilitate in-country action and learning by providing information on harmonization and alignment and managing for results in other countries.
- Identify "harmonization" and "results" champions within government.

### Country and sector strategies

- Help government to translate its development strategy into clear priorities that are linked to a credible medium-term expenditure framework and its annual budget.
- For each ESW product, consider: How can its preparation help build ownership or capacity? Can it be prepared jointly? Can government's or other donors' work be used?
- Explore preparing a results-based CAS "collaboratively" (with common analysis) or "jointly" (common final product) with other donors.
- With other donors, assist government to develop sector/thematic strategies that include a common results matrix for monitoring and evaluation drawn from the national strategy.
- Align performance assessment frameworks with national processes and timetables.

### Lending/operational level

- Consider sectors where the Bank could scale down, withdraw, or be a silent partner.
- Jointly finance projects with other donors, or agree on division of labor, and briefly document the principles of coordination (apply for PHRD aid coordination grants).
- In investment lending, consider program-based approaches such as SWAPs.
- Use common arrangements for lending, such as pooled financing and common conditionality frameworks.
- Work to harmonize fiduciary requirements for all projects: agree with government and other donors on common procurement arrangements, documents, procedures, plans, and thresholds; and on common accounting, reporting, and auditing arrangements.
- Agree with government and other donors on harmonized requirements for environmental impact assessments.
- Work to provide aid more predictably, and plan disbursements (particularly of development policy loans) toward the beginning of the government's fiscal year.
- Undertake joint missions and share all reports with other donors.
- Work with country partners to develop harmonized results frameworks.

### Help build & use country systems

- Use country systems to the extent possible.
- Work to build capacity and strengthen country systems (e.g., fiduciary systems and systems for managing for results), so they can eventually be relied upon.
- Reduce reliance on parallel project implementation units.
- Participate in multidonor capacity building efforts.

### Mutual accountability

- Undertake results-based portfolio reviews jointly with other donors.
- Use CGs/Roundtables to review "resources and results" and to monitor Paris commitments.
- Participate with other donors in joint reviews of aid effectiveness.
- Promote independent review of donor assistance and its use at country level.
- Provide timely data on past and estimated future aid flows.

### In fragile states

- Work with other donors and non-development actors (e.g., diplomatic, peace-keeping) to harmonize strategy and programs even if government capacity is low.
- If the partner is not ready to prepare a PRS, all actors can use a simplified and overarching tool—e.g., the Transitional Results Matrix—for alignment and monitoring.
- Where the state is unable to partner on an overall development plan, undertake broad consultations to ensure ownership, and promote alignment at the sector level.
- When partnering with non-state actors, seek shadow alignment to ease the eventual transition to state stewardship (e.g., use government budget timetables).
- Use harmonized fiduciary oversight mechanisms to strengthen economic governance, and pooled financing to reduce transactions costs.

For advice and staff/financial support, contact OPCS at [harmonization@worldbank.org](mailto:harmonization@worldbank.org) or [managing4results@worldbank.org](mailto:managing4results@worldbank.org)