



EVALUATING THE PARIS DECLARATION

FACTSHEET 2007

WHY EVALUATE THE PARIS DECLARATION?

The overall purpose of the evaluation is to assess the relevance and effectiveness of the Paris Declaration and its contribution to development aid.

The evaluation will consider qualitative aspects, building on and complementing the quantitative information obtained through the monitoring of the Paris Declaration. Monitoring will identify what progress has happened, while evaluation will help answer questions such as how it happened; why does it work or why does it not work; and what are the explanatory factors?

The first phase of the evaluation process is underway and is expected to be completed in 2008 in order to highlight practical lessons, to contribute to ongoing aid effectiveness policy debates and to the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness that will take place in Accra, Ghana, in September 2008.

THE PARIS DECLARATION

The Paris Declaration, endorsed on 2 March 2005, is an international agreement by one hundred ministers, heads of agencies and other senior officials. The declaration lays down an action-orientated roadmap intended to improve the quality of aid and its impact on development. The 56 commitments are organised around five key principles: ownership, alignment, harmonisation, managing for results and mutual accountability. Twelve indicators of aid effectiveness have been developed as a way of tracking and encouraging progress against the broader set of commitments. A first monitoring report of the declaration has been released.

WHO COULD BENEFIT FROM THIS EVALUATION?

The findings of this evaluation will be of interest to multiple parties. They will first and foremost be of interest to the stakeholders who agreed to the Paris Declaration. A further key audience are those tasked with implementing the Paris Declaration: governments, donors, civil society and private sector stakeholders in partner countries as well as management and operational staff of development agencies. Finally, the results of the evaluation should be of interest to the broader public: the people in developing countries for whom aid is destined and the people in developed countries whose tax-money is spent on development assistance.

WHO IS MANAGING THE EVALUATION?

The overall strategic guidance for the evaluation is provided by an international reference group with broad membership.¹ It is co-chaired by a partner country representative from Sri Lanka and a donor country representative from Denmark. The reference group will report the results to the High Level Forum on the Paris Declaration in 2008. The group is endorsing the evaluation framework and the medium to long-term programme of analytical work and is commenting as appropriate on draft component studies and on the synthesis report. The reference group will also ensure support to the evaluation process from different stakeholders (partner countries, development partners and civil society), give strategic directions for the evaluation and ensure that adequate resources are provided for the evaluation.

The reference group has appointed a small management group to co-ordinate and manage the overall evaluation process.² The management group also supports the donors and partner countries conducting their evaluations. The reference group and management group are supported by a small secretariat hosted by Denmark.

HOW WILL THE EVALUATION BE CARRIED OUT?

In order to provide a proper basis for assessment the evaluation will be carried out in two phases. The first phase of the evaluation seeks to assess whether and how these changes are taking place, while the second phase will attempt to determine whether such changes have led to improved development effectiveness.

The first phase of the evaluation (2007-2008) consists of three separate series of evaluations and studies, of which findings will be synthesised and analysed. These studies include:

- 1. Country level evaluations** designed within a common evaluation framework to ensure comparability of findings across countries while allowing flexibility for country specific interests. These evaluations will look at actual implementation of the Paris Declaration in concrete settings and will be conducted in ten volunteer partner countries.³ The country level evaluations will be managed by the respective partner country and will be supported, both financially and substantively, by donors.
- 2. Donor headquarter evaluations** will look at how the Paris Declaration is represented in the policies and guidelines of a sample of donor organisations. These evaluations will be conducted at headquarter level of 11 donor organisations.⁴ The evaluations will mainly be based on document reviews and supplemented by interviews with key actors. These evaluations will be managed by the respective donor's evaluation department and guided by a reference group, preferably with involvement of one or more partner countries.
- 3. A number of thematic studies** to supplement the country level and donor evaluations will also take place. Thematic studies will primarily be based on existing documentation (evaluations, research reports and other types of studies) and will focus on statistical capacity building, fragile states, linking the Paris Declaration with aid and development effectiveness, and the untying of aid. None of the studies will inform the synthesis report of the High Level Forum in Accra, but results will be fed into relevant Round Tables.

The second phase, which will be launched in the second half of 2008, will focus more on assessing outcomes, i.e. aid and development effectiveness. These findings will be presented at the High Level Forum in 2011.

MORE INFORMATION

All relevant information on evaluating the implementation of the Paris Declaration can be found on the DAC Evaluation Network website: www.oecd.org/dac/evaluationnetwork

1.The reference group membership comprises: WP-EFF partner country representatives plus representatives of any other country undertaking country level evaluations; OECD/DAC Network on Development Evaluation members representing development partner countries/agencies including UNDP's Evaluation Office representing UNEG and World Bank IEG representing IFIs; reality of Aid/Ibon representing civil society organisations in partner countries; EURODAD/Bond representing civil society organisations in donor countries; AFREA, the professional evaluation association in Africa.

2.The management group comprises: South Africa and Sri Lanka (representing partner countries); UNDP (Evaluation Office); Denmark (Evaluation Department, Danida/Secretariat for the Evaluation of the Paris Declaration); and The Netherlands (Policy and Operations Evaluation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

3.Partner countries include Bangladesh, Bolivia, Mali, Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Vietnam, and Zambia.

4.Donor agencies include those from Australia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, and the Asian Development Bank and UNDP.