

GPEDC Side Event at Financing for Development Conference

13:15-14:45, 14 July, 2015, Intercontinental Hotel (Warka), Addis Ababa

Effective Cooperation and Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships for Addressing Sustainable Development Challenges in Middle Income Countries

- **Hosts:** Japan and Mexico

- **Main Themes**

The last few decades have seen a considerable number of countries reach middle-income status through rapid economic growth, yet many face challenges in making further progress and moving into higher levels of income and development. Over the next decade, many more countries are expected to face a similar predicament. Whilst the group categorized as Middle Income Countries (MICs) is diverse, they face common complex development challenges, ranging from the urbanization of poverty to pressures from climate change and natural resources. Fragility and vulnerability to economic shocks and natural disasters continue to be pressing concerns in many areas of the world. These challenges cut across all countries. For MICs, the post-2015 agenda requires dynamic development processes both within and beyond national boundaries supported by an effective global financing framework.

The universal post-2015 agenda will require partnerships among a broad range of relevant stakeholders as well as the structural transformation of international cooperation frameworks, policies and practices in order to address multi-dimensional sustainable development challenges faced by countries at different stages of development. In this context, a global financing framework needs to encompass an array of effective mechanisms and incentives designed to promote an enabling environment for countries accessing appropriate resources, skills and knowledge in moving towards higher levels of development.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships can have greater impact on sustainable development, when underpinned by principles of effectiveness of cooperation and associated policy and practice changes fit for a multi-dimensional development context. In such a dynamic development landscape, there is need for tailored engagement and cooperation strategies. The Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) supports action-oriented efforts towards enhancing the quality and inclusiveness of development partnerships, based on the principles of country ownership, focus on results, inclusive partnerships, transparency and accountability.

● Objectives

The side event will consider standards and principles for quality partnerships, based on good practices, and growing evidence on development cooperation practices in facilitating countries to move into higher levels of development, and the roles of their development partners. It will pay particular attention to cooperation policies and practices in MICs as well as to how to facilitate the successful transition of all countries towards higher levels of development. In this context, good practices of partnerships in addressing the multi-dimensional nature of poverty and development challenges will inform high-level dialogue on engagement principles and policy changes to support development partnerships. The event will address the following questions:

- What approaches are needed to address diverse and complex development challenges faced in developing countries, particularly Middle Income Countries, to support further progress towards higher levels of development? What are the kind of comprehensive methodologies needed to measure development more accurately?
- How can development co-operation play a more catalytic role in tackling impediments to achieving higher levels of development, including so-called Middle Income Traps? What can we learn from co-operation practices, policies and strategies in supporting countries to achieve higher levels of development?
- What can we learn from multi-stakeholder partnerships? What are good and bad experiences? Can we identify partnership principles that can increase the impact of multi-stakeholder partnerships in MICs?
- How can the GPEDC, through its inclusive multi-stakeholder set-up, best support development efforts and promote behavioral changes of development actors on the ground, particularly in MICs?
- How to ensure a “smooth transition” when a country graduates from LIC to MIC? What are priorities from the perspective of LICs and LDCs?

● Format and Participation:

A moderated panel of participants will share its views on these questions, highlighting opportunities and challenges ahead, followed by interactive discussion.