

Speaking points closing remarks

- No doubt that we need to continue with and even develop further our Joint Programming and turn it into joint engagement if we want to remain relevant with a clear European voice in a changing world. This is to include the various forms in which the EU engages with its partner countries, be it development cooperation, human rights, security or trade.
- The challenge is how we can find the best way forward for Joint Programming. It has to be a flexible, country specific and pragmatic approach. No country is the same so blueprints will not work.
- Joint Programming is a process from field offices AND headquarters (EU and MS). Clear and regular communication between field offices and capitals is essential.
- Field offices determine the way forward in Joint Programming per country. Headquarters have to provide the boundaries of the political and administrative possibilities by providing a clear mandate.
- Obviously, Joint Programming is about more effective and efficient engagement in partner countries. It is therefore essential to engage with the recipient governments from the start. However, the government is not the only actor. We also have civil society, parliament, economic branch organizations etc. that need to be involved.
- I understood that there have been intense and fruitful discussions over the past two days. Specifically the fact that headquarters and field officers had the opportunity to interact and jointly develop a way forward of this crucial topic is of great value.
- We have only just begun the discussions in moving the Joint Programming forward. This, however, has been a very constructive meeting for this region which provides a solid base for further elaboration and implementation.

LET'S GO FOR IT, BUT LET'S KEEP IT AS SIMPLE AS POSSIBLE!