

# Concept Note:

## Regional Workshops on In-Country Division of Labour

Proposal by Uganda, Germany and the European Commission to  
the OECD Task Team on Division of Labour and  
the EU Fast Track Initiative on Division of Labour

May 2010

### Background

In the context of the Aid Effectiveness Agenda, country-led **Division of Labour (DoL)** among donors (development partners) has become an important approach to reach the **Paris Declaration (PD)** objective of “eliminating duplication of efforts and rationalising donor activities to make them as cost-effective as possible” (§ 3.iv). The **Accra Agenda for Action (AAA)** also states: “We will reduce the fragmentation of aid by improving the complementarity of donors’ efforts and the division of labour among donors, including through improved allocation of resources within sectors, within countries, and across countries.” (§ 17).

During the last two years, based on the EU Code of Conduct on Complementarity and Division of Labour (EU CoC DoL, 2007), the **EU Fast Track Initiative on Division of Labour (FTI DoL)** supported division of labour processes in about 30 partner countries (i.e. “In-Country DoL”). Two monitoring rounds showed that the FTI DoL helped to raise awareness for the commitments of the EU CoC and DoL in general. However, while a lot has been achieved, there seems to be room for improvement with regard to the FTI DoL strategy and its implementation at the country level. In addition, the FTI DoL monitoring process cannot capture all relevant details needed for these adjustments.

In 2008 the **Task Team on Division of Labour and Complementarity (TT DoL)** under the **Working Party on Aid Effectiveness (WP-EFF, now in Cluster C “Transparent and Responsible Aid”)** already conducted a first workshop on DoL in South Africa. This event laid the foundation stone for the International Good Practice Principles (GPP) on Country-led Division of Labour and Complementarity and led to the identification of interesting country cases presented at the HLF 3 in Accra. Since then, there has been an increasing focus in the WP-EFF on facilitating implementation at the country level. In its Work Programme for the period 2009-2011, TT DoL included “outreach to the country level through Cluster C and the regional platforms.”

DoL was one of the topics discussed at the March 2010 Africa Regional Meeting on Aid Effectiveness that was co-organized by the Government of South Africa (Co-Chair of Cluster C) and NEPAD. However, according to our experiences, large regional events with a diversity of topics and participants are not an optimal setting for the in-depth discussions on strategies, methodologies and more sensitive issues necessary to advance the DoL agenda.

A way to respond to the above mentioned challenges of both DoL initiatives is the proposed **series of smaller, more focused workshops**, which should and can address the linkages between DoL and related aid effectiveness and especially Cluster C topics like transparency and predictability. A direct exchange of experiences at the regional level among partner country government representatives responsible for DoL processes and donor

representatives committed to DoL (in particular FTI DoL in-country facilitators) can catalyse and provide an in-depth understanding of bottlenecks of DoL processes and identify and assess innovative and realistic ways to overcome them. The proposal in this concept note builds on the **relative strengths of the TT DoL and the FTI DoL and tries to add value to both initiatives.**

### **Objectives**

The series of regional workshops has the following objectives:

- Share experiences and enable peer learning for both partner country representatives and donors and in-country facilitators of the FTI DoL.
- Discuss realistic strategies to overcome obstacles and deepen and accelerate in-country DoL processes as well as to enhance their effectiveness.
- Motivate participants by showing what both, partner countries and donors can gain from well-structured DoL processes.
- Identify what kind of support and enabling conditions in-country facilitators and partner governments need, be it from donor HQ level, the FTI DoL, the TT DoL or other in-country and international stakeholders.

### **Participants**

For the purpose of the workshops, the following regional approach is proposed (still open for discussion):

- Anglophone SSA
- Francophone SSA
- Southeast Asia
- Latin America
- Europe

Each workshop could bring together about 25 representatives (policy makers, practitioners, technical level, civil society as appropriate) to facilitate in-depth discussions. For each country, there should be at least two participants (in-country facilitator of the EU FT DoL and partner government counterpart) and not more than four (priority should be given to partner country representatives). The number of observers from donor HQ could be limited to about five in order to focus the workshops on in-country experiences.

### **Program Elements: Topics and Methods**

The workshops could have duration of two days and consist of the following elements:

- Input presentation to stimulate reflection and discussion on “What are the challenges?” Cost vs. outcomes & impacts of aid (“value for money”); fragmentation & proliferation of aid; costs of coordination & non-coordination; links to other aid effectiveness issues, especially the contribution of transparency and predictability efforts to DoL processes and vice versa.
- Oral presentations of successful DoL processes (including issues of transparency and predictability): these should focus on strategic elements, i.e. both technical and political aspects (based on a guideline to facilitate comparison).
- Supporting documentation on DoL processes: should be circulated before the workshops (if feasible) and brought for display and exchange.

- Structured group discussions on lessons learned, good practices and obstacles of DoL processes and ways to overcome them: while the focus should be on the country level, these should include the role of senior government officials and donor HQs.
- Relaxed atmosphere: there should be enough room in the agenda to allow for informal networking among partner country representatives, DoL facilitators, donors, etc.

### **Timeframe and logistics**

- Proposed timeframe for the first workshop in Uganda is late August/early September 2010. The other workshops could be conducted in the course of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2010 to provide timely inputs for the FTI DoL monitoring, TT DoL activities and the discussions leading up to HLF 4 in South Korea.
- Timeframe and host countries for other regional workshops have to be identified (proposals most welcome).
- Timing and organizational synergies with other aid effectiveness initiatives at country level and the regional fora on aid effectiveness (CDDE, African Platform for Aid Effectiveness, etc.) will be sought. There will be further reflection on synergies with Cluster C issues (especially transparency and predictability).
- Germany will help organize and contribute to the financing of the first workshop (costs to be covered include venue, transport for partner country and, if necessary, donor participants, facilitation, materials and documentation). Contributions from other development partners to facilitate workshops in francophone Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe are most welcome.