



CH-3003 Bern, DEZA

**To COOFS in countries having adhered to the
Paris Declaration**

Reference: BEP
Our reference: 105.2/2007/0255/01
Berne, 9.2.2009

Dear Colleagues,

Please find enclosed a document submitted to the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness hosted by DAC/OECD: **“Key steps taken and planned to implement the AAA”**.

You have received a few days ago SDC's AAA implementation guidelines, which were recently approved by the Board of Directors; they constitute SDC's general frame of action as regards the implementation of the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA). The enclosed document requests COOFS in countries having adhered to the Paris Declaration and the AAA to take some specific measures as regards the use of country systems, conditionality and predictability, consistent with the said guidelines.

The steps to be taken are to be considered in the broader context of SDC's general presence and action in a specific country; i.e. they should be built into the general work programme of your COOF and not understood as additional or singular tasks.

Please don't hesitate to contact Head Office, should any question arise on your side regarding the above. With respect to any specific issue related to the Paris Declaration, the Accra Agenda for Action and the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness, you may address your queries to Philippe Besson, SDC Focal Point, Aid Effectiveness.

Best regards

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

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Switzerland: Key steps taken and planned to implement the AAA

Implementation of the PD and the AAA

The 2008 Bill introduced by the Federal Council to Parliament on the pursuance of ODA to developing countries makes explicit reference to the Paris Declaration and gives mandate to SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation) and SECO (State Secretariat for Economic Affairs) to achieve its objectives so as to enhance aid effectiveness. Accordingly, Switzerland has set itself an objective for 2009, which is to apply the PD and the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) in a way that ensures that Switzerland's specific areas of expertise, experience and thus comparative advantage are made best use of. Accordingly, an action plan shall be developed in the first quarter of 2009.

Switzerland's approach of the PD and the AAA is contextual, country-based and inclusive. PD and AAA are seen as proposing means to an end, which is aid effectiveness, and beyond: development effectiveness towards achieving the MDGs.

Switzerland shall consistently integrate aid effectiveness in the design of its strategies and supported programmes. It will integrate the PD and AAA commitments into its planning, monitoring and evaluation processes and cycles. Where Switzerland considers that the context does not permit the fulfilment of commitments, it will state the reasons for this.

Developing plans on using country systems

This task is delegated to Swiss Country Offices, with the support of Head Offices. Starting early 2009, Country Offices will do a rapid stocktaking and an assessment of potentials and obstacles based on existing information at country-level. By end of 2009, measures to encourage the use of country system and to specify the conditions for the use of these systems will have been consolidated and validated.

Making public all conditions linked to disbursements

Any conditions linked to projects and programme support (including budget support) are transparently stipulated in the agreements between Switzerland and the partner country. Swiss Country Offices shall be requested from 2009 onwards to make conditions – if any exist – public, in an appropriate way and subject to the partner government's agreement.

Providing full and timely information on annual commitments and actual disbursements

Switzerland – through its Country Offices - will provide this information from 2009 onwards in a timely manner. Figures will be tentative when and where parliamentary approval is pending in Switzerland.

Providing regular and timely information on their rolling three to five year expenditure and/or implementation plans

Switzerland – through its Country Offices - will provide this information from 2009 onwards in a timely manner. Figures will be tentative, especially when and where parliamentary approval is pending in Switzerland.