

## **Florence NAZARE, Head Capacity Development NEPAD Agency**

**“Africa is determined to shape the post-Busan Agenda”**

***For Africa, the HLF-4 will mark the culmination of a process that has placed the issue of Aid Effectiveness in the broader context of Development Effectiveness.***

***Could you tell us more about the road that led to Busan?***

Africa's preparations for the HLF-4 have spanned over a period of two years, engaging a wide range of stakeholders and through which we have gradually shaped the Consensus and Position on Development Effectiveness we are taking to Busan.

In particular, three regional platform consultations on Development Effectiveness were co-organized by the AU Commission and NEPAD Agency, namely; the First Africa Regional Meeting (ARM) with the Government of South Africa in Pretoria (March 2010); Second ARM with the African Development Bank (AfDB) in Tunis, (November 2010) and the Third ARM in Addis Ababa (September 2011).

These consultations brought together policy-makers and stakeholders from African countries and regional institutions as well as development partners towards a common front in shifting the paradigm from Aid Effectiveness (AE) to Development Effectiveness (DE).

Overall, the regional consultations resulted in the adoption of the 'Pretoria Outcomes', 'Tunis Consensus on Development Effectiveness' and the 'Addis Ababa Statement'. These milestone processes have contributed to shaping the African Position while underscoring the Beyond Aid agenda.

- In Pretoria, the foundation for Africa's new DE approach was laid out with African countries calling for the establishment of a coordinating platform under the custodianship of the AU;
- From Tunis, African stakeholders advanced the DE agenda and incorporated the regional dimension, the central role of the private sector and innovative financing mechanisms in moving beyond aid;
- At Addis Ababa, the African Consensus and Position for the HLF IV in Busan was issued signifying Africa's bold and unified stand for DE based on a global partnership framed on inclusive development cooperation agenda.

***Are the key positions that AU/NEPAD together with African stakeholders will defend once in Busan to ensure that this is not another international fora for nothing?***

Absolutely; the forthcoming HLF4 is certainly a crucial moment in history, but the road does not end in Busan. Africa is determined to shape the post-Busan agenda, as this will

affect our Continent's own defined Development Effectiveness agenda. We are geared to guarantee that the outcome of the HLF-4 is in line with our needs and priorities, to ensure the necessary legitimacy, ownership, leadership and overall relevance to Africa's development.

***What are the expectations of the African Stakeholders out of Busan and beyond?***

Africa's overarching objective is to attain Development Effectiveness by optimising the management and utilisation of all domestic and internal policies, resources and processes.

Drawing on evidence gathered through case studies carried out in the Region, Africa is prioritising Capacity Development as a core driver of its DE agenda and in which Aid Effectiveness and South-South Cooperation are key mechanisms.

Starting in Busan, the global development cooperation dialogue should therefore shift focus from Aid to the broader context of Development Effectiveness for inclusivity, equity, gender equality, environmental sustainability and better development results.

In this view, it is imperative for African countries, regional organisations and development partners to find innovative ways to direct Aid towards Africa's real economy and developing capacity for domestic resource mobilisation, while ensuring the full involvement and participation of an empowered private sector and fostering regional value-chains. Capacity Development must be at the heart of *all* development initiatives, whether from our traditional northern partners, our emerging partners in the South or own policies.

Aid should therefore act as a catalyst for development, and support Africa's efforts to mobilize its own resources. For this to materialize, we need our development partners to take stronger actions and show greater results in meeting their outstanding commitments made in the previous High Level Forum in Paris and Accra: increase the use of country systems; do away with conditionalities; ensure aid predictability and mutual accountability.

But realising Africa's DE agenda also calls for a fundamental overhaul of the global development cooperation architecture. Africa's calling for creative and smart partnerships that will promote more inclusive, equitable and sustainable forms of development cooperation. This means that development partners interface with Africa should serve to consolidate the continued mobilization of existing and emerging regional and national institutions, systems and processes for context-specific and more effective knowledge sharing, notably through the Africa Platform for Development Effectiveness launched in March 2011 ([www.africa-platform.org](http://www.africa-platform.org)).

In turn, and with a view to sustainable results, the new architecture requires an effective mechanism to monitor progress and assess Post-Busan outcomes to ensure their relevance to Africa's DE agenda. For greater balance, the global monitoring and evaluation systems should be country owned and led with clear linkages to the regional level. And to secure Capacity Development outcomes from the use of both aid and domestic resources as standard practice, CD indicators must become a core measure of Post-Busan commitments and agenda.

More concretely, Africa is geared towards ensuring that the post-Busan governance framework and architecture reflects our realities, specific development needs and voice, with representation by regional development structures. Post-Busan, Africa is committed to actively contribute to this process towards an inclusive global cooperation partnership and the related monitoring system that should be grounded in country contexts. Such country focused and driven monitoring frameworks should inform regional mechanisms, which serve as conduits for policy coherence and helps to pool capacities for accountability. In line with that objective, the strengthening of domestic institutions of accountability becomes top priority as mutual accountability can only happen with strong systems at the national level.