

G20 Reference Framework for Effective Country Platforms

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and timely achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires accelerating the pace of development over the next decade. Substantial greater development impact is needed to achieve sustainable development and inclusive growth and address development challenges.

Exploiting better the potential for collaboration among development partners¹, with the view to maximise their contribution as a group, can bring a valuable contribution to this global effort. Harnessing better complementarities and synergies among development partners, as well as making greater use of the comparative advantages of the different partners, would help achieve the SDGs.

Country platforms, which are voluntary country-level mechanisms, set out by governments and designed to foster collaboration among development partners, based on a shared strategic vision and priorities, can contribute to this objective. They can be transformational in enhancing the development impact, by facilitating the full use of complementarities among the country's development partners, as well as the consistency and coordination of the support provided by each of them.

Importantly, country platforms must not be a straitjacket on either the government or development partners. They must have strong government ownership and be flexible, preserving the government's capacity to engage with partners with appropriate strength, and tailored to country's situation and circumstances. Country platforms should not be meant as a one-size-fits-all concept but, on the contrary, be developed in a pragmatic way, building on existing experiences and ongoing pilot platforms, and improving over time their effectiveness by drawing lessons from these experiences and pilots. Country platforms should be more a pragmatic process of "learning by doing" than a pre-defined and rigid concept.

As a matter of fact, some country platforms already exist, even though they may not be branded as such, and other are being developed. Most are being implemented by multilateral development banks (MDBs), which play an important role in this agenda.

The G20 welcomes and encourages MDBs to continue to implement existing country platforms as well as to develop new platforms, where applicable.

¹ In the present document, "development partners" refers to the national authorities and the development actors (the broad set of actors providing public, private or non-profit development assistance and finance) active in the country. Development partners who participate in a country platform are "platform participants".

The G20 can contribute actively to this endeavour, by offering a venue to exchange views on good practices and lessons learnt, and devising further, if needed, policy references to continue accompanying the process going forward.

With the view to help countries and development partners willing to design and implement country platforms, the present document sets out a set of voluntary, non-binding principles for effective country platforms. These principles are only guiding references and not meant to be prescriptive. They are intended to be adapted and improved over time, based on lessons drawn from experience. They could also serve in the design and implementation of regional or sectoral platforms.

- 1. Country platforms are a tool to support country's sustainable development. They should be country owned and country led, and be designed and implemented in line with country's reform and development policies and priorities.** Development partners should act consistently with the country's vision, or support the government to develop a shared vision and defined objectives on project and reform priorities, including through sharing views and analyses, as appropriate.
- 2. Country platforms should be customized and adapted to local context and country needs, specificities, priorities and legislation.** Where applicable, platforms should build on existing activities, coordination mechanisms or networks that already exist to avoid risks of overlap and duplication.
- 3. Country platforms should aim at fostering a wide mobilization of development partners, on a voluntary basis,** including the private sector where appropriate, while respecting each partner's own governance and decision-making process, and avoiding excessive bureaucracy.
- 4. Country platforms should foster the collaboration and synergies among development partners by helping the sharing of appropriate and necessary information, good practices and lessons learned among participants, on a voluntary basis, as well as by facilitating the implementation of key standards,** as practised in a diversified approach by MDBs with regards to environmental, social and governance standards, procurement, transparency and anti-corruption, pricing policies, local capacity building, and debt sustainability. In that regard, the ongoing work by MDBs to implement high standards, including when working with other partners, should serve as a basis for their further work to build over time a common understanding among them of how "core standards" should be defined and implemented.
- 5. Country platforms will follow up as appropriate on platforms' activities and results,** so as to help draw lessons from experience, support a "learning by doing" progress curve, and improve over time the efficiency of individual platforms as well as of the collective platform process worldwide.



The G20 will follow up as appropriate on the implementation of country platforms, working with implementing countries and development partners, with the view to help foster the sharing of experience, lessons learnt and good practices, and to support in a pragmatic manner the deployment of country platforms and their contribution to the 2030 Agenda.

