

Evaluation of the Implementation of the Paris Declaration

Update of Phase 1 Donor Studies

DENMARK

Executive Summary

Denmark is strongly committed to the aid effectiveness agenda by putting partner country ownership at the heart of Denmark's planning and programming.

Denmark has a long history in promoting ownership and alignment to partner country priorities and continues to push for more effective aid in line with the Paris Declaration and the AAA and works for a better division of labour based on results-oriented and focused development in cooperation with other bilateral donors, as well as with multilateral organisations.

Update on Denmark's progress in implementing the AAA "Beginning Now" commitments

Denmark's development cooperation is decentralized, and all Danish embassies and missions in partner countries have developed harmonisation and alignment action plans based on the Paris Declaration (PD) and the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) which are adapted to the specificities of the partner country.

Denmark has therefore not developed an action plan as such for the implementation of the AAA, but rather focused efforts on implementing the aid effectiveness commitments in practice and in the field, according to the specific needs of each partner country. However, progress in Denmark's overall implementation of the AAA in terms of its mainstreaming in Danish policies and guidelines has been closely monitored and are subject to discussion at management level in the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Denmark's development cooperation policies, its performance management framework and its guidelines and procedures have to a large extent already taken account of the needed actions identified in the PD and the AAA, which was recognised during the DAC Peer Review of Denmark in 2007 and reaffirmed at the DAC mid-term review in September 2009 as well as in the Peer Review of Denmark in 2011.

The main task for Denmark's implementation of the AAA has therefore been to support Danish missions in the field in these endeavours through flexible guidelines that reflect the aid effectiveness commitments. Focus has thus been on reviewing the Danish Aid Management Guidelines to ensure greater consistency, explicit reference to the AAA and enhance the usefulness of the guidelines for staff that are to implement them. The Danish Aid Management Guidelines, including the Guidelines for Programme Management, are available on www.amg.um.dk.

The AAA contains 43 donor commitments. Of these, 33 are issues that Denmark has a direct possibility to act upon – the remaining donor relevant commitments cover initiatives, which are to be followed up in a multilateral context.

Denmark has mainstreamed 29 of the 33 commitments in the AAA in policies and guidelines by July 2009, 10 of which necessitates further joint activities. Of the four remaining commitments within the Danish realm, one is on-track, and three others require a continuous effort as well as a joint approach.

In the AAA four areas have been identified for 'immediate start'. Denmark has taken the following specific steps to meet these commitments:

Developing plans on using country systems (para. 15d)

At country level Danish missions in partner countries have over the course of the last years developed a 'Harmonisation and Alignment Action Plan' based on the PD and AAA commitments which include furthering alignment through specific actions for using country systems.

Denmark has in June 2008 established the use of sector budget support as the default modality for programming of Danish development assistance (this implies maximum use of country systems, ref. AAA para.15.a). Should sector budget support not be used as a modality, the reasons should be made clear and a plan for furthering alignment (para. 15.b) should be made. This requirement is integrated in the Danish Aid Management Guidelines (available at www.amg.um.dk), including in a technical note on Programme Support Preparation.

Making public all conditions linked to disbursements (para. 25b)

Any conditions linked to development disbursements are either embedded in the underlying government agreement

or in such documents as policy matrixes related to general budget support and are therefore clear to partners.

Providing full and timely information on annual commitments and actual disbursements (para 26b)

Danish missions are, based on requirements in the Danida Action Plan for Fighting Corruption, required to provide information through inter alia their websites on the development activities, including financial information.

Providing regular and timely information on their rolling three to five year expenditure and/or implementation plans (para 26c)

Danish disbursement and commitment data are published in the national budget and five-year rolling plans. Danish missions provide quarterly disbursement data through their websites and rolling five-year commitment plans in connection with high level consultations with partner countries.