

# Evaluation of the Implementation of the Paris Declaration

## Update of Phase 1 Donor Studies

### NEW ZEALAND

## Executive Summary

### Summary of findings

Consistent with the prevailing situation in 2007, the principles of the Paris Declaration are integrated into the way of thinking within the New Zealand Aid Programme, but implementation is not yet systematically or comprehensively pursued. The planned recruitment of an Aid Effectiveness Advisor has not occurred and the lack of this focal point and leadership has undermined efforts to more fully embed practical application of the PD to date.

The PD principles have remained visible. A recent Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) survey found that the PD remains as important to New Zealand Aid Programme partner countries in 2010 as it was in 2007. The 2008 Accra High Level Forum was taken seriously by the International Development Group (IDG) of MFAT, and reinforced the focus on Aid Effectiveness. An Aid Effectiveness (AE) Action Plan was developed and adopted in mid-2010, which should provide fresh impetus for efforts to address barriers to improved aid effectiveness if it can be appropriately resourced.

A number of the 2007 recommendations and some Paris Declaration intentions are being implemented, despite the lack

of a fully developed, systematic approach. However, analysis undertaken for this report found that a number of institutional barriers to more effective aid remain. These include:

- the need to further improve business processes and develop practical resources and training for staff relating to aid effectiveness
- financial and technological constraints on devolution
- continued fragmentation and dispersal of the aid programme.

Ongoing effort is required to address these barriers and to sustain progress, particularly to maintain commitment to making further gains in a challenging context of organisational change.

New Zealand's involvement in the Cairns Compact indicates ongoing commitment to improving aid effectiveness and provides an avenue for progress to be made beyond the internal organisational changes that still need to be implemented.