

Consultative Group for Ghana / Annual Partnership Meeting
Session on Resources and Results for 2007-09

Statement by the Growth and Poverty Forum
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I'd like to make three points.

First, on the scaling up, which is something that we welcome and something that we think should happen, both as an incentive for good performance but also to look at social development areas where there is need and where more resources can make the qualitative impact that we want to achieve there.

Now in making this statement, GPF is mindful of the fact that donors may be able to do it or not, but I am pleased to hear from the discussions from the presenter and DFID that we are on that track. But that is not to say that we are not interested in monitoring and evaluation and in working closely with government and other parties to ensure efficient use of resources and the maximization of their effects.

However, for this to occur, it is extremely important that we have access to information. We were given information for this meeting somewhat at the last minute and there is a lot of information to digest and analyze. We are out of the process, we are not part of your sector dialogues, and therefore we don't have an inside view that enables us to say "yes this is what happened". But if we are going to scale up, which we think is a good thing, then we are interested in engaging in this process both with government and the partners. In looking at resource projections, I think definitely the area of research and the area of data collection and analysis, as the NDPC Director General has said, ought to be seen and taken seriously, not just in terms of state institutions but also of independent civil society organizations. I think some scaling up there would be very helpful, and it will strengthen the basis for transparency and accountability, either way.

The second point has to do with the relationship: aid effectiveness. In our own deliberations as a Forum last week, we were somehow taken in by an observation that we made that we think has not yet come through clearly. If you look at the five tenets of the aid effectiveness: ownership, harmonization, alignment, managing for results, mutual accountability. We also wanted to ask the question: when all this has been done, where does it lead to? What does it do to the relationship between the parties and what does it do to the capacity of the State to move to the next level of development?

We find that the all things that are being discussed haven't looked at these questions, because when you're dealing with resources and you're dealing with frameworks and policies, relationships emerge, and there is an impact on the relationship, and we need to ask what is the relationship that is emerging out of the intensification in these five areas. We think that since next year is the time to evaluate aid effectiveness, it will be very important to look at the nature of the relationship that is emerging, and how it is strengthening or weakening State capacity to do the things that it is being aided to do

now. We need to do this because once you have tackled debt relief and debt cancellation, and countries have attained a certain level of growth, they would want to take off to higher levels, and it is important to look at the relationship in development cooperation and partnership that will help us to move on to that higher level. We shouldn't take it for granted, and therefore we would advocate strongly that this issue be put on the table.

The third point is about energy. We have looked at the government's statements about what it will do in the short term about purchasing and installing thermal plants, and we've looked at the long term - the Bui Dam and the WA gas pipeline. We've also seen the Bank and development partners' commitment to support that. However we are mindful about what will happen as we wait for all these things to happen. What is conspicuously missing in this era of energy stress is support for interim coping strategies. Individual initiatives have been taken on the market and alternative sources of energies are being pursued that make it possible for businesses and households to cope. We feel that these areas ought to be studied as well, and if possible, policies ought to be adopted to facilitate and expand people's access to alternative sources of energy that would help them to cope over the long term as the Bui Dam and other are being built. If this is considered, this will help bridge the gap that we see in the strategies and policies that have been adopted so far.