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# FOREWORD

AS MINISTERS, heads of international organisations, civil society actors, private sector representatives and parliamentarians from around the world prepare for the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness to be held in Busan, Korea (29 November to 1 December 2011), one central question emerges: have global commitments to make aid more effective been implemented?

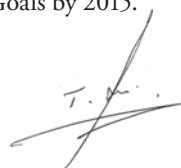
In most respects, the answer is clear: some progress has been made, but globally, donors and developing countries have fallen short of the goals that they set themselves for 2010. Many of the reforms needed to reach these goals were understood to be ambitious, though for most, they are still within reach. The Paris Declaration and the monitoring process documented in this report have made an important contribution to development partnerships. They have placed greater emphasis on transparency, and helped set out norms for demand-driven aid. Many of the efforts made by developing countries have the potential to change not only the way aid is managed, but can have much wider-reaching impact on institutions and, in turn, development results. Donors should recognise the progress made by partner countries and sustain and deepen their support.

While the Fourth High Level Forum promises to forge a new global consensus for development co-operation and the role it will play to accelerate poverty reduction and growth in developing countries, it also needs to reflect on why progress in implementing existing commitments on aid effectiveness has been challenging. A substantial evidence base points to the importance of implementing the sorts of changes agreed in the Paris Declaration and emphasised in the Accra Agenda for Action. Renewed political leadership will be critical to address the unfinished business that really can make a difference for the lives of poor people in developing countries.

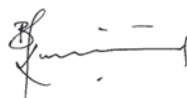
This report offers the most comprehensive assessment of progress in implementing commitments on aid effectiveness to date. It draws extensively on the findings of the 2011 Survey on Monitoring the Paris Declaration. More countries than ever before have participated in the 2011 Survey, highlighting the value that they attach to this global monitoring effort. But the survey goes beyond providing snapshots of progress over time to offer a framework for constructive dialogue – and change – in the way aid is provided and managed in developing countries. Stakeholders in most of the 78 countries that participated in the 2011 Survey used the process to better understand the opportunities and challenges they face in making aid more effective. This includes a number of fragile states, for whom the obstacles to ensuring peace, stability and in turn development and poverty reduction are often profound.

As politicians and leaders gather in Busan, they should draw on past successes and challenges as they shape the outcomes of the Fourth High Level Forum. Many of the challenges highlighted in this report are ultimately political – rather than technical – and will require sustained leadership if they are to be overcome. As governments continue to implement their commitments on aid volumes, they should not lose sight of the quality dimension: citizens and taxpayers in both developed and developing countries have an interest in ensuring that aid is effective and contributes to lasting results.

We are confident that this report will make a substantial contribution to the debates at the Fourth High Level Forum and will – in turn – inform a new, refreshed, and inclusive global partnership in the final push to meet the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

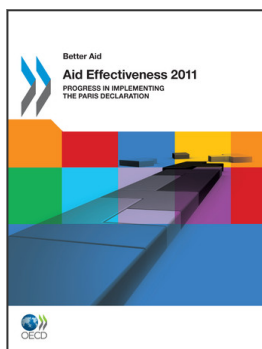


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