

Proposal to launch the ISPMS Marketplace at the Global  
Partnership High Level Meeting in Mexico:

Proposal from Pillar II

## International demand for better data

The Busan Partnership on Effective Development Cooperation and the High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda both noted a lack of data to measure progress on the strengthening of governance and public management institutions and systems. A key finding of the report of the High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda was that there is need for a data revolution that takes advantage of new technology, crowd sourcing, and improved connectivity. It noted: “Better data and statistics will help governments track progress and make sure their decisions are evidence-based; they can also strengthen accountability.”<sup>1</sup>

## What are ISPMS?

Grounded in the Busan principle to “focus on results”, the Indicators of the Strength of Public Management Systems (ISPMS) can help fulfill Busan commitments to assess country institutions, to develop improved evidence on institutional performance and to deepen learning on the determinants of success for institutional reform. Feeding into the data revolution, the goal of the project is to develop a comprehensive and comprehensible set of cross-national performance indicators for governance and public management systems that will provide a “health check” and help to prioritize and target reform efforts. The main users of these indicators are expected to be governments, development agencies/donors and researchers.

Conducted under the Effective Institutions Platform, the multi-stakeholder<sup>2</sup> ISPMS project has compiled a set of about 100 existing indicators that are actionable by governments, measure how institutions work (rather than what they look like), and track aspects of institutional performance that are known or suspected to contribute to development outcomes. The indicators cover public financial management, procurement, tax administration, public administration and civil service, and public information systems. Transparency and accountability are cross-cutting themes. This exercise revealed that even within the set of indicators that fulfill the criteria, critical gaps exist in the coverage: together the indicators lack a “whole of government” perspective; reporting across systems and time is uneven, and there is a need for more objective country-led assessments of performance.

## The proposal: Launch a marketplace for indicators at the Global Partnership High Level Meeting

To address the gaps in the current indicators, the ISPMS project proposes to create a marketplace to identify and publicize good ideas for indicators of institutional strength and performance, and to connect these ideas with data collectors and funding. Its goal is to expand the menu of indicators available to countries and other stakeholders when designing and monitoring public sector management reforms. These indicators can help chart progress in

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<sup>1</sup> “A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development”, The Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda,” pg 24.

<sup>2</sup> The following groups have participated in the initiative via the Effective Institutions Platform, the Steering Group or Technical Expert Groups: country governments (Bangladesh, Cameroon, Pacific Islands Forum and Vietnam), donors (AusAid, Asian Development Bank, BMZ, DFID, DFAT-Canada, European Commission, UNDP, USAID), NGOs/data collectors (African Capacity Building Foundation, Global Integrity, International Budget Partnership, LenCD, OECD, Transparency International).

strengthening country systems—ultimately helping the international community fulfill Paris Declaration commitments to increase use of these systems.

The marketplace builds on the comparative advantage of the Global Partnership and the Effective Institutions Platform: its inclusivity and results-focused approach. It will use crowdsourcing as an inclusive process to generate to scale novel/innovative ways of measuring institutional strength and performance. Anyone can participate including country governments, technical entrepreneurs, students, and civil society.

It is proposed to **launch the marketplace at a focus session during the April 2014 High Level Meeting of the Global Partnership, highlighting progress on the implementation of Busan commitments in the area of effective institutions.** Launching the marketplace at the High Level Meeting will help ensure wide international participation and interest, which are necessary to garner the best and most innovative ideas. It will also highlight linkages with the post-2015 process by helping to contribute to the data revolution, demonstrating demand for governance measures, and potentially identifying indicators to support an MDG on governance.

