Effective Institutions Platform

Strategic Focus and Methods of Work

EIP Secretariat - June 2019

1. Background

In 2012, during the Busan High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, 34 countries and organisations endorsed a "**New Consensus on More Effective Institutions for Development**." The EIP was created to operationalise this New Consensus and support the creation of accountable, inclusive and transparent public sector institutions in three broad areas: effective resource management, accessible and quality public services, and responsive policies.

With the advent of Agenda 2030, and the new and explicit reference to effective institutions under Goal 16, the EIP established itself as a **"*new mechanism for innovation and peer learning on effective and inclusive institutions*"** tasked with developing and disseminating methods and knowledge on peer-to-peer learning. The EIP established a credible reputation as a multi-stakeholder platform that contributes to and influences debate on various reform processes, and yet, by early 2018 members agreed that a revisioning process was needed to sharpen the EIP's focus, enhance results, and renew membership and participation.

To ensure that the EIP is 'fit-for-the-future' and productively contributes to the growing discourse on peer to peer learning, the revisioning exercise found that the EIP needed to: (i) clarify its strategic focus, together with working methods and partnerships; (ii) design a monitoring, evaluation and learning framework that tracks change and demonstrates the added value of P2P approaches; and (iii) renew and refresh its existing governance arrangements.

These three key objectives were discussed during the 5th EIP Annual Meeting held in Paris on 25-26 April 2019. This note crystalizes the consensus emerging from the discussions.

2. Strategic Focus and Rationale

As an outcome of discussions at the 5th Annual Meeting of the EIP, participants agreed that the EIP *strategic focus* will be to: (i) act as a global knowledge hub on peer-to-peer learning approaches; (ii) provide a platform to facilitate incubation and learning from alternative and innovative approaches to public sector reform and institutional development, going beyond P2P methods.

Participants were also unanimous about the need to have a global repository of innovative tools, success stories and good practices that encompass forms of innovation, on how institutional change happens beyond peer learning. The EIP should actively identify and share such experiences with members and beyond.

The multi stakeholder nature of the EIP and its focus on peer learning provides opportunities for continuous knowledge exchange, learning and sharing of good practices, between donors and partners, on how to deliver development assistance more effectively and how to best support institutional reforms.

Rationale: Peer learning alliances are a growing form of support for institutional partnerships and development, due to their practical, egalitarian and reciprocal nature. There is also a growing variety of P2P approaches that are being adopted. In donor countries (e.g. Norway and the UK) more and more aid is being delivered through line ministries and institutions, outside of the traditional development cooperation sector, and through direct institutional twinning or partnership arrangements. [south-south/ emergence triangular cooperation].

Although there are several international partnerships (e.g. Government Partnerships International, Global Delivery Initiative, International Budget Partnership etc.) that apply peer learning, there is no single entity that acts as a hub for learning and knowledge on relative merits of different P2P approaches. The location of the EIP Secretariat in the OECD enables access to a wide array of stakeholders (DAC donors, Governments, Civil Society organisations, private sector organisations, etc.), policy arenas, and development initiatives which would otherwise be difficult for other entities to access or engage with.

3. Methods of Work

The EIP will undertake this mission by:

i. **Maintaining a register** of P2P alliances (including north-south, south-south and triangular), knowledge hubs and communities of practice with a view to identify and sustain prospective EIP and P2P partnerships.

ii. **Building evidence** on the relative merits of varying P2P approaches, and any innovative tools and approaches towards supporting public sector reform and institutional development.

iii. **Outreach and engagement** to communicate knowledge and learning from P2P partnerships and innovative approaches, including through effective social media campaigns and the EIP's dedicated website.

iv. **Supporting members** to promote and deliver peer-to-peer alliances and alternative approaches to public sector reform and institutional development, at organisational, national, regional or international level. This could be achieved through:
   a. direct support from the Secretariat for P2P implementation activities;
   b. convening, brokering and contributing to meetings that aim to exchange knowledge on peer learning and alternative approaches towards support for institutional effectiveness.

v. **Convening Annual EIP Meetings** for members to learn from and share knowledge with one another, and to review and/or renew the EIP's objectives and existing governance arrangements or commitments, as needed. The EIP will also participate in other forums that represent opportunities for learning.