



"Consensus of El Salvador" On Development Cooperation with Middle-Income Countries

On 3 and 4 October, 2007 the Second International Conference on Development Cooperation with Middle-Income Countries was held in El Salvador. The conference represented a follow-up to a meeting on the same topic held in Madrid on 1 and 2 March 2007.

The conference sought to specify the characteristics and development needs of middle-income countries and to move forward in developing an appropriate and specialized response to these countries on behalf of the international community, with respect to the rationale, the focus, the contents and the cooperation instruments to be used. The conference also considered the role of the various players involved in cooperation with middle-income countries: donors, international agencies and recipient countries.

The conference devoted its primary attention to the operational aspects and instruments of development cooperation with middle-income countries, and their implications for the international cooperation system. It sought to increase awareness among the international donor community of the importance of continued support for middle-income countries in their efforts to achieve sustained development, by placing cooperation with these countries squarely on the international agenda.

This document, adopted with a view to achieving these objectives, reflects the consensus reached by all participants in the conference.

We, the Heads of Delegation gathered in El Salvador on the occasion of the Second International Conference on Development Cooperation with Middle-Income Countries, consider:

- 1. That the international community's commitment to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in a timely fashion includes a basic premise of development cooperation: the eradication of poverty.*
- 2. That in order to achieve internationally agreed development goals, support for middle-income countries must be strengthened and new and innovative cooperation mechanisms must be developed to bolster the efforts of these countries.*

3. That the development of middle income countries is hindered by disparities existing within them; redressing such disparities is the primary responsibility of their governments with the support of bilateral and multilateral cooperation donors, which represents an important component of their development.

4. That particular importance is attached to the agreements contained in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, which set forth five basic principles: ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results, and mutual accountability.

5. That if there is to be a coherent and effective international cooperation system, it must provide support for middle-income countries in their development efforts, to consolidate their achievements as they move forward and to avoid reversals, recognizing not only the intrinsic importance of the countries included in this category but also the positive impact that their development can have on the international system as a whole.

6. That the diversity of conditions, characteristics and needs of developing countries makes it advisable to consider necessary additional criteria, besides per capita income, for a more appropriate and targeted allocation of international cooperation resources, within the framework of the alignment and harmonization of international cooperation.

7. That the particular characteristics of the middle-income countries imply the need to revise the forms and instruments of international cooperation and finance and to redefine the role of players in the current cooperation system in accordance with each country's public policies.

8. That one additional route for international cooperation is to promote South-South cooperation, with more active support for horizontal and triangular forms of cooperation; and also to bolster regional cooperation in the realm of social and macroeconomic dialogue, of financial cooperation and technical assistance.

9. That there should be greater scope for public-private partnerships, promoting and ensuring a stronger commitment for the continuity of means of corporate social responsibility, accountability and transparency, supplementary funding programmes, and new and innovative financial mechanisms.

10. That the importance of migration and its impact on growth and international equality is such that countries should commit themselves to responsible management of migration flows in ways that will maximize their benefits for both origin and host countries.

11. That the existence of global public goods and their implications on the development of international cooperation donor and recipient countries require an appropriate implementation of international cooperation to face this challenge.

12. That cooperation with middle-income countries requires a cooperative effort at an international level, with bilateral and multilateral cooperation organizations and a productive dialogue in which middle income countries have a greater voice and a more effective participation in multilateral institutions' decision making processes, so that their concerns are more adequately addressed, particularly within the United Nations System and in international financial organizations. Likewise, a greater effort is necessary so that the interests and concerns of middle income countries are properly addressed in multilateral institutions that take international economic decisions.

On the basis of the above considerations, *we urge the international community to:*

- 1. Continue its cooperation with middle-income countries in furthering the fundamental aspects of their development.*
- 2. Support national development efforts of middle income countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, emphasizing poverty eradication and the combat against inequality.*
- 3. Consider additional criteria, other than per capita income, in order to allocate international cooperation resources in accordance with the specific characteristics of middle-income countries and to define effective responses consistent with the conditions and needs of each country.*
- 4. Promote the adoption of new and innovative forms and instruments of international cooperation and financing for middle-income countries that include new assistance programmes in addition to current bilateral and multilateral flows that assist them effectively in their efforts to reduce poverty and inequalities, as well as encourage their sustainable development and consolidate their progress achieved.*
- 5. Support more actively those horizontal and triangular cooperation initiatives as well as regional cooperation processes among middle-income countries.*
- 6. Pay special attention to the issue of international development cooperation with middle-income countries and to include it in the agendas of international fora and organizations, multilateral development institutions, and the international financial system, in order to develop comprehensive cooperation policies with middle-income countries and to implement them jointly and effectively.*
- 7. Continue analysis and discussion efforts in the pursuit of cooperation that has an effective and efficient incidence in the development process of middle-income countries in a framework of international solidarity.*
- 8. Promote policies for the creation of employment and decent work for all, and the improvement of opportunities so that men and women can have productive work under the conditions of liberty, equality, security and human dignity.*

We would like to extend our gratitude to the People and the Government of El Salvador for their warm welcoming reception and for the initiative and organization of this Conference.