

**Information Paper on the
High-Level Forum on Harmonization
Rome, Italy, 24-25 February 2003**

This information paper is a follow up to the recent information paper (IN.47-03) on the Regional Workshop in Hanoi, Viet Nam in preparation for the High-Level Forum on Harmonization held in Rome, Italy on 24-25 February 2003.

The heads of MDBs and senior officials of the donor community and partner countries attended the High-Level Forum. ADB was represented by President Chino and senior staff from the Strategy and Policy Department (SPD), the Regional and Sustainable Development Department (RSDD), the European Representative Office (ERO), the Philippines Country Office (PHCO) and the Viet Nam Resident Mission (VRM). Attending from the Asia and Pacific region were senior representatives from the following DMC Governments: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Kyrgyz Republic, Philippines, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

The Forum covered in detail the principles underlying the harmonization exercise, the lessons learned from the harmonization experience both from the country perspective and from the point of view of the international community, and future plans and action for implementation. A presentation was made on the Viet Nam harmonization experience and the Hanoi Regional Preparatory Workshop, and on the Philippines country pilot. A concluding statement, labeled the "Rome Declaration on Harmonization" was issued at the end of the Forum.

The work undertaken by ADB on harmonization in the Viet Nam country pilot and the similar pilot study ongoing in the Philippines are expected to provide some basic perspectives and understandings on the planning and conduct of harmonization. Harmonization does not mean creating a single uniform set of policies and practices adopted by all institutions. Harmonization allows each institution to develop under its own mandate, experience, and development conditions. Future work on harmonization at ADB is to be guided by the country pilot experiences. Work is to be expanded to other DMCs and is to proceed as expeditiously as possible in areas and activities where concrete results can be achieved in a relatively short time frame, and where transactions costs are perceived as significant. Harmonization can proceed best where the existing institutional capacity of the partner country is relatively strong. ADB will assist its partner countries in developing such capacity where necessary.

Attached for the information of the Board are the following:

- 1) The agenda for the Forum;
- 2) President's Chino's remarks for session 1;
- 3) The presentation made by RSDD on "Harmonization of Environmental Assessment"; and
- 4) The Rome Declaration on Harmonization.

**High-Level Forum on Harmonization
February 24-25, 2003 - Rome, Italy
Sala delle Conferenze Internazionali
La Farnesina—Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Agenda

Monday, February 24, 2003

8:00 – 8:50 **Registration**

Session 1: Welcome and Opening Remarks

9:00–9:10 Welcome: *Alfredo Mantica*, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Italy

9:10–9:40 Opening address: *Benjamin W. Mkapa*, President of Tanzania

9:40–9:50 Remarks: *Jean-Claude Faure*, Chairman, OECD Development Assistance Committee

9:50– 10:00 Remarks: *Tadao Chino*, President, Asian Development Bank

10:00–10:10 Remarks: *Enrique V. Iglesias*, President, Inter-American Development Bank

10:10–10:20 Remarks: *James D. Wolfensohn*, President, World Bank Group

10:20 – 10.30 Comments and questions

10:30 – 10:45 **Coffee break**—Sala dei Mosaici

Session 2: Overview of Good Practice Principles for Harmonization

10:45 – 11:15 **Work of the OECD-DAC Task Force on Donor Practices**

Cochairs

Richard Manning, Chair, OECD-DAC Task Force

Michel Reveyrand, Vice Chair, OECD-DAC Task Force

Michael Roeskau, Director, OECD Development Co-operation Directorate

Discussants

Paul Bermingham, Chair, Subgroup on Financial Reporting and Auditing

Christopf Graf, Chair, Subgroup on Reporting and Monitoring

Carmen Ghita, Task Force member, Romania

11:15 – 12:00 Open discussion and Q&A

12:00 – 12:30 **Work of MDB Technical Working Groups**

Cochairs

James W. Adams, Vice President, Operations Policy and Country Services,
World Bank
Kunio Senga, Director General, Strategy and Policy Department, Asian
Development Bank
Philibert Afrika, Director, Operations Policy and Review, African
Development Bank

Discussants

J. Warren Evans, Director of Regional and Sustainable Development
Department, Asian Development Bank
Rodolfo Hernandez, Chief, Procurement Policy and Coordination Office,
Inter-American Development Bank
Frederic Lucenet, Chair, Operations Committee Secretariat,
Policy/Product Development, European Bank for Reconstruction
and Development

12:30 – 13:15 Open discussion and Q&A

13:15 – 14:30 **Lunch**

***Session 3: Discussion of Lessons of Harmonization Experience—Country
and Agency Perspectives***

Cochairs

Len Good, President, Canadian International Development Agency
Medhat Hassanein, Minister of Finance, Egypt
Giandomenico Magliano, Director General, Development Cooperation,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy

14:30 – 14:45 **Vietnam Experience and the Hanoi Regional Workshop Report**

Discussants

Duong Duc Ung, Director General, Ministry of Planning and Investment,
Vietnam
Motohide Yoshikawa, Deputy Director General, Economic Cooperation
Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan
John Samy, Country Director, Vietnam Resident Mission, Asian
Development Bank
Klaus Rohland, Country Director, Vietnam, World Bank

14:45 – 15:00 Ethiopian Experience and the Addis Ababa Regional Workshop Report

Discussants

Mulu Ketsela, State Minister of Finance, Ethiopia

Philibert Afrika, Director, Operations Policies and Review, African Development Bank

Soe Lin, Adviser, Operations Policy and Country Services, World Bank

15:00 – 15:15 Jamaica Experience and the Kingston Regional Workshop Report

Discussants

Wesley Hughes, Executive Director, Planning Institute of Jamaica

Ciro De Falco, Manager, Operational Department 3, Inter-American Development Bank

Orsalia Kalantzopoulos, Country Director, World Bank

15:15 – 16:15 Open discussion and Q&A

16:15 – 16:30 **Coffee break**—Sala dei Mosaici

16:30 – 17:00 Other Implementation Experience

Discussants

Jan Bjerninger, Acting Director General, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

Tove Strand, Director General, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation

Gilles Hervio, Cochair, Strategic Partnership with Africa Technical Group

17:00 – 17:30 Open discussion and Q&A

20:30 **Social Dinner Event Hosted by Italian Government**—Villa Madama

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Session 4: Yesterday's Discussions, Today's Challenges

9:00 – 9:30 *Mark Malloch Brown*, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme
Eduardo Aninat, Deputy Managing Director, International Monetary Fund
K.Y. Amoako, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa

Session 5: Next Steps and Actions for Implementation—Statements of Donors and Partner Countries

Cochairs

Koos Richelle, Director General for Development, European Commission
Omar Kabbaj, President, African Development Bank

9:30 – 11:00 Presentation and discussion by donors, other institutions, and partner countries
(list of speakers to be provided)

11:00 – 11:30 **Coffee break**—Sala dei Mosaici

11:30 – 13:00 Presentation and discussion by donors, other institutions, and partner countries
(list of speakers to be provided)

13:00 – 14:30 **Lunch**

Session 6: Use of Information and Communications Technology for Aid Effectiveness and Harmonization

14.30 – 15:45 **Presentation and discussion**

Moderator

Carlos Braga, Senior Manager, Information Solutions Group, World Bank

Discussants

Mavis Sintim-Misa, Chief Executive Officer, Spectrum International
Eduardo Talero, International consultant

15.45 – 16.00 **Coffee break**—Sala dei Mosaici

Session 7: Presentation of Joint Concluding Statement

16:00 – 17:00 Discussion of draft “Rome Declaration” and Endorsement

Cochairs

Benjamin W. Mkapa, President of Tanzania

Jean-Claude Faure, Chairman, OECD-DAC

James D. Wolfensohn, President, World Bank Group

17:00 – 17:15 Closing Remarks

Vito Tanzi, Under-Secretary of State for Economy and Finance, Italy

**High-Level Forum on Harmonization
24-25 February 2003
Rome, Italy**

**Opening Remarks by President Chino
Session 1, Welcome and Opening Remarks
Monday, 24 February 2003**

Honorable Mantica, Under Secretary of State,
His Excellency President of Tanzania,
Chairman, OECD-DAC,
MDB Presidents,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I join the other distinguished speakers in opening the High Level Forum. I would like to thank the Government of Italy for hosting the Forum. I would also like to thank the High Level Forum Secretariat for all its hard work and professionalism in the preparations for the Forum.

This Forum has brought together key representatives of governments and donors, both multilateral and bilateral. I would like to acknowledge in particular Government representatives from countries in the Asia and Pacific Region. Everyone here has a strategic interest in pursuing more effective cooperation and coordination for better planning, delivery and utilization of official development assistance.

We all know that ODA has an important role to play in supporting and facilitating development, and in particular, in helping realize the shared goal of poverty reduction in the developing countries of each region. However, both at the recipient country level and among donors at the global level, there has been growing concern about the effectiveness of ODA. Evidence is compelling that while donors provide valuable financing and other assistance, their administrative and procedural requirements can be burdensome on recipient countries and divert capacity from other important areas.

It is very important that scarce ODA resources are utilized efficiently. There is a need for donors to both align their activities with the recipient countries' national priorities, and to coordinate more closely and effectively among themselves, so as to maximize possible synergies of assistance and also to avoid unnecessary duplication.

Under my leadership, the Asian Development Bank has been actively engaged in promoting and pursuing beneficial harmonization of our business processes, procedures and practices with those of our development partners. ADB has been a full participant in the MDB technical working groups to produce good practice and principles in priority areas for harmonization. ADB has also cooperated with the OECD-DAC on managing for development results and aid effectiveness, and on aid evaluation.

Very recently, and as an important contribution leading to this High-Level Forum, ADB, in cooperation with the Government of Viet Nam, the

Government of Japan, and the World Bank, organized and conducted a regional preparatory workshop on harmonization. That workshop brought together senior officials of many governments, and donor agencies operating in the Asia-Pacific region, who reached important understandings on key guiding principles for future work on harmonization in developing Asia. I encourage everyone here to read carefully the information on that regional workshop, which is provided in the documents for this Forum, and to hear the presentations on that regional workshop in Session 3 today. That Session will also discuss the very important pilot study on harmonization that has been on-going in Viet Nam. A similar pilot study is also planned for the Philippines, and ADB will work closely with the Government and concerned development partners on this important activity.

As a result of our long-standing and broad participation in harmonization, the Asian Development Bank has developed some basic perspectives and understandings on the planning and conduct of harmonization. Let me briefly outline them here.

- Harmonization does not necessarily mean creating a single uniform set of policies and practices adopted by all institutions. Harmonization can be pursued through various “good practice standards and principles” applied by various institutions. We have to maintain a certain level of latitude that will allow each institution to develop under its own mandate, experience, and development conditions in which it operates.

- Harmonization should be “opportunistic” and not excessively planned. To this end, we, ADB and our partners in the region, have generally used four criteria as guides in selecting areas for our harmonization activities. These are:

One, areas and activities where concrete results can be achieved in a relatively short time frame.

Two, areas where transaction costs are perceived as significant.

Three, areas where the existing institutional capacity of the receiving institution is relatively strong, and

Four, areas where multilateral and bilateral agencies can also benefit from harmonization.

We will continue to use these criteria for planning our future work on harmonization.

Ladies and Gentlemen: Well-designed harmonization among external development partners that reduces administrative costs to developing countries and strengthens their public administration is important for increasing aid effectiveness and achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific. The Asian Development Bank is committed to a strategic application of harmonization that supports country-led development processes. I am pleased to mention that the Asian Development Bank is now an active participant, along with twenty three

(23) other donor partners, in the Partnership Website on Country Analytic Work that facilitates coordination and cooperation among countries and donors to improve development impact and cost effectiveness.

In closing, I hope that during the next two days' discussions a clear indication of the progress made, and the various approaches that have been taken to bring about greater commonality and streamlining of our respective areas of harmonization, will become evident, and they will also serve as a good reference for others who will undertake similar harmonization initiatives. I look forward to your active participation and contribution in making this High-Level Forum on Harmonization productive and successful.

A warm welcome to all participants.

Thank you.

HARMONIZATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Asian Development Bank and World Bank

High-Level Forum on Harmonization

Rome

24-25 February 2003

Background

- Early 1980s - Selected MFIs and UN organizations initiated dialogue on harmonization of Environmental Assessments (EA) requirements and procedures
- Early 1990s - MFI-Working Group on Environment (MFI-WGE) established to promote coordination among MFIs - major focus on institutional requirements, processes and practices in EAs prepared for public and private sector projects

Background

- 1999-2001 – Public and private sector mapping exercises to determine differences between institutions
- 2000 – MFI-WGE recommendations on institutional procedures and practices
- 2001-2002 – Common Framework for Environmental Impact Assessment

Results

- All MDBs and most MFIs have similar EA procedures and requirements for:
 - collecting and submitting information at different stages of the project cycle
 - ensuring that projects comply with host country requirements for environment, health, safety and social issues
 - ensuring that projects conform to global conventions ratified by borrowing countries
 - including compliance with environmental and social requirements in project legal agreements and contractual agreements, where appropriate

Results

- There is diversity among MFIs in:
 - public consultation and dissemination of related information
 - addressing social issues in the EIA process
 - analysis of cumulative effects
 - treatment of induced impacts
 - analysis of associated facilities or related projects.
- The MFI-WGE is undertaking detailed review and discussion of these issues

Viet Nam Pilot Study

- Pilot focused on Environmental Category A projects with full-scale EIA due to major impacts:
 - process – scope, consultation, mitigation, timing
 - documentation and disclosure
- GoV EIA requirements broadly consistent with participating MFI requirements
- Requirements/practices of cooperating banks (ADB, JBIC and WB) quite similar
- Differences between banks and GoV on:
 - consultation
 - disclosure
 - involuntary resettlement and land acquisition

Viet Nam Pilot Study

- Pilot resulted in draft of “Common Requirements for EIA of Category A” projects supported by the three banks
- Agreement on common documentation expected soon
- Strengthening cooperation on best practices, especially for Environmental Management Plans (EMP), planned as next step in Viet Nam
- Country level harmonization efforts can increase efficiency, reduce costs and improve timely preparation and application of EA procedures
- Complementary measures needed to develop borrower’s institutional capacity to implement national EA systems

Safeguard Compliance and Country-Level Harmonization

- Formal safeguard policies are critical for MDB/MFI/bilateral commitment to sustainable development and should be integrated into project cycle
- Projects and programs need to be in compliance with safeguard policies
- Harmonization at country level should review safeguard systems of key cooperating parties
- Efforts should focus on identifying and promoting common practices

Rome Declaration on Harmonization

Rome, Italy, February 25, 2003

1. We, the heads of multilateral and bilateral development institutions and representatives of the IMF, other multilateral financial institutions, and partner countries gathered in Rome, Italy, on February 24-25, 2003, reaffirm our commitment to eradicating poverty, achieving sustained economic growth, and promoting sustainable development as we advance to an inclusive and equitable global economic system. Our deliberations are an important international effort to harmonize the operational policies, procedures, and practices of our institutions with those of partner country systems to improve the effectiveness of development assistance, and thereby contribute to meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). They directly support the broad agreement of the international development community on this issue as reflected in the Monterrey Consensus (*Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development*, March 2002, para. 43). We express our appreciation to the governments of Jamaica, Vietnam, and Ethiopia, and to the bilateral donors and international institutions that sponsored and coordinated regional workshops in Kingston, Hanoi, and Addis Ababa in January 2003, in preparation for the Rome Forum. The key principles, lessons, and messages synthesized in the reports of these workshops have provided valuable input to the Forum.

Improvements in Development Effectiveness

2. We in the donor community have been concerned with the growing evidence that, over time, the totality and wide variety of donor requirements and processes for preparing, delivering, and monitoring development assistance are generating unproductive transaction costs for, and drawing down the limited capacity of, partner countries. We are also aware of partner country concerns that donors' practices do not always fit well with national development priorities and systems, including their budget, program, and project planning cycles and public expenditure and financial management systems. We recognize that these issues require urgent, coordinated, and sustained action to improve our effectiveness on the ground.

3. We attach high importance to partner countries' assuming a stronger leadership role in the coordination of development assistance, and to assisting in building their capacity to do so. Partner countries on their part will undertake necessary reforms to enable progressive reliance by donors on their systems as they adopt international principles or standards and apply good practices. The key element that will guide this work is a country-based approach that emphasizes country ownership and government leadership, includes capacity building, recognizes diverse aid modalities (projects, sector approaches, and budget or balance of payments support), and engages civil society including the private sector.

Good Practice Standards or Principles

4. We acknowledge that while our historical origins, institutional mandates, governance structures, and authorizing environments vary, in many instances we can simplify and harmonize our requirements and reduce their associated costs, while improving fiduciary oversight and public accountability and enhancing the focus on concrete development results. We endorse the

good practice work by the technical groups of the DAC/OECD Task Force and the multilateral development banks (MDBs), and look forward to the expected completion next year of the UN harmonization work that is being coordinated by UNDG. We are ready to follow existing good practices while continuing to identify and disseminate new ones.

Going Forward

5. We agree that, for both donors and partner countries, the progress we make on the ground in programs and projects will be a concrete and important measure of the success of our efforts. We recognize that such progress can be facilitated and enhanced by harmonization efforts at the international and regional levels. Building on the work of the DAC/OECD and MDB working groups and on country experience, including the recent country initiatives, we commit to the following activities to enhance harmonization:

- Ensuring that development assistance is delivered in accordance with partner country priorities, including poverty reduction strategies and similar approaches, and that harmonization efforts are adapted to the country context.
- Reviewing and identifying ways to amend, as appropriate, our individual institutions' and countries' policies, procedures, and practices to facilitate harmonization. In addition, we will work to reduce donor missions, reviews, and reporting, streamline conditionalities, and simplify and harmonize documentation.
- Implementing progressively—building on experiences so far and the messages from the regional workshops—the good practice standards or principles in development assistance delivery and management, taking into account specific country circumstances. We will disseminate the good practices (synthesized in Annex A) to our managers and staff at headquarters and in country offices and to other in-country development partners.
- Intensifying donor efforts to work through delegated cooperation at the country level and increasing the flexibility of country-based staff to manage country programs and projects more effectively and efficiently.
- Developing, at all levels within our organizations, incentives that foster management and staff recognition of the benefits of harmonization in the interest of increased aid effectiveness.
- Providing support for country analytic work in ways that will strengthen governments' ability to assume a greater leadership role and take ownership of development results. In particular, we will work with partner governments to forge stronger partnerships and will collaborate to improve the policy relevance, quality, delivery, and efficiency of country analytic work.
- Expanding or mainstreaming country-led efforts (whether begun in particular sectors, thematic areas, or individual projects) to streamline donor procedures and practices, including enhancing demand-driven technical cooperation. The list of countries

presently involved includes Ethiopia, Jamaica, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cambodia, Honduras, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Morocco, Niger, Nicaragua, Pacific Islands, Philippines, Senegal, and Zambia.

- Providing budget, sector, or balance of payments support where it is consistent with the mandate of the donor, and when appropriate policy and fiduciary arrangements are in place. Good practice principles or standards—including alignment with national budget cycles and national poverty reduction strategy reviews—should be used in delivering such assistance.
- Promoting harmonized approaches in global and regional programs.

6. We wish to record that a positive by-product of our collaboration on harmonization has been increased information sharing and improved understanding of commonalities and differences during the preparation or revision of our respective operational policies, procedures, and practices. We will deepen this collaboration in the future, and will explore how such collaboration could help to ensure that new or revised policies are appropriately harmonized or “harmonizable” with those of the partner countries and donor institutions.

7. We recognize the global work on monitoring and assessing the contribution of donor support to the achievement of the MDGs. We will track and, as necessary, refine lead indicators of progress on harmonization such as those described in the DAC/OECD Good Practice Papers.

8. We acknowledge the potential contribution of modern information and communication technologies to promoting and facilitating harmonization—already demonstrated by the use of audio and videoconferencing facilities in the staff work on harmonization, the Development Gateway, the Country Analytic Work website, and the early work on e-government, e-procurement, and e-financial management. We commit to further efforts to exploit these technologies.

Next Steps

9. Partner countries are encouraged to design country-based action plans for harmonization, agreed with the donor community, that will set out clear and monitorable proposals to harmonize development assistance using the proposals of the DAC/OECD Task Force and the MDB technical working groups as reference points. In turn, the bilateral and multilateral agencies will take actions to support harmonization at the country level. As part of their self-evaluation processes, bilateral and multilateral agencies and partner countries will assess and report on progress in applying good practices, and on the impact of such practices. Whenever possible, we will use existing mechanisms to develop such plans and to assess and report on progress, and we will make these plans available to the public.

10. We will utilize and strengthen, including through partner country participation, existing mechanisms to maintain peer pressure for implementing our agreements on harmonization. In this regard and in the context of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, we welcome regional initiatives, such as the work by the Economic Commission for Africa, for a joint annual aid effectiveness review in a framework of mutual accountability that would also address harmonization issues.

11. Reflecting our experience over these last two days, we plan stocktaking meetings in early 2005 following the review already scheduled in DAC/OECD in 2004. This follow-up would assess progress in and sustain the momentum for fundamental changes that enhance aid delivery, and would contribute to the review of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, the timing and modalities for which are expected to be determined by 2005.

Good Practice Standards or Principles for Harmonizing Donor Assistance

1. We welcome the collaboration of the OECD-DAC and the MDBs in the work on public financial management. We note the agreement that good public financial management should cover the preparation of the budget, internal control and audit, procurement, disbursement, monitoring and reporting arrangements, and external audit, and should promote overall fiscal discipline and efficient allocation of resources to priority needs. This collaboration reflects the importance we place on an improved accountability relationship between a partner developing country and its own citizenry that can be achieved in part through transparent public financial management processes and systems.
2. We note the good practice emphasis on working closely with governments on public sector financial reviews, and integrating these reviews into countries' poverty reduction strategies, donors' country assistance programs, and the decision-making cycles of both governments and donors. We believe that financial reviews should take account of initial country conditions; international standards, codes, and approaches; and capacity-building requirements toward compliance with these standards and codes. The OECD-DAC and MDBs have requested the International Federation of Accountants to consult broadly with donors and developing countries and prepare an accounting standard for development assistance by 2004, and we look forward to the outcome of this effort.
3. We acknowledge the considerable scope for simplified and harmonized approaches to financial reporting and auditing, including the form and content of financial reports, the financial reporting period, auditing standards, the qualifications of auditors and quality of audit firms, the selection and contracting of audit firms, the terms of reference for auditors, the due date for submission of audit reports, the coverage of management letters, and the follow-up to audit findings.
4. We note that the work of the MDB procurement group has already led to the agreement on one set of master documents for international competitive bidding, and that work toward agreement on others is far advanced. In relation to the harmonization pilots carried out in three countries, we welcome the proposed common procurement, implementation, and monitoring approaches for cofinanced sector programs and projects. We are pleased that participating donors and governments are developing standardized bidding documents for national competitive bidding and, on a case-by-case basis, common thresholds for national competitive bidding. We strongly support efforts to build partner countries' procurement capacity.
5. We note that a number of MDBs and many bilateral donors already have environmental policies and procedures that have much in common, and that there is increasing agreement on the importance of taking social impacts adequately into account in project preparation and implementation—either through environmental impact assessment or other types of social assessment. Further convergence is needed to eliminate duplication in assessing, documenting, and monitoring environmental and social impacts in the projects that donors jointly finance, and to better synchronize the consultation and disclosure processes associated with assessing such impacts. To this end, we affirm the need to harmonize with each other and with partner countries around systems and procedures that meet international good practice standards and

principles and focus on country capacity-building. We will also explore the scope for collaborating in reviews that assess adherence to undertakings to address environmental and social impacts.

6. Given that donors currently fund over 60,000 development projects and programs, and that preparing the multiple reports for each activity required by each donor often exceeds the capacity of partner countries, we agree that it is desirable for donors and partner countries to simplify individual systems and procedures and to work together toward common formats, content, and frequency for a single periodic report per project that meets the needs of all partners. In so doing, it will be important not to overburden country systems or divert existing capacity. We acknowledge that one way of achieving this would be to ensure that the reporting and monitoring systems that donors use are simplified and harmonized.

Attendance and Organization of the High-Level Forum

Date and Place of the Forum

1. The High-Level Forum on Harmonization was held in Rome, Italy, February 24-25, 2003, in accordance with agreements set out in progress reports on harmonization to the Development Committee. The forum held seven plenary sessions.

Attendance

2. The following partner countries and multilateral and bilateral agencies/institutions were represented at the Forum:

Partner Countries

Albania	Honduras	Niger Republic
Bangladesh	Jamaica	Philippines
Bolivia	Kenya	Romania
Burkina Faso	Kyrgyz Republic	Senegal
Cambodia	Mali	Tanzania
Egypt	Mauritania	Uganda
Ethiopia	Morocco	Vanuatu
Fiji	Mozambique	Vietnam
Guatemala	Nicaragua	Zambia
Guyana		

Multilateral and Bilateral Agencies/Institutions

African Development Bank	Australia	Caribbean Community
Asian Development Bank	Austria	Caribbean Development Bank
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	Belgium	Corporación Andina de Fomento
Inter-American Development Bank DAC/OECD	Canada	East African Development Bank
World Bank	Denmark	Economic Commission for Africa
	European Commission	European Investment Bank
	Finland	International Fund for Agricultural Development
	France	International Monetary Fund
	Germany	Islamic Development Bank
	Greece	Nordic Development Fund
	Ireland	Nordic Environment Finance Corp.
	Italy	Nordic Investment Bank
	Japan	OPEC Fund for International Development
	Kuwait	Organization of the Eastern Caribbean States
	Luxembourg	Pacific Islands Forum
	Netherlands	United Nations Development Programme
	New Zealand	West African Development Bank
	Norway	
	Portugal	
	Saudi Arabia	
	Spain	
	Sweden	
	Switzerland	
	United Kingdom	
	United States	