

## **International Development Organizations Endorse Results Plan**

*For immediate release.*

*Marrakech, Morocco, February 6, 2004.* At a meeting of representatives of more than 50 countries from around the world and 20 international organizations, major development organizations endorsed a joint memorandum with a set of core principles and an action plan that can serve as an initial foundation for building a broader consensus and taking effective action in the years to come.

The second international roundtable to focus on managing for development results, the conference examined ways countries and development agencies can work more effectively, individually and collectively, to help countries achieve their development goals. It was cosponsored by the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the World Bank, in collaboration with the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

In opening the roundtable, President Omar Kabbaj of the AfDB, host of the event, highlighted “enhanced collaboration with development partners” as one of the elements that are important in a drive for greater effectiveness. Conference speakers also emphasized “country ownership”—that is, the principle that countries (governments and other stakeholders) must decide on their own development strategies, and that the role of donors is to support those strategies.

Participants described the results approach as a shift from focusing just on individual activities to focusing also on the development goals those activities are expected to accomplish—for example, not just building more schools, but seeing that more children are educated. The roundtable also addressed such issues as measuring and reporting on progress, getting better statistics for decisionmaking, improving the business environment, and strengthening countries’ capacity to manage for results.

The roundtable culminated in the endorsement of the Joint Marrakech Memorandum, in which the sponsoring organizations committed to further work on the results agenda. Attached to the Memorandum were a statement of the core principles on which this work will be based, and an initial action plan describing key objectives, actions to achieve them by the end of 2004, and indicators of progress. (All three documents are attached.)

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More information, including digital images of roundtable sessions, is available at [www.managingfordevelopmentresults.org](http://www.managingfordevelopmentresults.org)



**In Their Own Words:  
Comments by Heads of Sponsoring Organizations**

***Omar Kabbaj, President, African Development Bank***

We all agree that development effectiveness is today at the center of development discourse. Both the international donor community and developing countries are giving high priority to enhancing the development impact of their interventions. Our stakeholders are calling on us to measure and demonstrate the economic and social impacts of our interventions.

***Tadao Chino, President, Asian Development Bank***

The Asian Development Bank is firmly committed to accelerate its own agenda to improve development effectiveness, and also to support the global agenda.

Development effectiveness is about achieving results at the country level.

The Asian Development Bank, drawing upon Asian and international experience, as well as the experience of our development partners, is committed to assist all of our developing member countries to define, prioritize, and achieve meaningful results.

***Richard Manning, Chairman, Development Assistance Committee***

Two questions have become central to the case for development assistance: how is the world progressing toward the desired outcomes set out in the millennium development goals, and how much are development assistance programmes contributing to progress? The answers will have to come from a development process that should be led not by donors but by the partner countries, which will require greater support for their efforts to build capacity to monitor and evaluate results. But to provide convincing answers means that both donors and partner countries need a sharp focus on results in all stages of their work.

***Enrique Iglesias, President, Inter-American Development Bank***

This Roundtable attests to everyone that both multilateral and bilateral development agencies agree that development effectiveness requires close cooperation and coordination with the countries and among ourselves, predicated on the comparative advantage of the different organizations, anchored in their specialized knowledge and resources, and fully aligned with their respective mandates.

***James D. Wolfensohn, President, World Bank***

In Monterrey, developing and developed countries agreed we must scale up actions for poverty reduction. We have an obligation to be more systematic about identifying what gets results, intensifying our support for partnerships that deliver results, measuring and reporting on these results, and, together, charting progress toward our common goals. The Roundtable in Marrakech was a very visible and significant manifestation of the global partnership to manage for development results.

## Joint Marrakech Memorandum

We the heads of the African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and World Bank, and the chairman of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, affirm our commitment to fostering a global partnership on managing for development results. We would like to thank the Government of Morocco for hosting this Second International Roundtable on Managing for Development Results in Marrakech. We also wish to thank participants from around the globe who have contributed to this Roundtable. Clearly, awareness is growing that getting better development results requires management systems and capacities that put results at the center of planning, implementation, and evaluation.

We accord the highest importance to supporting countries in strengthening their capacity to better manage for development results. Since the *International Conference on Financing for Development* in Monterrey, Mexico, in 2002, the development community has embraced a new partnership—one that calls for developing and transition countries to strengthen their commitment to policies and actions that reduce poverty and stimulate economic growth, and for developed countries to provide increased and more effective aid coupled with more coherent trade and other relevant policies. Within this global partnership, countries must take the lead in managing their development and transition processes. To steer the development process toward the goals they have defined, countries need stronger capacity for strategic planning, accountable management, statistics, monitoring, and evaluation.

We recognize that our development agencies, within their different mandates and modalities for providing country support, need to enhance their organizational focus on results. This means that we need to align cooperation programs with desired country results, define the expected contribution of our support to country outcomes, and rely on—and strengthen—countries' monitoring and evaluation systems to track progress and assess outcomes. As agencies with regional or global reach, we pledge to better distill the lessons of countries' experiences and disseminate knowledge about what gets results in different country contexts.

We are committed to fostering the global partnership that has emerged since the first *Roundtable on Managing for Results* in 2002. We acknowledge that it is only through such partnership that some of the greatest challenges in managing for results can be addressed. A global effort is needed to support countries in generating reliable and timely data to assess progress toward the Millennium Development Goals and other country goals, and to strengthen international reporting mechanisms. A global partnership is also essential to reduce the burden on countries of multiple, agency-driven reporting requirements and monitoring and evaluation systems. We encourage all agencies to join in this partnership to harmonize results reporting through country-led processes.



We are encouraged by the work that agencies and countries have undertaken, individually and collectively, to better manage for development results. Through the extensive discussions and preparations that have led to today's Roundtable, a consensus is emerging on the content and priorities for this far-reaching agenda, and on the critical next steps. It will be essential to widen the circle of this consensus, in part through regional workshops to be held in the months to come. We believe that the attached core principles and action plan can serve as an initial foundation for building a broader consensus and taking effective action in the years to come. They will be refined through further consultations, including through the Joint Venture on Managing for Development Results, and emerging experiences. We endorse these principles and action plan on this basis, and encourage all bilateral and multilateral development agencies and developing countries to embrace them as well.

Extraordinary efforts are required on the part of developing and developed countries to accelerate progress on economic growth and poverty reduction. Commitment and accountability by all partners are essential if we are to work together to achieve better development results. The challenge is enormous, but so are the potential rewards: healthy and educated children, productive youth, empowered communities, and a safer and more equitable world.

*Marrakech, Morocco*

*February 5, 2004*

## **PROMOTING A HARMONIZED APPROACH TO MANAGING FOR DEVELOPMENT RESULTS: CORE PRINCIPLES**

In line with the spirit and commitments of the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development, managing for development results<sup>1</sup> aims at improving the performance of countries and development agencies to achieve sustainable improvements in country outcomes for long-term impact on poverty reduction and increased standards of living. It promotes a partnership approach and organizational change through organizational learning and accountability.

Managing for development results combines a coherent framework for development effectiveness with practical tools for strategic planning, risk management, progress monitoring, and outcome evaluation. For maximum effect, it requires objectives that are clearly stated in terms of expected outcomes and beneficiaries, as well as intermediate and higher-order outcome indicators and targets, systematic monitoring and reporting, demand for results by partner countries and development agencies alike, an effective and continuous dialogue on results, and strengthening of country capacity to manage for results.

Managing for development results builds on the principles set by the development community in the domains of country ownership, donor harmonization, and alignment. These principles, endorsed in the Rome Declaration on Harmonization in February 2003 and further developed in the DAC Good Practice Paper “Harmonizing Donor Practices for Effective Aid Delivery,” provide that development agencies should:

- Rely on and support partner countries’ own priorities, objectives, and results. This implies alignment with the national strategy (a sound poverty reduction strategy or equivalent, with national linkage to the Millennium Development Goals as applicable) and use of reliable national systems and procedures (including the government’s budget, reporting cycle, and monitoring timetable).
- Coordinate with other development agencies under partner country leadership and promote joint action whenever possible (including through delegated cooperation—that is, one donor acting on behalf of another).
- Strengthen partner countries’ own institutions, systems, and capabilities to plan and implement projects and programs, report on results, and evaluate their development processes and outcomes, avoiding parallel donor-driven mechanisms.

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<sup>1</sup> The *Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation and Results Based Management* (DAC Network on Development Evaluation, OECD, 2002) defines results-based management as “a management strategy focusing on performance and achievement of output, outcomes and impact.” The DAC Network on Development Evaluation is an international forum of bilateral and multilateral evaluation experts from DAC member countries, the multilateral development banks, and other international agencies.



These principles recognize the importance of ownership by partner countries and support an approach by development agencies that strengthens partner countries' accountability to their citizens. Further, they recognize the partnership between partner countries, development agencies and other stakeholders and the critical importance of strengthening local capacity. They also recognize that development agencies should provide support for sound national management systems and for reforms and institutions to enhance the business environment and foster the development of the private sector as the main engine of growth.

In this context, although partner countries and development agencies have different roles and responsibilities in development, managing for development results means that they each have accountabilities—to their own constituencies and to each other—for achieving development results. It also means that leadership in both partner countries and development agencies is especially critical for strategic vision, honest assessment of progress, and institutional flexibility to adapt to new information.

Five core principles for managing for development results emerge from these understandings:

1. **At all phases—from strategic planning through implementation to completion and beyond—focus the dialogue on results for partner countries, development agencies, and other stakeholders.** In managing for results, it is important to have a coherent approach: (a) *ex ante*, at the strategy and planning phase, when expected results are articulated and their likely costs and expected impact on poverty reduction and development are analyzed; (b) during program/project implementation, when monitoring is needed to assess progress and identify necessary midcourse corrections; (c) *ex post*, upon completion, when the results are assessed against objectives and other factors, and (d) also when sufficient time has passed to be able to assess sustainability.
2. **Align actual programming, monitoring, and evaluation activities with the agreed expected results.** When partner countries, development agencies and other stakeholders focus on expected results and associated results indicators, they can better align actual programming (including financial support), monitoring, and evaluation activities with agreed results objectives. Partner country priorities and constraints must remain the starting point for development agencies' support strategies, and the development agencies' planned operations, analytic support, and technical assistance must be consistent with the partner country's sound development strategy.
3. **Keep the results reporting system as simple, cost-effective, and user-friendly as possible.** The indicator framework for managing for results should, to the extent possible, (a) be simple; (b) rely on country systems, supporting capacity building to the maximum extent; (c) be geared to learning as well as accountability functions; and (d) be harmonized to minimize system transactions costs and facilitate comparative analysis. The partner country and development agencies should consult on a short list of key indicators, preferably from a standardized list, for monitoring progress and assessing achievement of results. It is important to take into consideration the chain of expected results. Managing for results aims at improved efficiency; therefore, it is essential to be selective (and not to try to measure everything) and realistic (in terms of feasibility and cost) in choosing indicators. The results reporting system should remain pragmatic; start with whatever baseline data is available, including proxies; use meaningful qualitative indicators to complement quantitative indicators, or to compensate if quantitative indicators are not available; and include support for cost-efficient measures to improve data availability and country or project monitoring

systems. The end goal should be a sound results-based management system that includes specific, quantifiable indicators connected to a timeline with baseline data and periodic assessments of project and program performance against defined targets.

- 4. Manage *for*, not *by*, results.** Managing for results involves a change in mindset—*from* starting with the planned inputs and actions and then analyzing their likely outcomes and impacts, *to* focusing on the desired outcomes and impacts (for example on poverty reduction) and then identifying what inputs and actions are needed to get there. It also involves establishing baselines and identifying upfront performance targets and indicators for assessing progress during implementation and on program completion. Missing key targets should be a signal for partners to analyze together whether/why things have gone off track and how they could be brought back on track, if necessary. It should not be a trigger for the rigid application of penalty rules.
- 5. Use results information for management learning and decisionmaking, as well as for reporting and accountability.** Information on results should be publicly available. While one of the goals of managing for results is to use results monitoring information for reporting and accountability (for both partner countries and development agencies), this may potentially prompt behaviors that are overly risk-averse. Two approaches can mitigate this possibility: (a) using reports on results in a positive way for management learning and decisionmaking, taking into account lessons for better future action; and (b) when using reports for accountability purposes, setting performance measures that reflect the level of responsibility of the actor (whether a country, development agency, ministry, institution, NGO, and other stakeholders) and results that the actor can reasonably achieve; this approach recognizes that even with good performance in managing for results, external factors may hinder the achievement of expected outcomes.