

**Declaration by the
Government of Yemen and Development Partners
on Harmonization and Alignment**

January 30, 2005
Sana'a

Draft
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Introduction

The Government of Yemen (GoY) and Yemen's development partners declare their willingness to create an effective development partnership based on mutual commitment, trust, respect and confidence. We do so in the interests of the people of Yemen—aiming to reduce poverty, improve our collaboration and sustain development gains towards achieving Yemen's Development Goals and the MDGs 2015. The objective of this Declaration is to enhance aid effectiveness through harmonization and alignment of donor and GoY practices and procedures to achieve quality outcomes and greater development impact.

This Declaration has been developed following discussions and exchanges at a Harmonization and Alignment Workshop held in Sana'a during December 2004 to implement the Rome Declaration's commitments on Harmonization (February 2003).

We the Government of Yemen and the development partners of Yemen are committed to the Rome Declaration on Harmonization and through this Declaration express our willingness to support the following:

Rome Declaration #1: 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.

In Yemen, we will align our programs to existing government strategies such as the National Plan for Development and Poverty Reduction (2006-2010) and we will work together to help the government produce and monitor an integrated National Strategic Development Plans to help the country achieve the MDGs.

Rome Declaration #2: 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.

In Yemen, we will turn best practices in the following areas into common practice:

- *working towards Sector Wide Approaches where appropriate, and in all cases we will harmonize our resources, provision of Technical Assistance and channels of delivery around one strategy; strengthening the broader participation of civil society and private sector - as appropriate - to support the activities of government and donors in achieving the goals identified by the government in its national policies and strategies;*
- *working to improve the government systems--such as procurement and financial management--to international standards so that we can adopt them; and*

- *harmonizing, streamlining and simplifying donor requirements through joint formulation/missions/projects/workshop/reporting etc.*

Rome Declaration #3: 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 to our managers and staff at headquarters and in country offices and to other in-country development partners.

In Yemen, we will produce a Partnership Report every year for a Consultative Group meeting. These reports will take stock of progress and will enable government and donors to share emerging good practices with the donors' headquarters and with the international community.

Rome Declaration #4: 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.

In Yemen, we will encourage all development partners to look at ways to provide assistance through delegated cooperation – including those donors without an in-country presence.

Rome Declaration #5: 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.

In Yemen, this will mean that increasingly we will recognize and reward results achieved through collaboration rather than the number of inputs.

Rome Declaration #6: Providing support for country analytic work in ways that will strengthen government's 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.

In Yemen, we will make efforts to have all analytic work carried out in harmony with the relevant sectoral Thematic Working Groups (TWG), thereby avoiding duplication, and achieving government ownership and building government capacity. Furthermore, both the GoY and donors recognize the importance of civil society in undertaking policy research and dialogue. Donors will support the government in fulfilling its responsibilities to undertake open, inclusive and respectful consultations with Yemeni civil society when undertaking studies or developing policies.

Rome Declaration #7: 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.

In Yemen, this will mean that we will make efforts to provide Technical Assistance necessary for meeting capacity development needs which were identified at the sector/program level and within the framework of the relevant sectoral TWG -- and where appropriate, in the context of a Sector Wide

Approach—so as to move towards more integrated and demand-driven technical assistance and more sustainable capacity.

Rome Declaration #8: 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.

In Yemen, in addition to the actions spelled out in point 8, we will make efforts to provide full information to GoY on ODA flows (including contributions to NGOs) in a timely manner, to enable integration into budget cycle, improve predictability of resources, provide more medium-term indication of donor support to Yemen, in the context of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

Rome Declaration #9: Promoting harmonized approaches in global and regional programs.

In Yemen, we will aim to do this within the context and framework of global and regional programs.

THE WAY FORWARD

We, the Government of Yemen and the development partners of Yemen express our willingness to implement the GoY upcoming National Action Plan on Harmonization and Alignment and to monitor progress in implementing the Plan, which will be reported through a joint Government-Donor Consultative Group process that would meet twice a year.

On its part, the Government of Yemen will undertake the necessary reforms to enhance transparency and accountability especially in the areas of procurement, financial management and reduction of corruption.

We, the development partners will aim to make the planning and delivery of our assistance more transparent so that we can increase the accountability of all development actors and to improve aid effectiveness to maximize its benefits for the Yemeni people.

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

We, the undersigned, hereby confirm our willingness to jointly work on enhancing aid effectiveness and efficiency in Yemen.

Signed this day, January 30, 2005 in Sana'a, Yemen.

For the Government of Yemen

Ahmed M. SOFAN

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation



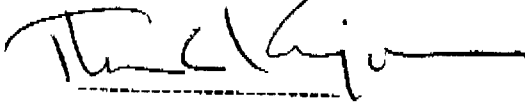
Representatives of bilateral and multilateral development donor partners in Yemen:



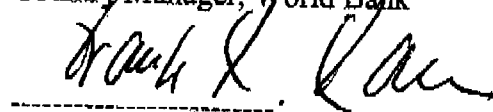
Acting Ambassador of the Netherlands



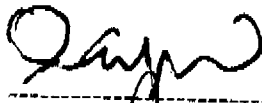
Country Manager, World Bank



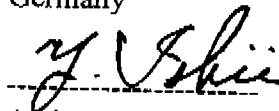
Ambassador of The United States



Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany



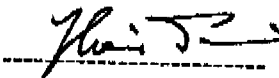
Ambassador of Italy



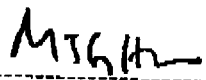
Ambassador of Japan



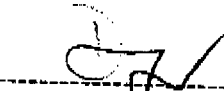
Ambassador of France



Resident Coordinator
UN System



Ambassador of the United Kingdom



Charge d'affaires, EC Delegation Yemen