



## Joint SDC/seco Statement on Aid Effectiveness

Following the adoption of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness on March 2, 2005

**Switzerland remains committed to** the Declarations of Monterrey, Rome and Marrakech as well as to the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In order to reach the MDGs and to implement Poverty Reduction Strategies and related national development strategies, it is crucial to further improve the effectiveness of development cooperation and its instruments.

Representatives of donors and partner countries met in March 2005 in Paris and made significant progress by adopting a number of Partnership Commitments. Switzerland has actively contributed to the elaboration of the Paris Declaration. It therefore confirms its commitments which cover the following areas:

1. **Ownership:** Respect the partner countries' national priorities. Help strengthening these countries' national development strategies and associated operational frameworks (e.g., planning, budget, and performance assessment frameworks).
2. **Alignment:** Increase alignment of aid with partner countries' priorities and also with their systems and procedures. Help to strengthen their capacities. Define mutually measures and standards of performance and accountability of partner country systems in line with broadly accepted good practices.
3. **Harmonisation:** Harmonise and simplify donor policies and procedures to make them as cost-effective as possible. Eliminate duplication of efforts with a pragmatic approach to the division of labour.
4. **Managing for Results:** Link decision-making, resource management and country programming to results and align them with effective partner country performance assessment frameworks.
5. **Mutual Accountability:** Enhance donors' and partner countries' mutual accountability for commitments made internationally and their respective accountability to their parliaments and citizens for their development results.

Provided that Switzerland shares partner countries' visions and development strategies **it acknowledges** that enhancing aid effectiveness will in many cases require deliberate reduction of excessive fragmentation of donor activities in a given country or sector. Improving aid effectiveness is feasible and necessary across all aid modalities and implies that donors make full use of their respective comparative advantage at sector or country level or delegate, where appropriate, authority to lead donors for the execution of programmes, activities and tasks.

**Switzerland is fully committed** to implement the partnership engagements of the Paris Declaration, recognizing that these commitments need to be implemented in the specific context of each partner country. The Swiss Cooperation Offices (COOFs) are responsible at the country level for the implementation: by assessing opportunities and risks, they are setting the priorities and then define the concrete action lines that derive from these commitments, together with the partner countries' authorities and the development community in the country. The Swiss Headquarters are responsible to provide policy guidance for strategic and institutional issues, supported by a Working Group including seco and SDC representatives.

Switzerland will participate, at country and headquarters level, in periodically assessing mutual progress made with regard to these commitments at country level, qualitatively as well as quantitatively, taking into account the specific indicators that have been agreed upon and the quantitative targets that will be agreed until September 2005. In its actions, Switzerland will be guided by the overarching goal of poverty reduction and the firm belief that enhancing aid effectiveness is an essential contribution to this goal.