

The picture of ODA flows to the gender sector is that primary assistance is received principally from the UN, Norway and the Netherlands. For both the UN the type of assistance is channelled through Technical Assistance. Norway has traditionally directed its assistance to civil society organisations. The Netherlands has directed funds directly to government. There are instances though of joint assistance such as in the support for the recent consultations on the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness regional consultations and Gender equality integration into National processes, held in Livingstone, July 2007 where Sweden and Canada also chipped in.

As observed above, the substance of the Paris Declaration in general was informed by the current discussions at the time, with regard to gaps in the Rome Declaration and the Monterrey Consensus in presenting a relatively homogenous set of principles and commitments in relation to improving Aid Delivery mechanisms. At a national level the 'Memorandum of Understanding on the Coordination and Harmonisation of GRZ/Donor practices for Aid Effectiveness' (Government of the Republic of Zambia, April 2004) was the guide to the foreign aid reform process. The shorter name by which it is known is the

towards its already intended programmes through its own institutional frames with a view to ensuring that country leadership is supported. In other words, those development partners in the sector need to support government priorities by using government aid delivery mechanisms. This ensures the partnership minimises the creation of parallel implementing units at the expense of the overall or selected components of the country's Aid Policy.

In Zambia the policy framework for this alignment is basically the Aid Policy and Strategy for Zambia. However compliance to its use overall and specifically in the implementation of the advancement of gender equity cannot be measured at this stage in view of the novelty of the policy. It is only in the past year that it has begun to be put to use. In addition it should further be noted that a number of capacity constraints accompany the dissemination of the Aid Policy.

Under **Alignment**, as with the following element of **Harmonisation**, the Joint Program of Support to the Gender Sector may be said to be the immediate translation of the Aid Policy into a sector-based strategy. The Joint Program outlines the areas of support that the various Cooperating Partners in supporting the sector would participate in. This will allow for cooperating partners to constantly liaise with GIDD on their implementation of both the Fifth National Development Plan section on Gender together and the mainstreamed elements of other sectors pertaining to Gender equality programmes and activities. This approach may be referred to as a Sector Wide Approach to Programming (SWAP).

Another area promoted within the context of alignment is the use of Direct Budget Support. In Zambia the Poverty Reduction Budget Support programme is the closest comparison to this with the number of signatories growing towards 10. The objective of Direct Budget Support is to ensure that funds granted to government placed into the treasury's account are transmitted to the set sector goals using government machinery. This way the funds would then be subject to disbursement, reporting, accounting, auditing and monitoring and evaluation in accord with pre-existing government capacities. This does away with increased transaction costs through separate management of the assistance.

There have been concerns concerning this area from various quarters particularly with respect to the risk of marginalizing cross cutting areas from the priority of funding. However with

In mid 2006 the government met with all the cooperating partners under the Harmonisation MoU and through a drawn out consultative process allocated the sectors of support that each cooperating partner would be positioned in. This was referred to as the Division of Labour. During the time the criterion used for these placements included historical presence in the sector, institutional/skills capacity of cooperating partners, an attempt to keep sectoral involvement to about three and quite importantly being well received by the line Ministry in the sector. This forms the basis of the Joint Programme of Support to the Gender Sector outlined in the **Alignment** section above.

Managing for Development results

In the Paris Declaration the expectation is that countries being assisted should within the context of their national plans have a framework for evaluation of results. These results should allow for adjustments where necessary in ensuring sustainability to the results. Zambia's monitoring framework in this regard though extensively developed is yet to go through the rigours of process app Minatit(pr)-7.e s ant moe seli tpuesu n thsat noributg(t) within ddst mT

