

Weekly Compass

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Editor's Pick

New GOVNET resources on aid and domestic accountability

At their meeting on 2 March, members of the Network on Governance (GOVNET) of the OECD Development Assistance Committee discussed the 2011-12 workplan. The focus is on improving donor approaches for better governance and domestic accountability across the key themes of aid effectiveness, economic growth and conflict and fragility. One of the main objectives for compiling this body of work is to provide the evidence and analysis needed to produce "Action-oriented Policy Paper and Operational Guidance on Aid and Domestic Accountability" ahead of the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Seoul in 2011. The final workplan will be adopted at a high level OECD-DAC meeting on 14-15 April. [Click here](#) to view the documents.

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Policy News

New study: African poverty is falling much faster than you think!

A recently published [US National Bureau of Economic Research \(NBER\) Working Paper](#) goes against the conventional wisdom that Africa is not reducing poverty. Basing their analysis on income distributions, poverty rates, and inequality and welfare indices for African countries for the period 1970-2006, Columbia University's Xavier Sala-i-Martin and MIT's Maxim Pinkovskiy conclude that: (1) African poverty is falling and is falling rapidly; (2) if present trends continue, the poverty Millennium Development Goal of halving the proportion of people with incomes less than one dollar a day will be achieved on time; (3) the growth spurt that began in 1995 decreased African income inequality instead of increasing it; and (4) African poverty reduction is remarkably general: it cannot be explained by a large country, or even by a single set of countries possessing some beneficial geographical or historical characteristic.

European conflict resolution policies. Truncated peace-building

The importance of the 'security, governance and development' trinity in Europe's attempts to temper conflict and state fragility is acknowledged in the European Security Strategy. But according to this [paper from the Madrid-based Foundation for International Relations and External Dialogue \(FRIDE\)](#), European policies in situations of conflict or fragility remain ineffectual, often unduly

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Dear,

There has been quite a lot of press coverage this week on the inter-institutional wrangling over the EU's emerging External Action Service, particularly with regard to where development cooperation will fit within it. The European Commission is due to consider proposals next week, but delays are now expected in the service's establishment. The EC also launched the Europe 2020 Strategy designed to exit the economic crisis and prepare the EU economy for the next decade. The African Development Bank published several papers relating to regional integration on the continent while SADC-EC EPA negotiations were held. The agenda and documents for the next round of formal UN climate change negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change were also published this week. For more on all this and all the latest news on international relations, development, economic, trade and governance policies, see the [Weekly Compass-Extended Version](#).

All the best,

Melissa

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Extended version in PDF

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Off the track

Into EurAsia: Monitoring the EU's Central Asia Strategy. FRIDE.

The EU Strategy for Central Asia was introduced in 2007 to upgrade the EU's cooperation with the five states of the region: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. This report underlines the need to sharpen the operational effectiveness of the strategy and formulates recommendations for all sectors. It also considers how the strategy fits

narrow in scope and at odds with the EU's declared integrated approach. The authors argue that while most criticism has focused on the problematic civil-military link in crisis management, it is in the broader politics of peacebuilding that European policies are most seriously deficient.

Input invited on EU migration and asylum thematic programme

The objective of this [on-line consultation](#) on the EU's cooperation with third countries is to assess whether this strategy still adequately reflects political priorities and the current international context. The findings will feed into the programme's multi-annual strategy for the period 2011-2013. An Issues Paper has been published to stimulate reflection on the future rationale, scope, strategic objectives and priorities, approach and implementation modalities for the programme. The deadline for reactions is 31 March 2010.

Showcasing south-south cooperation's synergies with the aid effectiveness agenda

The European Commission's [Capacity4Dev website](#) informs readers that over 100 case studies from around the world have been submitted to South-South Opportunity's call to receive information detailing effective south-south cooperation in practice. The studies demonstrate how southern partners have come together around a host of issues from supporting slum dwellers to developing cooperation strategies on disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration. The case studies are to be fed into preparations for the upcoming high level event on south-south cooperation in Bogota from the 24 - 26 March. There, participants are expected to thrash out policy recommendations ahead of the 2011 High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in South Korea.

The G20 in 2050. Policy Consequences of Long-Term Growth Dynamics

With developing countries growing much faster than industrialised ones, the coming 40 years will see emerging markets dominate the world economy in 2050 - with China, the United States, and India being the three largest economies according to two [working papers from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace \(US\)](#). One focuses on economic growth, carbon emissions, and poverty and the other on trade, capital flows, and the rise of the global middle and rich class.

Capacity development: More work needed to put principles into practice

Multi-stakeholder networks are vital to successful capacity development. But managing these relationships is complex and time-consuming which can be a disincentive to donors under political and time pressure to implement programmes. This was one conclusion from the expert seminar '[Next Steps in Capacity Development: Dealing with Multi Stakeholder Systems](#)', organised by SNV and ECDPM on 22 February in The Hague. Insights from the ECDPM study '[Capacity, Change and Performance](#)' were considered, as were case studies. A panel including officials from The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs agreed that further discussion is necessary in order to be able to apply the principles of capacity development to specific multi-stakeholder systems. The seminar was the first event in the SNV series 'Innovations in Capacity Development.'

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also considers how the strategy fits into the EU's worldview and presents a test case of how the EU may shape up to meet its newly enhanced foreign policy responsibilities. [Click here](#).

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