

PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENT

between

**AUSTRALIA'S
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE (DFAT)**

and

**THE UNITED KINGDOM'S
DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DFID)**

Introduction

1. The Government of Australia and the Government of the United Kingdom have a strong bilateral relationship which extends across a wide ranging agenda including foreign policy, security, trade and investment and international development.
2. Emerging global development challenges demand innovative approaches and agile partnerships. By working together, Australia and the United Kingdom can extend the reach and influence of their development programs and influence the global development agenda. Together, DFAT and DFID can achieve action on issues including: economic growth for development; innovative financing; and global development norms, systems and architecture.
3. In 2014, Australian and British officials met for the inaugural Australia-United Kingdom Development Dialogue. It was decided at the Dialogue that the Partnership Arrangement (2008) should be updated to reflect the maturing relationship between the organisations, changes in the international development landscape, and thus mutual priorities.
4. This Partnership Arrangement outlines the principles and objectives for future collaboration and reaffirms the basis for ongoing dialogue and cooperation between DFAT and DFID. This Partnership Arrangement is not a treaty and is not governed by international law.

Partnership Principles

5. The Partnership will be guided by the following principles:
 - a) An emphasis on pursuing opportunities of mutual benefit to DFAT and DFID
 - b) A commitment to creating professional relationships characterised by mutual respect, honesty and trust; sharing ideas and open communication at all levels
 - c) Recognition of the depth and range of international development experience that each organisation brings to the partnership

- d) A commitment to consult on issues of shared interest, and to seek opportunities for cooperation when working in multilateral institutions, regional and global leadership fora and partner countries
- e) Respect for the different mandates, institutional settings, and organisational cultures of DFAT and DFID
- f) A commitment to pursue best practice in international development policy, aid program delivery and corporate governance, and
- g) Readiness to liaise closely with one another where one Partner has delegated responsibility for the management and implementation of co-financed programs.

Strategic Objectives

- 6. Australia and the United Kingdom are both committed to:
 - a) Reducing poverty through promoting sustained economic growth
 - b) Action on global poverty within the international development architecture and other global development fora
 - c) Pursuing highly effective and efficient development programs
 - d) Working to improve the effectiveness of multilateral organisations
 - e) Working together where it is practical and beneficial to do so, including through delegated cooperation and co-financing of development programs, and
 - f) Continuing to build on our organisational and shared strengths.

Priority Areas, Coordination and Implementation

- 7. Australia and the United Kingdom share a range of priorities in common. These priorities form the basis of ongoing collaboration and coordination in pursuit of our shared objectives. DFAT and DFID will hold an annual development dialogue to review and progress cooperation under this Partnership Arrangement, including deciding the top priorities for the year ahead.
- 8. DFAT and DFID will maintain an evolving joint work program as a tool to manage ongoing cooperation. The work program will identify shared priorities, opportunities to exchange information or other collaborative working arrangements. It will be regularly reviewed and updated by both parties. The initial joint work program is set out in Annex A to this Partnership Arrangement.

Duration

- 9. This updated Partnership Arrangement will come into effect on the date of signature on the two original copies, and will supersede any pre-existing arrangements between the parties.

10. This Partnership Arrangement will terminate when either DFAT or DFID make a written request to end the Arrangement.

Amendment

11. This Partnership Arrangement may be modified at any time by an exchange of letters between DFAT and DFID.

Dispute Resolution

12. Any dispute which arises out of the interpretation or application of this Arrangement will be resolved through amicable consultations and negotiations between the Partners.

Status of Arrangement

13. This Arrangement is a document which embodies the understanding of DFAT and DFID and does not create legally binding rights or obligations.

SIGNED in London on the 10th day of March 2014.

**For the Department of
Foreign Affairs and Trade**



**Mr Peter Varghese
Secretary**

**For the Department for International
Development**



**Mr Mark Lowcock
Permanent Secretary**

ANNEX A to DFAT-DFID Partnership Arrangement

Joint Work Program – 2014

DFAT-DFID 2014 Priorities

In March 2014, DFAT and DFID agreed to the following **four priority areas** for cooperation:

- Economic growth and development, including aid for trade and leveraging the private sector
- Gender equality and women's empowerment
- Humanitarian and conflict approaches, and
- Global development policy agendas, including the G20 development agenda, post-2015 development framework and development finance.

DFAT-DFID shared objectives

In addition to the priorities listed above, both agencies have a broader range of shared development objectives, where they could consider expanding collaboration:

- (a) Share strategies and identify possible joint initiatives to **leverage private sector finance** and improve the provision of infrastructure for growth and trade (including aid for trade).
- (b) Work together to support **innovation to catalyse economic growth** in the developing world.
- (c) Maintain strong cooperation within the **G20 Development Working Group**, including on development issues, governance and linking to the broader G20 agenda.
- (d) Maintain and strengthen joint advocacy on areas of common interest through the **post-2015** negotiations (including on development finance).
- (e) Work together to build an international architecture that can harness a broad range of **development finance** sources to more effectively deliver sustainable development.
- (f) Advocate for gender equality to be central to the global development agenda and identify opportunities to work together on international and local initiatives that promote **gender equality and women's empowerment**.
- (g) Promote disaster and conflict resilience in **international humanitarian responses** and support initiatives that protect the most vulnerable. Work closely together to respond to emerging crises.
- (h) Work in partnership to support effective development in **fragile and conflict-affected states**, including sharing information on best practice, risk and evidence for results.
- (i) Leverage the Australia-UK development partnership to improve **aid effectiveness**, including through evidence-based knowledge sharing and focusing the activities of global fora.
- (j) Continue harnessing opportunities for the reform of international institutions, and improve the efficiency of our **assessment of multilateral organisations** by aligning and coordinating our assessments as far as possible and sharing evidence, tools and results.
- (k) Share best practice on **disability-inclusive development** and continue to identify and address gaps, including in the education sector and through multilateral fora.
- (l) Maintain strong existing **in-country partnerships** in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Kenya, Pakistan and South Sudan. Continue to explore opportunities for joint programming in countries and regions of mutual interest, including through delegated cooperation.