



HARMONIZING PARTNERSHIPS IN SUPPORT OF GPRS II

**Perspectives of Development Partners
and Non- State Actors**

Report on Growth and Poverty Forum (GPF)
Meeting with Development Partners

May 31, 2006

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List of Acronyms

GPF	Growth and Poverty Forum
CSO's	Civil Society Organisations
GPRS-II	Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy
NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
CGM	Consultative Group Meeting
JAS	Joint Assistance Strategy
HIPC	Highly Indebted Poor Countries
GPRS-I	Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy
APR	Annual Progress Report
DA's	District Assemblies
MDA's	Ministries Departments and Agencies
DCE's	District Chief Executives
JSS	Junior Secondary School
MDBS	Multi-Donor Budget Support
GPS	Ghana Partnership Strategy
JAS	Joint Assistance Strategy
RCC's	Regional Coordinating Councils

1. Welcome and Introduction

Emmanuel Akwetey

The Growth and Poverty Forum (GPF) is a group of non-state actors - comprising civil society and private sector, organizations. The term, non-state actors, does not mean that the GPF is against the state. It rather means that the member organizations are not employees of the state; neither do they occupy formal positions in the state system.

This meeting has been called to initiate dialogue between the country's development partners on the one hand, and civil society and the private sector on the other. The reason is that government has forged a partnership with the development community to drive its programme of poverty reduction and accelerated economic growth. This partnership excludes civil society organizations and the private sector which have an equal stake in the development of this country. Yet the success of government's policy of poverty reduction and accelerated economic growth depends to a considerable extent on the involvement at various levels of the non-state actors in the process.

In particular, these objectives could be achieved if the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS II) is based on a partnership that includes non-state actors. It is only when this inclusiveness is achieved that the GPRS could become a genuine national policy and institutional framework that encompasses all levels and sectors of society and economy. This has not happened in the past and is not happening now. The GPF has taken the initiative to convene this meeting in order to bridge this lacuna.

For sometime now members of the GPF have been meeting to review their role in the policy process, with particular reference to government's development policy, and strategize on forging partnerships to discuss ways in which they could contribute to government's development policy for poverty reduction and accelerated economic growth.

The position of GPF may be summarized as follows. First, civil society and the private sector must work closely with the government because the two play complimentary roles which if effectively harnessed will ensure the rapid economic and social development of the country. For this partnership to be productive it must encompass the development partners, and other state institutions like parliament, who will dialogue together on critical issues such as the nation's development strategy and policy framework.

Second, civil society and the private sector should be pro-active. They should not wait to be invited to meetings of this kind. They must take the initiative to bring issues out and engage other stakeholders in the partnership. To be effective civil society and the private sector should be adequately prepared to engage the partners at various junctures of the public policy process, from the inception of the policy idea, through formulation, to monitoring and evaluation, and review stages.

Third, civil society and private sector organizations should build their capacities in various respects to enable them respond to the dynamics and challenges of the public policy process and contribute to re-shaping and re-directing the process for the benefit of the people of Ghana.

So far the GPF has engaged the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) and parliament in the formulation of the GPRS II. This meeting should lay the foundation for dialogue development partners and government on national development policy so that collectively all stakeholders could contribute to the attainment of the objectives of the GPRS II.