



Wohllebengasse 12-14
1040 Vienna ■ Austria
Tel: +43 1 3197949-0 ■ Fax -15
office@trialog.or.at
Skype: trialog.office
www.trialog.or.at

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TRIALOG Interview with Javier Pereira – author of the AidWatch Report 2009

Video Transcription:

“How was aid data collection in the NMS this year?”

I think this year the situation was much better. I mean we covered a lot more data from NMS. There were still some problems, but the same that we have with old member states in terms that in April the situation data is still not final data so there still can be some changes but I think the situation has improved and NMS, they have managed to get pretty good data this year.

“How do NMS compare when it comes to aid quantity?”

The situation is more diverse among OMS there are countries above their commitments and there are countries far below their commitments. In the case of NMS we can see that most of them are not meeting their targets and also the situation is much more unpredictable from one year to another; you can see huge changes in aid levels.

“How were the countries that the stunt focused on chosen?”

Well we focused on these four countries because we felt they needed a bigger push. They are all big donors and very important donors and we wanted to do something to improve the situation. We didn't really have time to include more so we tried to balance the pros and cons. It was also representing 4 different situations and as I mentioned before, the situation is more diverse among OMS so it allowed us to highlight a very good country, a very bad country and a country doing good and a country doing badly.

“Is aid inflation as much of a problem in the NMS as it is in the OMS?”

We didn't have as much data for NMS as we have for OMS but we have seen for instance for those countries we have data for like the Czech Republic for instance that aid inflation is a big problem there. Next year we hope to be able to kind of have more about this situation but to this moment it is difficult to say but everything seems to indicate that it is a big problem.

“Which aid effectiveness issues are relevant in the NMS?”

For instance gender. I mean gender because it takes a long time to implement gender policies in development. NMS some of them, most of them have also only been working on development issues for the last 10 years maybe. So it takes a long time to get to the situation when they have all these systems in place in terms of accountability for instance. It is also different and it also affects conditionality because a lot of their aid goes to multilateral alliances and multilateral channels instead of being bilateral assistance and this means they don't have a strong organisation providing aid so they don't have a strong position. They give the aid to the United Nations for example, and then the United Nations provides aid to other countries.