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DEEPENING ENHANCED ENGAGEMENT: GUIDELINES TO COMMITTEES

This document contains the Guidelines to Committees approved and declassified by Council.

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DEEPENING ENHANCED ENGAGEMENT

BACKGROUND

- *Enhanced Engagement with Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and South Africa (EE5) was launched in 2007 to make the OECD a more open, inclusive and global organisation. Ministers noted on this occasion that the Organisation must be increasingly sensitive to diversity, and display greater understanding for the many different paths that lead to growth and development. A central element of Enhanced Engagement was meant to be direct and active participation of the EE5 in the work of the OECD's official bodies.*
- *The progress report C/MIN(2010)8 highlights the progress achieved in Enhanced Engagement over the last year. It shows how engagement has increased in terms of specific country reviews and participation of the EE5 in mainstream OECD projects and official bodies. Regarding participation in OECD bodies, this increase has for most of the EE5 taken the form of a greater number of ad-hoc observerships, rather than more sustained forms of participation and Enhanced Engagement has not yet resulted in a more comprehensive, whole of government, commitment by the five countries to working with the Organisation as a whole.*
- *The Secretary-General's Strategic orientations paper C/MIN(2010)1 suggests that, after three years, we need to improve the quality, the depth, the breadth and the level of trust with our Enhanced Engagement partners. This would include significantly upgrading our work with those countries, as well as integrating them further into our analysis.*
- *Over the last few months an exchange of views on how to move forward with EE has taken place in the External Relations Committee and the Council and, at the recent MCM, Members confirmed their wish to deepen the co-operation with the EE5 in the substantive work of the Organisation [see C/MIN(2010)6/FINAL – paragraph 16.1].*
- *As part of this effort, the Council has decided to provide OECD subsidiary bodies with a set of guidelines outlining the priority of engaging the five EE partners more deeply in the work of the Organisation. These guidelines are intended to complement, as far as Enhanced Engagement countries are concerned, the principles contained in the 2004 Resolution of the Council concerning the participation of non-members in the work of subsidiary bodies of the Organisation [C(2004)132/FINAL].*

GUIDELINES TO COMMITTEES FOR DEEPENING ENHANCED ENGAGEMENT

1. In accordance with Council's decision, the Secretary-General will request substantive Committees to review the Global Relations Strategy they developed in accordance with the Resolution of the Council C(2004)132/FINAL in order to ensure that such strategies adequately reflect the Organisation's priority to deepen and broaden the engagement with Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and South Africa (EE5). Committees should involve in this review their subordinate bodies in order to ensure a comprehensive and integrated approach to the engagement of the EE5 in their work.
2. With the active support of the Secretariat, the reviews should consider the best ways of ensuring the active involvement of the EE5 in ongoing and future work on strategic priorities which are of mutual interest and mutual benefit and which advance the OECD's high standards and best practices. Special attention should be given to the possibility of inviting the EE5 as full participants, including in the framework of the negotiation of an OECD instrument or of a specific project as provided for in C(2004)132/FINAL. Consideration should also be given to the engagement of EE5, at an early stage, in major horizontal projects and flagship initiatives, as well as involvement in peer reviews and surveillance mechanisms and in high level and Ministerial meetings and their preparations. In addition, Committees are strongly encouraged to look for other opportunities to advance collaboration with the EE5.
3. In order to achieve a more structured and systematic process of engagement, the review should consider how to tailor the engagement with each particular partner, including as appropriate through direct discussions. In order to promote mutual trust and commitment, and to take the work forward in a strategic manner, Committees might develop, as appropriate, a "Plan for Engagement" with EE partners individually. Such Plans would identify specific actions, and their possible sequencing, aimed at facilitating a deeper engagement with the Committee over time. Stronger participation as ad hoc observers and moving towards more sustained forms of participation of EE partners notably as regular observers and full participants should be encouraged through this process when appropriate, as well as their inclusion in databases and adhesion to policy standards, disciplines and instruments managed by the Committee. In addition to the regular fees, an increased contribution of the EE countries to the Committee's outputs should be sought, including in the form of grants to projects of particular interest to them.
4. The review should also consider how Regional Approaches and Global Forums, as appropriate, can contribute to a deeper engagement with EE partners.
5. Committees should seek to ensure the global relevance of their work. Therefore, they are encouraged to take account of the views of the EE5 in work to address global issues.
6. To ensure that Global Relations strategies will remain relevant in the future and that Committees' PWBs are based on up to date strategies, Committees are asked to review their Global Relations strategies biennially, in parallel to the preparations of their biennial programmes of work. It is intended to incorporate the biennial renewals of the invitations to Regular Observer into this exercise as of 2012.
7. Drawing on input from the Committees and the External Relations Committee, the Secretary-General is invited to provide to the Council, by end December 2010, and regularly thereafter, progress reports on the implementation of these guidelines.