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OECD-DAC/SDC BILATERAL DONOR AGENCIES MEETING

Draft Agenda

Knowledge and People-Centred Communications: Potentials and Pitfalls for Poverty Reduction and Advancement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Wednesday, 1 September 2004, Geneva, Switzerland

This document is circulated for INFORMATION.

The invitation letter has been sent out by the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation.

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OECD-DAC / SDC BILATERAL DONOR AGENCIES MEETING

Knowledge and People-Centred Communication: Potentials and Pitfalls for Poverty Reduction and Advancements of MDGs

Geneva, Switzerland, 1 September 2004

DRAFT AGENDA

This event organised by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) provides a special opportunity to discuss latest trends, perspectives and pitfalls of using Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in development and poverty reduction.

The unique feature of this event is the exclusive focus on the development and poverty dimension. It is an opportunity to discuss the issues among bilateral development agencies. This debate will complement the large number of ICT4D conferences where the bilateral development agencies are a small minority. During two multi-stakeholder panels and key note speeches, an update on the latest debate will be provided ranging from the ministerial to the grassroots level.

9.30 WELCOME COFFEE

Networking and registration

10:00 OPENING AND WELCOME

Walter Fust

Director-General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Welcome including some brief remarks on latest trends and importance of ICT4D, the WSIS and OECD. Setting the overall frame.

10:05 ENHANCING ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION THROUGH ICTs IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. LESSONS, PERSPECTIVES FOR ACTION AND ROLES OF THE STAKEHOLDERS

Lidia Brito

Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Mozambique

Keynote Speech: Providing a vision and concrete lessons on how knowledge and people-centred communication enhanced through ICTs can make a difference in national development efforts.

10:20 **EMPOWERING THE POOR THROUGH ICT ENHANCED GRASSROOT COMMUNICATION. VISION AND CONCRETE LESSONS FROM THE SELF EMPLOYED WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (SEWA), INDIA**

Namrata Bali, SEWA Secretary General, Self Employed Women's Association, India

Keynote Speech: Concrete story, vision and lessons from the grassroots action level (SEWA is a self-help association of 700,000 women working in the informal sector).

10:35 **BRIEF PRESENTATION ON POVERTY-FOCUSSED ICT FOR DEVELOPMENT: THE MAIN DIMENSIONS OF ICT4D IN RELATION TO POVERTY REDUCTION AND MDGS**

Gerolf Weigel, Head of Division, ICT4D - ICT for Development, SDC

Summary of the latest conceptual framework from a development perspective as basis for the following discussions. Includes a video flash on the theme.

10:45 **COFFEE BREAK**

11:00 **PANEL 1: ICT4D - KNOWLEDGE AND PEOPLE-CENTRED COMMUNICATION: POTENTIALS AND PITFALLS FOR POVERTY REDUCTION AND ADVANCEMENT OF MDGS**

Moderator: Walter Fust, Director-General of SDC

Panel:

Astrid Dufborg, Minister, Special ICT Advisor,
SIDA / Swedish Mission to the UN, Geneva (tbc)

Anriette Esterhuysen, Executive Director,
Association of Progressive Communication (APC)

Abdul Waheed Khan, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information,
UNESCO (tbc)

Thor A. Halvorsen, Executive Vice President,
Telenor Mobile AG, and Member of the Board of Directors, GrameenPhone Ltd.

Debate leading to better understanding on potentials, challenges, concrete approaches and priorities for action as well as the role of donor agencies. Including interaction with the audience (also concerning the two keynote speeches). See Annex for key questions for this panel.

12:30 **DONORS WORKING LUNCH**
(ON INVITATION ONLY; ONE REPRESENTATIVE PER DONOR AGENCY)

Introductory Remarks by:

Walter Fust, Director-General of SDC and **Richard Manning**, DAC Chair

Discussion and Knowledge Sharing.

Process: Each agency has prepared in advance on one (max. 2) pages some well structured key information concerning the conference theme such as their focus, priorities, perspectives, ideas and views. The summary pages will be distributed in advance.

12:30 **PARALLEL TO DONORS WORKING LUNCH:
OPEN NETWORKING LUNCH FOR OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

Learn from concrete examples how knowledge, information and communication enhanced through ICT can contribute to the advancement of the MDGs. Get an overview of latest action, activities and organisations active in ICT4D.

13:10 **JOINT COFFEE AND DESERT WITH ALL PARTICIPANTS**

Informal discussions and knowledge sharing on the conference theme; plus 1 or 2 selective short inputs for inspiration.

14:30 **PANEL 2: MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION, MOVING BEYOND THE "FOREVER PILOT SYNDROME" AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL.**

Debate departing from the examples of the Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative (GeSCI) as well as the Community Multimedia Centre (CMC) Initiative of Mali, Mozambique and Senegal

Moderator: **Richard Manning**, DAC Chair

Panel:

Clotilde Fonseca, Executive Director, Omar Dengo Foundation (tbc)

Wiyandana Jayaweera, Director, CMC Initiative Mali, Mozambique, Senegal

Rinalia Abdul Rahim, Executive Director, GKP

Richard Nyaulawa, founder of Business Care Services, Tanzania

Gerolf Weigel, Head of ICT4D, SDC

Better understanding of implementation potentials, challenges and perspectives, focussing on the scaling up of poverty reduction programmes through multi-stakeholder partnerships. Increased clarity on the role of bilateral development agencies. See Annex for key questions on this panel.

15:45 **CONCLUSIONS FOR OECD-DAC, BILATERAL AGENCIES AS WELL AS THE WSIS AND MDG+5 PREPARATION PROCESS**

Richard Manning, DAC Chair

Wrap up and key messages for follow up.

15.55 **CLOSING REMARKS**

Walter Fust, Director-General of SDC.

16.00 **COFFEE AND FURTHER NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY**

For interested participants

at 16h30

Informal Expert Meeting on ICTs and Poverty Reduction

Geneva, Switzerland, 1 September 2004

Together with the outcome of discussion at the DCD seminar “A Dialogue on ICTs and Poverty: The Harvard Forum” in Paris, 7 July 2004 (see DCD/DIR(2004)16), this joint meeting and related informal expert meeting are expected to contribute to preparation of a good practice paper on ICTs for pro-poor growth, part of our ICT unit’s current work programme, led by Mr. Ichiro Tambo. The first draft of this work will be prepared by the end 2004 through further discussions with ICT experts and POVNET participants.

ANNEX

KEY QUESTIONS FOR PANEL 1 AND 2

PANEL 1

“ICT4D - Knowledge and people centred Communication: Potential and Pitfalls for Poverty Reduction and Advancement of MDGs”, a debate leading to better understanding of potential, challenges, concrete approaches and priorities for action as well as the role of donor agencies.

Key Questions

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) catalyzed rapid changes in the structure and dynamics of the economy and society in rich countries. Many voices in developing countries express concern that the gap between rich and poor will grow further, without special efforts to make the benefits of ICTs available to all. Some development organisations have started programmes to address this issue. Others are rather sceptical and claim that basic needs such as food, health and education have to be tackled first and that research has still to prove the relevance of ICTs for development. Although it is unlikely that the MDGs can be achieved without using ICTs, there is not enough cooperation between the bilateral development agencies and the organisations and processes (e.g. World Summit on the Information Society) related to ICTs.

Questions:

- What ICT features can be used effectively in poverty reduction? How? What changes of approach are required? What are the pitfalls? What approaches are bound to failure? What are the alternatives to ICTs as tools?
- How can improved access to relevant knowledge catalyze poverty reduction driven by the poor themselves? What are the recent trends and lessons learnt?
- Can people-centred communication lead to empowerment, increased transparency and broader ownership of development programmes? How can ICTs facilitate and strengthen such efforts?
- It is relatively easy to count the number of telephone connections. However, use of ICTs faces the same challenges in impact measurement as other development instruments and tools. How can the knowledge and experience of development agencies be used to improve systematic learning processes and monitoring of ICT4D components?
- Combining the range of ICTs - from internet to community radio - tends to be more effective in reaching remote communities than traditional approaches. How can the right mix of ICTs be used in scaling up programmes for achieving the Millennium Development Goals?
- How should bilateral development agencies react to the request from the developing world to be more involved in support of ICT4D? What should their priorities, approach and role be in supporting southern partners in their efforts? What concrete cooperation and joint learning mechanisms should be strengthened?

PANEL 2

“ICT4D “Multi-stakeholder Partnerships in action, moving beyond the "forever pilot syndrome" at the regional level.” Debate departing from the examples of the Global e-school Programme (initiated by the UN ICT Task Force) and the Community Multimedia Centre (CMC) Initiative in Mali, Mozambique and Senegal. This Debate will lead to better understanding of implementation potential, challenges and perspectives on the basis of concrete examples.

Key Questions

There is considerable evidence at the level of pilot projects that ICTs can be powerful tools contributing to poverty reduction and development. There are also lessons on key factors of some failures. ICTs are essential tools for any scaling up effort, because they help reach the masses efficiently and in an interactive manner; they facilitate improvements of services, productivity, transparency and accountability. There is a growing consensus that successful scaling up of ICT4D programmes or components can be realised through multi-stakeholder partnerships only. Neither government, private sector nor civil society can do it in isolation. It also requires adequate capacities, strong local ownership and an enabling policy framework.

Questions:

- Why are Multi-stakeholder Partnerships (MSPs) so important for scaling up? What are the key success factors? What are the main challenges for action through MSPs?
- What can bilateral development agencies do to support better use of ICTs in scaling up poverty reduction programmes? What would be priorities for large scale action within national Poverty Reduction strategies?
- How can bilateral development agencies strengthen synergies, cooperation and joint learning in scaling up ICT4D efforts in poverty reduction strategies?
- How can the WSIS Phase 2 process be better used as an arena contributing to the MDG achievements? Why did many development agencies not participate in WSIS Phase 1? How can the divide between the “ICT Ghetto” and “Development Agencies Ghetto” be bridged to exploit synergies in MDG advancement?