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GUIDANCE FOR SELECTING FIELD VISIT(S) AS PART OF THE PEER REVIEW PROCESS

DAC Meeting, 30 March 2010

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GUIDANCE FOR SELECTING FIELD VISIT(S) AS PART OF THE PEER REVIEW PROCESS

1. Background

1. At its meeting on 8th January 2010, the DAC discussed the selection of countries for field missions as part of Peer Reviews. The DAC requested the Secretariat to prepare guidance on this issue, including the objectives of field missions, criteria for selecting countries for field missions and the number of countries that should be proposed by the reviewed member for the review team's consideration.

2. Objectives of Field Missions

2. The review normally includes one or two one-week visits to the field – depending on the size of the reviewed member's programme and the added value of a second field mission - following the headquarters' (HQ) visit. The purpose of the field mission is twofold: (i) to verify how HQ policies and strategies are implemented at the field level; and (ii) to probe into aid effectiveness efforts by the reviewed donor country. Field missions are also important for learning purposes, highlighting good practice or illuminating how a donor engages in specific contexts (e.g., MICs and fragile states). It is important to note that peer reviews do not evaluate the impact or results of specific programmes or projects at HQ or field level.

3. Criteria for Selecting Countries for Field Missions

3. In selecting options for partner country field visits, the reviewed member should apply the following criteria. (i) The country must be a significant partner for the reviewed member and among the top 10 of its aid recipients; (ii) the country must be representative of the reviewed member's programme for accountability purposes (MDGs, poverty reduction and aid effectiveness must be among the key features); (iii) it should provide an opportunity for the review team to reflect on the reviewed member's engagement in some of the key sectors defined in its development co-operation policies and programmes; (iv) the country should also provide an opportunity for other learning opportunities (such as those related to global issues, exit strategies and aid management issues); and (v) the country should not have been visited by a Peer Review in the previous two years.

4. Choice of Countries for Field Missions

4. In the interests of transparency and objectivity the reviewed member should offer the review team a number of countries from which to choose. The reviewed member should ensure that the countries it selects for consideration by the review team meet the criteria set out in section 3 above. The review team should be offered a choice of one from three countries in cases where there is only one field mission and a choice of two from six countries in cases where the Peer Review includes two field missions. These options should be communicated to the Secretariat at least three months prior to the field mission(s) to allow for consultation with the review team before a final decision is made. In making the final selection, the review team should bear in mind the criteria outlined in section 3 above.

5. Recommendation

5. The DAC is invited to approve the guidance for Peer Review field missions outlined in this paper for immediate application.