

**Unclassified**

**DCD/DAC(2011)1**

Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Économiques  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

**18-Jan-2011**

**English - Or. English**

**DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE  
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE**

**THEMES FOR POSSIBLE DAC SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS  
OVER THE COMING 12-18 MONTHS**

**DAC Meeting, 27 January 2011**

*This document is submitted for DISCUSSION under Item 4 of the Draft Annotated DAC Agenda [DCD/DAC/A(2011)1].*

Contact: Raundi Halvorson-Quevedo - Tel: +33 (0)1 45 24 91 59 -  
E-mail: Raundi.halvorson-quevedo@oecd.org

**JT03295262**

Document complet disponible sur OLIS dans son format d'origine  
Complete document available on OLIS in its original format

DCD/DAC(2011)1  
Unclassified

English - Or. English

## **THEMES FOR POSSIBLE DAC SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS OVER THE COMING 12-18 MONTHS**

### **I. The “new” DAC: injecting substance and political issues into DAC discourse**

1. In response to the reflection exercise and findings from the 2007 OECD Council evaluation of the Committee, the DAC is in the process of strengthening the relevance and effectiveness of its work. The DAC is increasingly conscious of the importance of having regular and timely discussions on substantive issues of direct political relevance to the international development agenda and global economic conjuncture. At the same time, the DAC benefits from the issues (and relevant products) that come forward from its network of subsidiary bodies – which are focused on leading economic and social development challenges, often of a technical/operational/policy nature.

2. In the increasingly complex and contested arena of international discourse and forums, it is essential that the DAC respond to issues of political importance that may not be fully captured in other international fora and through DAC subsidiary body channels. There has been clear demand for some time to have a running set of more aggregate, strategic and pertinent political themes that the DAC could decide to address over the course of future committee meetings which would test and sharpen the discourse. Further, the new DAC Chair would like to engage with Ministers on political issues that require timely and concerted attention – and the DAC can play a useful role in ferreting out and exploring these in the first instance.

3. A preliminary set of possible discussion topics is set out below. In the course of the DAC’s discussion on 27 January<sup>1</sup>, members are invited to comment on the preliminary list and identify additional themes that members, from a substantial and political perspective, consider of high priority for moving forward the agenda of the “new” DAC. At its meeting on 27 January, the Committee should reach a broad common understanding on a targeted set of priority topics for the forthcoming twelve to eighteen months. This should be done with a view to defining a set of possible substantive priority themes for upcoming meetings. With a view to doing this, and given the need for focus and the reality of resource constraints, the list of themes should be roughly equivalent to the number of DAC Committee meetings during the period in question.

4. The list will be a “living” document, from which the themes can be revised, removed or new themes added. Consequently, non-inclusion in the list should not be understood to exclude discussion of an issue, should members or circumstances deem it relevant to add new themes over the coming months. The DAC Chair intends to forward the list to 2011 Senior Level Meeting participants for further feedback and guidance. This will be done immediately following the DAC meeting in order to arrive at a non-prioritized list from which further planning of the DAC’s agenda over the coming 12-18 months can be made. Subsequently, the list will appear in each draft annotated DAC agenda under the usual heading “Preview of future DAC meetings and tentative topics”.

---

1. Written proposals can be forwarded to the Secretariat ([Raundi.Halvorson-Quevedo@oecd.org](mailto:Raundi.Halvorson-Quevedo@oecd.org)) prior to the meeting.

## II. Potential discussion topics

5. The following preliminary list of discussion topics -- coming from both DAC members at the September 2010 DAC Retreat and from the DAC bureau -- has been identified as meriting consideration. Members are invited to share their views on these and possible other priority themes as regards approach, scope, and DAC value-added.

- Achieving the MDGs and the DAC contribution to the MDGs for the future.
- The DAC contribution to the Busan High Level Forum
- How to defend ODA in a contested budget environment?
- Development, diplomacy and defence: towards a coherent and balanced approach
- Working in fragile states: risk taking, results management and accountability
- How can Development Ministers and Heads of Agencies help promote Policy Coherence for Development, and what do they need from the DAC to successfully play this role?
- Demonstrating results: value for money and mutual accountability.
- Innovative finance: health funding models, climate change financing, and fragile states.
- Aid architecture: from fragmentation towards division of labour
- Addressing Global Public Goods to meet the challenges of a changing and inter-connected world.
- Innovative solutions to accelerate development.
- Engaging non-DAC providers of development assistance.

## III. Issues for discussion

**What are the most important strategic issues that your ministers are grappling with – and for which the DAC could provide support e.g. analysis, political consensus on how to address/next steps, strong political messages, etc.?**