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Working Party on Aid Effectiveness and Donor Practices

DRAFT SUMMARY OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE JOINT VENTURE ON MANAGING FOR DEVELOPMENT RESULTS

Held on 10 April 2006 at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague

This document is submitted FOR APPROVAL at the next meeting of the Joint Venture on Managing for Development Results.

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**DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE
JOINT VENTURE ON MANAGING FOR DEVELOPMENT RESULTS**

10 APRIL 2006

Adoption of the Agenda

1. The meeting's agenda as proposed was adopted by the members.

Summary of the sixth meeting (agenda item 1)

2. The summary of the sixth meeting of the JV was endorsed by the meeting without proposals for changes.

Joint Venture MfDR Work programme (agenda item 2)

Sourcebook MfDR (Task B2 - agenda 2.1)

3. Hard copies of the English and French versions of Edition #1 were available at the meeting; the Spanish version is being completed in one or two weeks. The Chinese government has taken an interest and has translated the Sourcebook into Chinese.
4. Members pointed at the need to distribute the Sourcebook to partner countries and invite their inputs for the next Edition #2. The suggestion was made to include more guidance on how to search for specific information in the web-based version.
5. Susan Stout indicated that the World Bank is prepared to continue to invest staff time in further development of the Sourcebook (cases preparations, etc) and to support the Review Panel in the same way as for Edition #1 (with partner country involvement, like in the Ottawa meeting).
6. Costs involved in the further dissemination of the Sourcebook, including distribution costs, and possibly the production and distribution of a CD-Rom, are to be included by the Secretariat in the budget proposals to be discussed by the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness – the parent body of the JV.
7. On the question by the Chair for members to volunteer to participate in the work of the Review panel, no immediate reactions from members were received in the meeting. *Members are invited to consider and discuss in their agencies their possible participation in the Sourcebook Review Panel and communicate a positive response to the Secretariat.*

Harmonisation around Results Reporting and Monitoring (task C - agenda item 2.2)

8. Susan Stout (World Bank) summarised the status of this task as follows. The work on this task, based on 4 case studies, is completed and summarised in a synthesis report. The disappointing finding seems to be that there is rather little harmonisation around results reporting – the problem here is big and, the response to that is still thin. The Synthesis Paper documents the problem but remains unclear on the

way forward. She suggested at this point to distribute – but not “publish” – the Synthesis Paper for comments from members, and to include some core messages on the subject in the Sourcebook Edition #2.

9. Members indicated that the fact that there appears to be very little progress in harmonization around (partner country) results reporting only does make the issue more important. A strong message is to be conveyed to donors that the transaction costs for partners are very high and that donors should act here and actively seek to harmonise and support capacity development in this field. We should however be specific on what donors should do – and what partners should do – to improve this situation. It was suggested to link this task to the Mutual Learning Initiative, and discuss the issue in the MLI workshops. The subject will undoubtedly be discussed also at the Roundtable.

10. The Chair concluded that the Synthesis Paper plus some key messages should be distributed by the task team (World Bank and AfDB) to the members for comments. The issue indeed deserves due attention in the MLI workshops when results statistics are being discussed.

Results-based allocations (task B3)

11. The Secretariat indicated that an end-report was produced by the task team (DfID and AFD) and sent to the Secretariat recently. Earlier discussions in the JV on this task concluded that the work done should be considered as an input to a broader discussion on aid allocations in the DAC, with specific focus on allocations to fragile states, and be put in the context of the “scaling-up of aid” discussion.

12. Members agreed that the report produced by the task team however deserves a discussion in one of the upcoming JV meetings.

Agency performance (task D – agenda item 2.3)

13. The Secretariat indicated that work done by the JV on agency performance includes a workshop on results-based country programming (London, December 2004), agency’s own performance assessment approaches (Copenhagen, February 2005), the assessment of other (multilateral) agencies by bilateral agencies and work on bench-marking of agencies (Paris, May 2005). The workshop to be held immediately after this JV meeting on Results Reporting can be considered as an additional building block.

14. The work done has been summarised in workshop reports plus related documentation. However, it is considered worthwhile to distil the core findings and messages from this work in a form that makes it more accessible, and permits inclusion in the Sourcebook.

15. It is proposed that the Secretariat draft Terms of Reference for a consultant to produce this material, for discussion by the members that have been involved in the various task in this field of agency performance assessment. Members agreed on this proposal and in particular suggested that the summary report should be *forward looking*.

Mutual Learning Initiative (task E – agenda item 2.4)

16. The task-team of task E consists of Norway, Netherlands, Canada and the IDB. The team is working towards the organisation of 4 regional Mutual Learning workshops, which will bring “early movers on MfDR” together to share lessons learned on how to manage for results, how to solve particular problems, and to support inputs to the content of the Third Roundtable. The launching of task E in Ottawa in October identified 9 thematic areas on which this mutual learning should focus – and each workshop will select a limited number of these themes.

17. Task team members reported progress as follows:

- **Nepal** has agreed to host a workshop on 30-31 May, with participation of Bangladesh, Cambodia, Malaysia, Tajikistan, Vietnam. A preparatory committee has been formed that includes the host, the AsDB, DfID¹.
- **Uganda** will host a MLI workshop on 15-16 June, in which Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Zambia will be invited to participate. The preparatory committee here consists of WB, AfDB, and local donors including Denmark and The Netherlands.
- **Burkina Faso** will host a workshop on 6-8 June, for francophone Africa, in which (tentatively) will participate Mali, Senegal, Niger, Benin. The preparatory committee includes the World Bank, the AfDB and local donors including CIDA.
- In **Latin America** the IDB indicated that it feels it should reconsider the approach to be taken in the light of progress being made in the PRODEV project, a large capacity development effort covering all 28 IDB members. PRODEV aims to improve development effectiveness – and MfDR is one of the main elements of that agenda. The learning methodology applied however seems to differ from the MLI approach. Early movers' experiences have been collected through a consultant (CLAC), for dissemination through PRODEV to member countries.

18. With regard to the anticipated Latin American MLI workshop members indicated that the methodology may differ, but that the important thing remains that also Latin American partner countries are included in the mutual learning and exchange process and that the lessons from early movers in Latin American countries are fed to the Sourcebook and to the Roundtable.

19. Financing of the MLI workshops has not been covered fully yet. In particular partner country participants travel and per diem costs need to be covered. One suggestion made was to seek financing from funds available for partner country participants under the WP EFF – which will be underutilised by the JV MfDR. The Secretariat will take this up. For remaining financing needs the Secretariat will possibly have to approach (MDB and bilateral) members directly.

20. The Chair summarised by saying that the overall purpose is to create conditions for and manage peer learning. We are currently experimenting on the learning *mode*.

21. In Asia the learning is starting to take place on a continuous, sustainable basis through the Community of Practice (CoP) (see paragraphs 25-28). In Latin America the IDB is asked to indicate in what way it proposes to dovetail the Mutual Learning Initiative with the PRODEV work, and in what form a MLI workshop may be organised to help assessing lessons learned and to identify capacity assessment approaches that have worked and that can be brought to the Roundtable.

22. He stressed that such proposals need to come soon as these need to be synchronized with the overall preparation process towards the Roundtable.

Results Framework

23. For a variety of reasons the revision of the Results framework – which summarises the JV MfDR work programme – as discussed in the previous JV meeting has not been taken up. At this point there seems to be limited value in adapting the existing results framework – which covers the current programme until the Roundtable.

¹ Early May it was decided to relocate the venue and date of the workshop because of the current security situation in Nepal.

24. On the basis of comments from members supporting this position the Chair concludes:

- There is broad support to prepare a results (logical) framework for the next (2007-08) work programme. A draft of that should be prepared in advance of the Roundtable and may be tabled for discussion then.
- Co-chairs will present a medium term progress report on the current program in the September meeting of the JV. The way in which the JV MfDR work fits into the larger WP-EFF programme is to be discussed in that report.

Launch of the Asia Community of Practice on MfDR (agenda item 3)

25. Per Bastoe (AsDB) mentioned the launch of the CoP that took place at the AsDB premises from 21-23 March. Some 11 countries participated in the event, developed a work programme for the CoP and decided on an interim coordination committee (CoP-ICC) to guide the CoP further development.

26. Basically the CoP is a web-based tool to facilitate communication among participants who can pose questions to the CoP – a number of MfDR experts are invited to be part of the Community – and enter into practical discussions.

27. The launch itself was a clear success, however, the difficult part is to keep the CoP purpose-full and have incentives in place to keep participants interacting.

28. The CoP and the upcoming MLI workshop should be closely linked. The CoP should also participate in the Roundtable and possibly “bring” their experience to that event.

29. On the question raised by the Chair whether this model can work in Africa and in Latin America the response from other MDB’s was that they would be interested to learn from the AsDB experience here. They noted the technical requirements that are not always in place in partner countries, and they acknowledged that the MDB’s have an important role in keeping the momentum going in initiatives like the CoP.

Partner country membership of the JV MfDR (agenda item 4)

30. As agreed in the previous meeting potential partner country representatives in the JV MfDR meeting have been approached in the selected MLI host countries. Very senior level representatives from Nepal (Dr. Sharma from the National Planning Commission) and Burkina Faso (Dr. Nama) have agreed to join the JV and official invitation letters have been sent by the co-chairs. A representative from Uganda is also expected to join the JV is expected. In Latin America progress in the MLI has been slow and no possible candidate has been identified yet.

31. The meeting suggested to also invite a representative from Vietnam as the host of the Roundtable to join the JV.

3rd Roundtable on Results (agenda item 5)

32. By way of introduction to the discussion the Chair referred to the valuable comments received from members on the draft concept note (Room document 1) and concluded that there is broad support for the RT in the JV. In order to frame the discussion on remaining issues he proposed the following statement on the purpose of the RT and invited members to link their questions and suggestions to that statement:

33. “The Roundtable will assess and enhance the capacity to manage for development results and reach commitments from countries, donors, and development partners to move the agenda forward. The Forum will build confidence and competence to manage for results through peer-based dialogue and technical assistance in the areas of statistics management, integrating budget and planning, improving accountability and service delivery to citizens, and promoting and supporting the role of leadership”.

34. Also for discussion is the proposed organizational set-up for the RT preparations (distributed in the meeting).

35. The discussions in the meeting then focused on the following elements.

General

- Partner countries are the key players in the RT (other than in Marrakech). This should be clear in all communications.
- The RT should be realistic in the expectations it raises.
- The RT should have clear expected outcomes.
- The RT should be linked to other initiatives like the Paris Declaration, and to the discussions around the scaling-up of aid (and the “Results & Resources Meetings” (RRMs) that are being proposed in that context).
- In the discussion about results the cost element of attaining results and of the (economic) sustainability of results should be taken into consideration.
- When the question is raised “what do countries need in order to be able to manage for results”, it should be clear that an important precondition would be that they have partners (donors) who act as they say they will - according to their Paris Declaration commitments.

On substance

- The capacities required to MfDR are central to the RT. Statistical capacities obviously are central for MfDR and need reinforcement in many countries, as illustrated by the NSDSs (National Statistical Development Strategies) that have been developed with support from PARIS21 by many countries but which so far remain underfunded. Also, the capacities to *use* results information, for planning, implementation, evaluation and learning, need to be enhanced.
- Where are current (country-specific) capacity gaps? A capacity assessment “tool” required - to be developed partly from existing tools, partly newly to be developed.
- The *demand* for (results) statistics and more generally the willingness to MfDR may be weak or missing. This demand is related to accountability.
- Capacities (to MfDR) are not only technical, but also institutional. At the technical level a lot of knowledge is often already available in-country. Steps forward are to be made with regard to the link of the technical and the organisational (institutional) aspects of MfDR.
- There is mutual learning and capacity development to be promoted at the donors’ side as well.

- The RT should agree on actions to be pursued at the country level, the donors' level and the global level. By doing so the RT could provide the basis for the work programme of the JV MfDR for several years ahead.

Inputs/products to be delivered to the RT

1. A MfDR capacity assessment tool. It seems that some building blocks for such a tool are there (WB, IDB, ADB, etc) but there is an urgent need to define in some detail what this tool should encompass and how it would be applied, and then a process needs to be put in place in the run-up to the Roundtable – including partner country consultations – to develop this tool for presentation and discussion in the RT.
2. The Sourcebook MfDR Edition #2. The Review Panel needs to consider how the process for producing this Ed. 2 in time should be organised.
3. An assessment of existing gaps in statistical capacities relative to the needs as defined in NSDS's.
4. A note on approach to the mutual learning in MfDR (CoP and alternatives): how to make it work?
5. Proposals on capacity development in evaluation (OECD/DAC Evalunet).
6. The progress report on Monitoring the Paris Declaration.
7. Draft work program (and related results framework) for the JV MfDR.

On the nature (level) of the RT

- There is clearly a funding gap for the implementation of NSDS's (estimated by the World Bank at around USD120 million per year during some 10 years). Doubts were raised, however, whether the RT can successfully be a high (political) level pledging conference for this financing gap. Furthermore, it seems that "pledging always gets in the way of substance". Perhaps the more realistic approach is to aim at a senior level meeting that is linked to the "scaling up of aid". At the heads of agencies level the need to show results is stressed, but also the potentially problematic role of donors is acknowledged when their demand for (aid-) results information stands in the way of countries working on results and building domestic accountability systems.
- A senior level and substantive RT should focus on both the technical aspects of MfDR and the organisational aspects, including the development of a conducive "mindset" for MfDR.

On process

- The meeting observed that although there is broad agreement that partners are central to the RT they have hardly been involved so far, and in the organization chart only one partner country (host Vietnam) is present! It was concluded that a revised concept note on the RT is to be prepared for discussion in the upcoming WP EFF (6-7 July).
- It is suggested to have two or three bilateral JV members in a steering group for the RT. Suggestions made included CIDA, DfID and possibly Norway. Furthermore other stakeholders should be in such a steering group, including PARIS 21, UNDG/UNDP, World Bank and ADB, and several partner countries next to Vietnam.

Budget and financing

- A very preliminary budget was tabled by the World Bank that amounted to USD570.000. There was a general feeling that financing of this budget should come from the broad group of stakeholders. The Chair heroically attempted to close the financing gap in the meeting, by proposing that bilaterals agree to provide around USD50.000 and the multilaterals around USD 100.000. Members were asked to “take this home” and in their HQs prepare for a position on this before the WP EFF meeting in July.
- Voluntary contributions are requested also for the preparatory work by the organising committees.

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