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DAC Network on Development Evaluation

Draft Programme of Work 2007-08

DAC Evaluation Network Meeting 16-17 November 2006

The attached document is submitted for consideration at the meeting of the DAC Network on Development Evaluation on 16-17 November 2006.

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DAC EVALUATION NETWORK:

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK 2007-08

I. Background

1. The Network on Development Evaluation is a subsidiary body of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC). Its purpose is to increase the effectiveness of international development programmes by supporting robust, informed and independent evaluation.

2. The draft programme of work is informed by the results of the recent DAC prioritisation exercise and by the findings of the 2005/06 Evaluation Network Mini Survey. The prioritisation exercise identified evaluation as a high priority for the DAC. Out of 38 proposed priority areas, work on Joint Evaluations of the Effectiveness of Aid was ranked 6th highest priority for the DAC and work on Evaluation Standards and Norms was ranked 16th highest priority [DAC/DAC(2006)30/REV1]. The Mini Survey consulted Evaluation Network members on collective needs, challenges and priorities and the findings were reported and discussed at the March 2006 network meeting [Room Document 2].

II. Membership

3. The Network is a unique body, bringing together 30 bilateral donors and multilateral development agencies: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, UNDP, and the IMF.

4. The 'Bureau' of the Evaluation Network is structured with a Chair (currently Sweden) and two vice-chairs (currently Japan and Ireland) supported by the Secretariat. For the next biennium, it is proposed to encourage members leading individual workstreams to support the work of the Bureau by, as and when appropriate, participating in the Bureau. It is also proposed to invite partner countries and civil society including private foundations to participate more actively in the work of the Evaluation Network as members of the Task Teams and Steering Groups for individual work streams.

III Work clusters

1. *Joint Evaluations of the Effectiveness of Aid*

1.1 *Follow-up to the Joint Evaluation of General Budget Support (GBS).* The Evaluation Network will collate members' management responses to the GBS evaluation and provide a report on progress against the recommendations and commitments by December 2008.

1.2 *Evaluation Follow-up to the Paris Declaration.* Alongside its strong focus on monitoring, the Paris Declaration also highlights the importance of exploring an independent cross-country evaluation process. The Declaration states that this process should provide a more comprehensive understanding of how increased aid effectiveness contributes to meeting development objectives and that it should be applied without imposing additional burdens on partners. The Evaluation Network has agreed with the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness to take this work forward.

1.3 *Evaluation of Total ODA at the Country Level.* The Evaluation Network will consult with partner countries on options for an evaluation of total ODA at the country level and move forward to implementation in one or two countries.

1.4 *Facilitating and Coordinating Joint Evaluations.* The Evaluation Network will continue to expand its website to share evaluation plans and to include an online forum for members to inform and consult each other on upcoming plans for joint evaluations. All meetings of the Evaluation Network will include an agenda item during which members can propose and discuss suggested joint evaluations. The DAC Evaluation Resource Centre (DEReC) will also be expanded and disseminated to make it the central platform for development evaluation knowledge sharing.

1.5 *Evaluation Capacity Development (ECD).* The Network will build, as appropriate, on the results of the 2006 mapping survey of members' ECD activities. The capacity of partner countries to actively engage in joint work and to take forward the evaluation challenges inherent in the Paris declaration underscores the need for more attention to ECD both collectively and individually.

2. *DAC Evaluation Standards and Norms*

2.1 *Test Phase of DAC Evaluation Standards.* The draft standards were approved by the members of the Evaluation Network in March 2006 for a test phase application of three years. Experience with the use of the standards by members and interested partners will inform a review in 2008 and the final agreement of the standards.

2.2 *Evaluating Multilateral Agencies' Evaluation Systems.* Select number of volunteer assessments of multilateral agencies' evaluation systems, building on pilot reviews with UNDP and UNICEF in 2006. Close co-ordination with UNEG and ECG will be necessary.

2.3 *Developing Guidance for Evaluating Conflict Prevention and Peace Building Activities.* The Network has agreed to collaborate with the DAC Network on Conflict, Peace and Development Co-operation (CPDC) to develop guidance for evaluating CPPB activities. Draft guidance will be agreed and field tested during the 2007-08 biennium.

2.4 *Assessing Members' Evaluation Systems.* The working tool for assessing members' evaluation systems will be used in 10 DAC Peer Reviews during the biennium.

2.5 *Methodologies for Impact Evaluations.* The Evaluation Network will review current methodologies and work with the World Bank and others on approaches or norms, to meet the needs of partners and donors, for undertaking impact evaluations.

2.6. *Developing guidance for evaluating global and regional partnership programmes.* Based on the outcome of the joint World Bank IEG/DAC Evaluation Network workshop held in September 2006, the Network will agree key principles and standards for assessing global and regional partnership programmes.

2.7. *The DAC Evaluation Resource Centre (DEReC)* will be further expanded to make it a central platform for development evaluation knowledge.

IV. Suggestions for further work related to the mandate of the Network

5. Members are invited to suggest additional work items for collaborative work within the DAC Evaluation Network. It is important to keep in mind the need for a focused work programme which is closely related to DAC members' priorities as expressed in the overall DAC work programme.

V. Budget and VC needs

6. The table draws on the overall DAC Programme of Work and Budget and indicates the needs for voluntary financial contributions from members for the two year period 2006-07. This table does not include the Part I resources that OECD makes available to support the Network which consists of one staff post, general administrative support, translation and interpretation, and conference facilities.

Work Cluster 1	Activities/Outputs	Estimated budget for cluster (€ '000):
Joint Evaluations of the Effectiveness of Aid	1. Review of follow-up to the recommendations of the joint evaluation of General Budget Support	400
	2. Evaluation follow-up to the Paris Declaration	
	3. Evaluation of total ODA at the country level	
	4. Facilitating and Coordinating Joint Evaluations	
	5. Evaluation Capacity Development	
Work Cluster 2	Activities/Outputs	
DAC Evaluation Standards and Norms	1. Test phase of application and review of DAC Evaluation Standards	300
	2. Evaluating Multilateral Agencies' Evaluation Systems (Select number of volunteer assessments building on pilot reviews with UNDP and UNICEF in 2006)	
	3. Developing and Piloting Guidance for Evaluating Conflict Prevention and Peace Building Activities	
	4. Assessing Members' Evaluation Systems. Apply the working tool in 10 Peer Reviews and synthesise experience.	
	5. Review of methodologies for impact evaluations to meet the needs of partners and donors	
	6. Developing guidance for evaluating global and regional programmes	
	7. DAC Evaluation Resource Centre expanded to make it the central platform for development evaluation knowledge	

A more detailed breakdown of voluntary contribution budget needs into items is shown in table 2 below.

Item	2007	2008	Total
Project post or secondment of young professional ¹	112 800	112 800	225 600
B3 assistant post	60 000	60 000	120 000
Consultancy support (for the work streams in cluster I and II)	124 200	180 200	304 400
Travel to task team meetings and workshops	10 000	10 000	20 000
Costs of invited participants from developing countries and for evaluation associations	15 000	15 000	30 000

7. Alongside its discussion on the prioritisation of activities, the DAC has agreed to make the handling of voluntary contributions more manageable. The DAC has agreed that voluntary contributions, which are a significant proportion of the Secretariat's budget, will be allocated to a limited number of OECD accounts; with evaluation constituting one such account. [DCD/DAC(2005)27/REV2]. Further, each member country or donor is invited to provide one contract for all its support to the DAC.

8. Members are invited to take active part in the co-ordination process in capitals and provide early indication of willingness to support the DAC Evaluation Network financially for implementation of the 2007-08 work programme. Without a broad backing from its members the Network will not be able to deliver the results expected.

¹ In case of a secondment, the cost will be counted as support to the budget of the Evaluation Network with an equivalent amount to a project post as also in the case with other DAC activities.