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

DAC Network on Development Evaluation

DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SIXTH MEETING

27 - 28 June 2007

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**DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF
THE DAC EVALUATION NETWORK**

Item I. Opening Session

- i) The Chair, Finbar O'Brien (Ireland) opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. A *tour de table* was made to give first-time participants an opportunity to introduce themselves.
- ii) Guy Berings, (DAC delegate for Belgium) presented his role as DAC facilitator to serve as a link between the Evaluation Network and the DAC. The Director of the DCD, Richard Carey, briefed members on current policy priorities in DAC work and links with the evaluation agenda.
- iii) The Draft Agenda [DCD/DAC/EV/A(2007)1] was adopted.
- iv) The Summary Record of the 5th meeting [DCD/DAC/EV/M(2006)2] was approved.
- v) The Secretariat presented an overview of the updated work programme [DCD/DAC/EV(2007)1].

Item II. Delivering joint evaluations on aid effectiveness

i) Evaluation of the Implementation of the Paris Declaration.

1. Niels Dabelstein (DANIDA) presented an update. Questions of sample selection and country partner ownership were discussed and it was clarified that the first phase of the evaluation was focusing on learning from the implementation process with self selected partners and donors. It was suggested that a brief overview or a "frequently asked questions" note be developed to provide interested parties and non-evaluators with easy access information about the evaluation. This could be added to already available information on the DAC Website. Criteria for inclusion of thematic studies were also to be developed.

Action: The Management group of the evaluation to consider the outcome of the Network discussion and take appropriate action.

ii) Follow up to the General Budget Support Evaluation

2. Nick York (DFID) outlined the content of the draft questionnaire. It was suggested that a question on the quality / usefulness of the recommendations be added and that it be clarified that not only the Network but all stakeholders would be informed of the synthesis of the questionnaire. Sufficient time for responding to the questionnaire would also be needed.

Action: DFID to revise the questionnaire and, in collaboration with the Secretariat, consult with the DAC Chair on the accompanying letter. The cover letter and the questionnaire will then be sent to DAC members and other stakeholders for completion.

iii) Update on the planned joint country assistance evaluation for Bangladesh

3. Niels Fostvedt (IEG, World Bank) described recent progress including in the management of the evaluation and division of work between the four major donors. Questions were asked about the role of other donors and lead members clarified that involvement of other donors was welcome, in particular at the sector level. The US offered to assist with synthesis work, if needed.

4. Some Members expressed concern at the lack of partner country involvement to date. The IEG representative explained the sensitivities of changing government circumstances in Bangladesh, and affirmed the desire to involve the government now that there is greater clarity on the exercise's purpose and structure, and the political situation is more stable.

Action: Preparations to proceed in consultation with key stakeholders, including exploration of holding a workshop before or connected to next meeting. Interested donors who would like to be involved should contact the lead members. The World Bank to report on developments at next meeting of the Network.

Item III. Evaluation Capacity Development

5. Cao Mahn Coung and John Fargher (Ministry of Planning and Investment, Vietnam) presented their work in evaluation capacity development in Vietnam. The lessons learned emphasised the importance of local stakeholder ownership and commitment, learning through doing and supporting evaluation "champions" who become promoters of the new evaluation culture, skills and tools they acquire. The discussion covered the importance of communications technology, government ownership and institutional support, as well as spill over effects of evaluation skills into other government departments. The presenters encouraged Members to focus on "learning by doing" in ECD and to support local evaluators. Members expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to better understand Vietnam's experience in ECD.

6. The Secretariat presented a discussion paper on moving the ECD agenda forward. The importance of ECD as a cross-cutting issue, and the close relationship between ECD and issues of governance and mutual accountability, were underlined by participants. Members also reiterated support for the professionalization of evaluation and the need to encourage evaluation career development, especially in partner countries, and also through evaluation associations. The Inter-American Development Bank presented an update on the PRODEV initiative.

7. The Chair welcomed interest from members to support work or participate in a task team, and underlined the experience of Vietnam as useful for concretising the ECD discussion and helping the Network continue to progress in this area.

Action: Work stream to be further developed by the Secretariat in consultation with interested members and reported back to next meeting.

Item IV. Evaluation in a changing aid and development context

8. Eva Lithman (Sweden) and Julia Compton (UK) presented a discussion paper on the evaluation implications of the changing context of development co-operation, including the Paris Declaration. The discussion focused on the question: are we profoundly changing the way donors think about and use evaluation?

9. Some members felt that there is already a considerable amount of guidance on harmonisation and that members need to follow through on implementing what has been developed and agreed. Others felt

there was still need for further reflection and rationalisation in key areas, especially looking beyond joint evaluations and the Paris Declaration to issues like new donors and the broader changes in aid architecture. Several members also highlighted the image of getting from donor centric to partner centric systems of evaluation and aid.

10. The Chair noted that there were differing views but also clear interest and support to continue discussions in this area and identify key issues to address and revisit at a forthcoming Network meeting or workshop.

Action: Sweden and UK will continue the lead on this reflection and, in collaboration with interested members, sharpen the focus with a view to bring the matter up at a forthcoming meeting or workshop.

Item V. Evaluation tools and standards

i) Impact evaluation – NONIE report

11. The NONIE (Network of Networks Impact Evaluation) task team Chair Nick York reported on progress of the recent workshop held in The Hague. Good progress has been made and a number of members from the three networks are actively participating. The NONIE is open to members who wish to participate.

ii) Multilateral Evaluation Systems

12. **Update on peer review of WFP:** An update on the ongoing professional peer review of the WFP evaluation system was presented by Eva Lithman (Sweden), who also noted the involvement of the Board of WFP. Ted Kliet (The Netherlands) was appointed as the co-chair of the informal DAC Evaluation Network/UNEG task team. He drew attention to the request made by the UN oversight body for a peer review. The need for a “lighter” version of the review for smaller UN agencies was mentioned. In the discussion, members noted the links with the MOPAN processes and to the ongoing discussions on scaling up and the performance of multilateral institutions.

Action: The task team will provide an update at the next network meeting.

13. **ECG work on peer review:** Keith Leonard, (ADB) presented the ongoing work in the ECG for a peer review process for the MDBs. Work was progressing and TORs are currently under development for a first review.

iii) Developing guidance on evaluating conflict prevention and peacebuilding (CPPB)

14. Beate Bull (Norway) outlined recent progress, including the scoping paper now ready to be published, and the completion of the draft guidance. Some challenges were also mentioned, especially addressing diverse stakeholder audiences from the CPPB and evaluation fields. Several members reiterated their interest in and support for developing and applying guidance in this area.

15. It was clarified that the application phase will be decentralized and that members are also encouraged to apply the draft guidance to relevant work already underway. To avoid overloading partners, the number of major evaluations will need to be kept small.

16. The Chair reported from the UNEG meeting that there was strong interest in the CPPB evaluation guidance amongst the participants in this group.

17. During the application phase, the draft will be shared widely with a variety of evaluation and CPPB stakeholders in order to encourage maximum feedback before issuing the final version of the guidance in 2008.

Action: The Steering Group and the Secretariat will finalise and distribute the draft guidance for member comment. UK will continue to lead preparations for a joint evaluation of CPPB in Sri Lanka. A feedback framework will also be developed for inclusion in the draft guidance during the application phase. Members are encouraged to use the draft guidance as appropriate over the next year. A workshop could be useful before the next network meeting.

iv) Evaluation Quality Standards (EQS) – follow up

18. The Secretariat presented a paper for discussion and a questionnaire for initial feedback on EQS use. Participants expressed general appreciation for the EQS and the discussion showed that use was widespread among many members.

19. Several members highlighted the challenges posed by the decentralisation of evaluation functions. It was suggested that it might be useful to develop guidance, based on insights from the test phase, on ‘how to’ apply the EQS.

Action: The Secretariat will redraft the initial questionnaire taking into account suggestions made, and prepare a synthesis of results. This will feed into the preparation of a future workshop, possibly to be held in New Zealand or another member country willing to host it.

v) Global and Regional Partnership Programmes (GRPPs)

20. The World Bank presented a status report since the publication of the Sourcebook in early 2007. The Sourcebook has been widely disseminated and work is progressing on Good Practice Guidelines and Examples for Evaluating GRPPs. Several members support this work financially and participants generally welcomed progress. The plans for a consultative workshop to be organised by the Bank early 2008 was noted.

Action: Continue work on Good Practice Guidelines and Examples with the World Bank in the lead. Plans and dates for a workshop to be clarified providing sufficient lead time.

vi) Update on DEReC

21. The Secretariat briefed members on progress made on DEReC and suggested continued work on dissemination to development research centres and other interested parties. Members expressed strong support for the Secretariat’s work in this area.

Action: The Secretariat will work to encourage use of DEReC by development research institutions, universities and other interested parties. Members will continue to send completed evaluations to the DAC Secretariat as they become available.

Item VI. Ideas and suggestions for joint evaluations

22. This session was chaired by Belen Sanz Luque (Vice chair, Spain).

23. Zhaoying Chen (China) and Hans Slot (IOB, Netherlands) made a joint presentation of the joint country-led evaluation of The Netherlands Mixed Credit Programme in China. The presentation focused

on the process and experiences learnt during the implementation of the evaluation. Members welcomed the presentation and opportunity to discuss a joint and country-led initiative.

24. Norway presented a draft outline of a joint evaluation of anti-corruption approaches and indicated that it would be willing to collaborate with other members in taking this forward.

25. Ireland made a brief presentation on HIV/AIDS evaluations, which was followed by a discussion of the possible role for the Network. Several members expressed interest, and it was suggested that a synthesis study may be a useful first step to clarify the value added of additional evaluative work, in view of the number of ongoing initiatives.

26. **Sharing of evaluation plans and open discussion on new ideas for joint evaluations:** the Secretariat presented a highlights document, and an overview table of the evaluation work plans of members. Members welcomed the overview and several commitments were made to submit work programmes to the Secretariat. The Secretariat clarified that draft programmes, even in their early stages, are welcome as sharing of initial ideas may facilitate planning of joint work.

Action: The Secretariat will continue to compile evaluation plans on the restricted DAC website. Members are encouraged to share plans with the Secretariat as early as possible. Members who have updates or corrections to make to previously submitted plans will send those to the Secretariat.

Item VII. Informal session – sharing experiences and updates on ongoing evaluations

27. During the informal lunch discussion, members shared experiences with recent major evaluations and provided updates on ongoing evaluations and recent developments [see restricted website for presentations]. The oral presentations by Germany and Canada on developments in their respective countries gave rise to a discussion on the growing accountability demands on development agencies and the importance of continuing a discussion on these challenges in the Network.

28. The Chair thanked outgoing members for their important contributions to the Network: Belen Sanz Luque who was stepping down as vice-chair as she will leave her current position, Patrick Grasso who is retiring and Lars Elle who indicated that his continued participation was not certain. Members applauded their contributions to the Network.

29. The next official meeting of the Network is scheduled for 20-21 February 2008, preceded by task team meetings during the autumn and winter, on a needs basis, to advance work on the relevant work streams.

**Participants list for DAC Network on Development Evaluation/Liste des participants pour Réseau
du CAD sur l'évaluation du développement**

27 June 2007 – 28 June 2007

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