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## DAC Network on Gender Equality

### PARIS DECLARATION COMMITMENTS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

5-7 July 2006

*This paper is circulated for DISCUSSION at the fourth meeting of the DAC Network on Gender Equality (5-7 July 2006) and at the eighth meeting of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness (5-7 July 2006).*

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**PARIS DECLARATION COMMITMENTS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR GENDER EQUALITY  
AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**

**Paper for consideration by  
The OECD-DAC Network on Gender Equality  
& the OECD-DAC Working Party on Aid Effectiveness  
July 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 2006  
OECD, Paris  
by  
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Paper commissioned by Irish Aid**

***Preamble***

*This paper is based on an earlier one presented in Nairobi, Kenya in January 2006 to the Joint Meeting of the UN Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality and the DAC Network on Gender Equality. This version has been re-oriented and updated for consideration during meetings of the DAC Network on Gender Equality and the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness in Paris in early July 2006. This paper will focus particularly on the aid macro policy environment, especially how to ensure that a gender perspective influences the manner in which key issues on aid effectiveness are framed and understood. It does not deal in detail with aid effectiveness implementation at field level, but provides some illustrations where relevant to the overall policy context.*

**1. Executive summary**

1. The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, signed in March 2005, establishes global commitments for donor and partner countries to support more effective aid in a context of significant scaling up of aid. Gender equality has not been explicitly addressed in the Paris Declaration. The focus to date has been on formulation of the Declaration and on technocratic and efficiency aspects of aid delivery. But it is argued here that the implementation of the Declaration needs to be used to promote a wider development effectiveness approach, where gender equality is essential.

2. The Paris Declaration has already been negotiated and agreed, therefore the main room to manoeuvre now lies in how it is interpreted and understood, its implementation, and the opportunities offered by dissemination strategies and through monitoring and evaluation of progress. Both the architects of the Declaration and gender specialists have a role to play in ensuring that these opportunities are realised.

3. Despite only one glancing reference to gender equality in the Declaration (paragraph 42), there is considerable congruence between the Declaration commitments and gender equality objectives and strategies, for example:

- **Ownership** implies that women's as well as men's voices and concerns must be central to national development plans and processes;

- **Alignment** requires that donors who have gender equality policies and who have made international commitments align with the gender equality policies, systems and commitments of partner governments and strengthen capacity for coordinated action;
- **Harmonisation** is likely to lead to new programme mechanisms and rationalisation of donor support. Safeguards will be necessary to retain a gender perspective in jointly undertaken processes;
- **Managing for Results** cannot be comprehensive unless gender equality is captured in all performance assessment frameworks;
- **Mutual accountability** mechanisms must include women and accountability must be monitored with gender responsive indicators.

4. Evidence shows that gender equality has not fared well in the broader aid effectiveness agenda. Reviews of Poverty Reduction Strategies, of Millennium Development Goal progress reports and of Sector Wide Approaches suggest that, with some notable exceptions, these have largely been gender-blind, take a very narrow perspective on gender, lack empirical evidence and/or fail to translate gender analysis into plans with budgets. The recent DAC evaluation of Programme Budget Support did not allocate resources to exploration of gender dimensions, thus missing important interrelationships. Experience suggests that there is a high risk of gender equality being sidelined in the evolving Joint Assistance Strategies, and that understanding of the Paris Declaration is individualised, but almost always gender blind.

5. There are risks to development effectiveness from not adopting a gender perspective. These include the likelihood that women will not benefit equitably from expanded budgets; new institutions, systems and mechanisms will be developed without recognising their gender dimensions; competing priorities and dominance of a technocratic efficiency approach will limit resources for gender equality; and, there will be a continuation of the current gap between policy commitments and policy implementation, resulting in failure to meet gender equality commitments.

6. There are opportunities to influence the Paris Declaration agenda. The Working Party on Aid Effectiveness and four Joint Ventures, where many agencies and partner countries are represented, have work plans that offer some entry points. In particular, gender specialists need to engage in communication and dissemination work; and in monitoring of progress – not so much through the monitoring survey but by engaging in development of the progress report on commitments for Ghana in 2008. The time is opportune to engage in work on the results agenda to ensure that this is gender responsive. There is likely to be increasing room to manoeuvre for gender specialists, as the agenda moves from formulation to implementation, to support a gender responsive understanding of the Declaration in agencies and at country level; and there is always the possibility of applying the commitments and principles to work undertaken on gender equality.

7. To be effective in influencing the agenda, donors and multilaterals need to forge partnerships and develop clear goals and strategies for joint work to foster gender equality. GENDERNET members need to choose entry points carefully to ensure that efforts are sustained and that results are achieved.

## 2. Introduction

8. The Paris Declaration (PD) on Aid Effectiveness establishes global commitments for donor and partner countries to support more effective aid in a context of significant scaling up of aid. These commitments are based on recognition of and intention to address limitations in recipient country ownership, administrative capacity and accountability; and insufficient coordination of aid effort by donors. The PD, which was signed in March 2005 as a follow up to the Monterrey Convention, has agreed a framework based on five principles to ensure that aid flows actually benefit those it is meant to serve.

The PD specifies indicators, time tables and targets and has an evolving agenda for clarification and dissemination on commitments and for implementation and monitoring of progress, up to 2010. This includes a Third High Level Forum to take place in Ghana in 2008. Participants include 35 donor countries and agencies, 26 multilateral agencies, 56 countries that receive aid and 14 civil society organisations.

9. Gender equality has not been addressed explicitly to date in the evolving aid effectiveness agenda. This paper argues that it is critical to consider the space provided, in thinking and practice, by this important and evolving agenda for advancing the incorporation of gender equality and women's empowerment in development processes. It is essential that the architects and disseminators of the Paris Declaration consider the relevance of gender as this will influence if and how gender equality is considered in the interpretation and implementation of the PD by participants in agencies and countries. It is also critical that gender specialists and advocates familiarise themselves with the Declaration and plan how to maximise the space provided to promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

10. Given that the Paris Declaration has already been negotiated and agreed, the main room to manoeuvre now lies in how it is interpreted and understood, its implementation, and particularly the opportunities offered by dissemination strategies and through progress monitoring and evaluation. Translating the PD commitments into a workable agenda and set of actions is a learning process for all. It is possible to influence this if we are able to provide the right input at the right time and to support colleagues to make the gender equity connections. Work is needed to facilitate this. This is a fast moving agenda however and it is important to be timely, strategic and coordinated in addressing gender equality in the dissemination and implementation of the Paris Declaration commitments. Entry points must be carefully selected and joint efforts sustained to influence the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness, our own agencies and partners in countries.

### 3. Relevance of gender equality to Paris Declaration implementation

11. Some argue that the main focus of the Paris Declaration is on **aid and agency efficiency** (generic mechanisms and processes or 'nuts and bolts') rather than broader **development effectiveness** (substance and results), and that therefore issues of substance such as gender equality do not become relevant until the specific instruments and modalities of aid are being addressed. The scale and pace of commitments entered into in the Paris Declaration is impressive. However valid it may have been to take a technocratic focus initially, it is critical at this stage to move from the pure 'mechanics' of aid to a broader and more substantive discussion on the ends as well as the means of channelling aid. There is need to focus on '*a strong culture of results*'<sup>1</sup> and not merely the mechanisms. As the Declaration is disseminated and implemented, it needs to broaden its current narrow focus on technical and structural processes and efficiency measures and link this to achieving results within national development frameworks and against recipient country and donor agency commitments. This is far more fertile ground for establishing gender relevance and is a prerequisite for development effectiveness.

12. Heretofore, the Paris Declaration has been 'owned' by a relatively small and select subset of development personnel, but as it moves into dissemination and implementation this pool will widen and will include officials in governments and technical specialists in agencies, including gender specialists. A critical question for communicators and learners alike is how relevant is gender to the Declaration. Despite the absence of explicit mention in the Declaration, (apart from one mention of the need for harmonised efforts on cross cutting issues, such as gender equality in paragraph 42), there is considerable congruence between the PD principles and commitments and gender equality objectives and strategies. Annex 1 provides a more detailed analysis of gender relevance and possible entry points for incorporation of gender

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1. An expression used in opening speech of Richard Manning, at the Nairobi Joint UN & DAC Gender networks meeting, January 2006

in the PD principles and commitments, with appropriate reference to Declaration paragraphs. In brief, this congruence is evidenced in relation to:

- a. *Ownership*: Gender equality needs to be higher in the political agenda, and women's voices and concerns must be central to development processes such as the PRS, in SWAps and development strategies; political space and leverage must be created and consultations must include poor women and men for true citizen ownership of the development agenda. This implies that national machineries on gender and women's civil society organisations should be fully involved in development planning with access to resources and active in implementation, monitoring and evaluation<sup>2</sup>;
- b. *Alignment*: Donors must acknowledge and use mutual commitments to gender equality and international instruments such as the MDGs and CEDAW in policy dialogue to align with, strengthen and support national commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment, and must strengthen capacity for coordinated support to gender equality and women's empowerment;
- c. *Harmonisation*: Harmonisation is changing the institutions, incentives and policies of aid and of development e.g. in joint assistance strategies. Unless gender equality is addressed in evolving new programme mechanisms and rationalisation of donor support, there is a risk that a dominant sectoral focus will squeeze out cross cutting quality issues, such as gender. There is need for a gender perspective in all jointly undertaken processes and for increased joint gender assessment work;
- d. *Managing for Results*: Demonstrating gender equality results and impacts is an essential part of managing for development results and monitoring gendered impacts is a good way of ensuring that aid is reaching those it is intended to serve. This must be reflected in all performance assessment frameworks. Capacity to collect, analyse and utilise sex-disaggregated information will need to be strengthened.
- e. *Mutual Accountability*: Strong national accountability mechanisms must include women and accountability must be monitored with gender responsive indicators. Gender equality goals need to be included in central and line ministry plans and results-based frameworks. The accountability roles of national stakeholders and donor agencies in relation to gender equality need to be clarified and monitored.

13. The Joint Meeting of UN and DAC Gender networks in Nairobi in January 2006 concluded that the 'messages of the meeting underscore how important it is to build ownership, integrate gender equality goals in harmonisation and accountability mechanisms, build on existing strengths of national actors, strengthen national capacities and support regional and national political processes'.<sup>3</sup> It is important for gender advocates to support and implement the Declaration which stands to benefit many poor women and men, and equally important for the broader agenda to incorporate a gender perspective to ensure development effectiveness.

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2. This latter statement was a conclusion drawn from a UNIFEM and European Commission joint conference in Brussels in November 2005 on 'Making the Connections: Gender Equality, the 2005 World Summit and the New Aid Architecture'

3. Joint meeting of the UN IANGWE & DAC Gender Network Summary Report Aid Modalities and the Promotion of Gender Equality, January 30-31, 2006, Kenya

#### 4. How gender equality has fared so far in the Aid Effectiveness Agenda

14. A rapid scope of how gender equality has fared in the aid effectiveness agenda so far can highlight some lessons and potential pitfalls for the evolving Paris Declaration<sup>4</sup>. A recent paper for DFID noted that the evidence base for demonstrating the relative effectiveness and impact of different aid instruments on the lives of poor women and men is weak and indicated that there is a need for more impact assessment; for greater dissemination of lessons; and for ensuring capacity and commitment to follow up.<sup>5</sup>

15. **Gender in Key Development Plans and Processes:** Recent audits and reviews of Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS)<sup>6</sup>, Millennium Development Goal (MDG) country reports<sup>7</sup> and Sector Wide Approaches (SWAp)<sup>8</sup> indicate that gender is not well incorporated into these important plans and processes. Many PRS are gender blind and most are without budgetary allocations to support gender equality, though there is evidence that concerted effort of partners, donors and gender equality constituents can lead to better capture of gender in PRS<sup>9</sup>. Gender was not reflected as a cross-cutting issue in any of the 13 MDG country reports reviewed in 2003, and Goal 3 (on Gender Equality) was the only one where gender issues were consistently addressed across countries. While some progress has been made to mainstream gender in health, education and agriculture SWAps, the focus is narrow and is not consistently followed through from analysis to action. Some sectors such as transport, infrastructure and more economic sectors have made little progress in including gender equality in their sector plans, strategies, benchmarks and review processes.

16. **Gender in Programme Budget Support:** A Joint Evaluation of General Budget Support 1994-2004 was undertaken through the DAC Network on Development Evaluation and involving several donor agencies and partner Governments<sup>10</sup>. While it was not intended to undertake a major gender review as part of the evaluation, it is still disappointing to note that the overall analytical approach was rather conventional. Gender equality and women's empowerment were more 'boxed-in' than mainstreamed throughout. Resources for a more thorough exploration of gender dimensions were not provided, leading to a failure to fully address important interrelationships such as that between the monetised economy, subsistence economy and unpaid care economy which gender sensitive macroeconomists have been advocating for some time.

17. **Gender in Joint Assistance Strategies (JAS):** Some countries are moving towards a joint assistance strategy (JAS) whereby donors align behind national development plans/PRS and harmonise their support to government. In Tanzania and Zambia for example, government together with development partners have committed to better coordination and harmonisation and plan to have a JAS in place in 2006. Uganda already has a JAS. The intention under a JAS is generally to have lead donors, silent/delegated partnerships and a more efficient allocation of workload among donors. Many efficiency and effectiveness benefits are expected once the process is underway. So far evidence suggests a relative neglect of cross-

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4. Eurostep and Social Watch (2005) Accountability Upside Down and a recent report for DFID on Aid Instruments, Social Exclusion and Gender by Social Development Direct (March 2006) provide more detailed analyses of gender equality in the new architecture of aid.

5. Social Development Direct (op cit)

6. Zuckerman, E., Garrett, A. (2003) 'Do Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers Address Gender? At [www.genderaction.org](http://www.genderaction.org)

7. UNDP (May 2003) Millennium Development Goals: National Reports A Look Through a Gender Lens

8. OECD-DAC (June 2002) Gender Equality in Sector Wide Approaches: A Reference Guide

9. Van Diesen, A. and Yates, J. (2005), Gender mainstreaming in the context of Poverty Reduction Strategies and Budget Support – the case of Uganda – unpublished report

10. Evaluation of General Budget Support Inception Report June 2005 (available from DFID website [www.dfid.gov.uk](http://www.dfid.gov.uk))

cutting/horizontal issues in favour of sectoral issues, with inadequate space for discussing and assessing gender equality relevance in different contexts. And while lead donors emerge and all partners prioritise, adequate safeguards to ensure capacity for gender analysis and mainstreaming have not been developed.

18. Gender audits and evaluations of donor agencies, such as a recent gender audit of DFID in Malawi identified the following processes impacting on gender: (a) ‘*evaporation*’ (commitments not captured in implementation); (b) *invisibilisation* (lack of monitoring and reporting of progress, often due to lack of awareness on what to measure or how high the bar should be), and (c) *resistance* (from those who see it as ‘too time consuming’, not a priority in this situation etc.)<sup>11</sup>. There is a risk of these processes intensifying in the absence of specified responsibilities for gender equality, unless the JAS takes explicit account of this (and other cross cutting issues) in agreeing financial contributions and aid modalities and in monitoring of progress.

19. Gender in understanding of the Paris Declaration: A study in South East Asia found that local understanding of the Declaration was rather shallow and poorly communicated and concluded that the PD is promoting a narrow approach where the means risk becoming an end in themselves<sup>12</sup>. No studies are available to report on in-country efforts to link the Declaration and gender equality, but given the paucity of attention to this issue up to now at the macro-policy level and the mystique that still surrounds the Paris Declaration for many (even most) in countries and agencies, this is not surprising<sup>13</sup>. A rapid review of a small sample (3) of agency responses to the Paris Declaration found no mention of gender equality by the bilateral agencies and a single mention in the UN Development Group paper i.e. ‘*that UN leadership in ..... for example ..... gender mainstreaming should be promoted at the country level*’.<sup>14</sup>

## 5. Potential risks from not incorporating gender into the implementation of the Declaration

20. Despite increased recognition of how gender responsiveness contributes to and adds value to development processes, it is clear from experience so far that there is significant risk that these benefits will not be realised in the evolving aid effectiveness agenda. Should this happen the following risks are highly probable to materialise and will have negative consequences for aid effectiveness as well as for gender equality:

- The Paris Declaration envisages a substantial scaling up of aid. The opportunity to influence how this expanded budget will be spent and ensuring that women benefit equitably from it will be lost unless gender equity is clearly mainstreamed in the Paris Declaration machinery and processes for allocating aid.
- Focusing on efficiency changes to aid mechanisms and structural reforms will have limited impact on development effectiveness without a gender perspective or taking women’s interests into account

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11. Moser, C (March 2005) An Introduction to Gender Audit Methodology: its design and implementation in DFID Malawi, Overseas Development Institute, UK

12. Beloe, T (November 2005) Moving towards local definitions of aid effectiveness: how is the OECD DAC Paris Declaration being interpreted in DFID South East Asia partner countries. Draft report available on [www.dfid.gov.uk](http://www.dfid.gov.uk)

13. A conference was held in Brussels in November 05 organised by UNIFEM and the European Commission ‘Making the Connections: Gender Equality, the 2005 World Summit and the New Aid Architecture’

14. DFID-UK Medium Term Action Plan on Aid Effectiveness: The Response to the Paris Declaration – Draft 2005; The Swiss Implementation Plan (May 2005) and UNDG (July 2005) Action Plan of the UN Development Group

- Aid effectiveness will be measured along a narrow set of aligned process criteria<sup>15</sup> through vertical programmes, with horizontal cross cutting issues such as gender equality being sidelined. Already countries are experiencing such marginalisation of gender in evolving Joint Assistance Strategy (JAS) processes.
- Competing priorities will diminish the likelihood of an effective ‘retro-fit’ for gender equality. This is a fast moving agenda, even if the pace of implementation and change is considerably slower.
- Gender equality will miss out on where energies and resources are focused, with the possibility of a decline from the already poor proportion of bilateral ODA focused on gender equality from a five-year average of USD3.1 billion out of USD17.2 billion<sup>16</sup>.
- Merging of institutions, systems and processes will take place without recognition of their gendered nature, thus limiting their effectiveness
- Donor ability to influence how partner countries allocate money, including the resources given to promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment, is likely to decrease as programme aid (budget and sector) increases. Furthermore the mainstreaming of gender equality makes it more difficult to track what resources are focused on gender equality. New approaches are needed to measure progress and to hold donors and partners accountable for gender commitments. Recent evaluations and audits have highlighted the paucity of such instruments.<sup>17</sup>
- The national policy fora that donors support run the risk of being distanced and out of touch with the realities faced by poor men and women, and their needs and interests. And concerns have been expressed by civil society organisations and by UNIFEM about the increased risk of women’s voices not being heard amongst the wide range of stakeholders engaged in national-level consensus building
- Poor implementation of gender mainstreaming will be perpetuated, further entrenching the cycle of favourable policy commitments but lack of task force/focused attention, no specific budget and no/limited profile in papers and policies, contributing to failure of donor and partner countries to meet commitments on gender equality<sup>18</sup>

## 6. Opportunities to influence the Paris Declaration Agenda

### *The Working Groups and Joint Ventures*

21. A critical dimension in deciding a way forward is to identify (a) where the action is i.e. where decisions on the Paris Declaration are taken and (b) where are the allies for gender equality. Within the OECD-DAC, the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness (WP-EFF) provides the main international forum for work on the Declaration. There are 23 partner countries, 23 bilateral donors and several multilateral institutions represented on the Working Party, which is currently chaired by France and co-chaired by the World Bank and Ghana. This provides multiple entry points through this range of stakeholders. Their work for the next few years will be *‘focused on the objectives of promoting, facilitating and monitoring the*

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15. Seven out of 12 of the PD indicators relate to alignment

16. OECD-DAC Secretariat (March 2005) Aid to support gender equality, 1999-2003

17. Moser, C (March 2005) An Introduction to Gender Audit Methodology: its design and implementation in DFID Malawi, Overseas Development Institute, UK

18. Heyzer, N Owing Development: ‘Promoting Gender Equality in New Aid Modalities and Partnerships’, Conference Paper 9-11 November 2005, UNIFEM and European Commission, Brussels



*implementation of the Paris Declaration*<sup>19</sup>. Dissemination and implementation efforts will dominate the work programme alongside acting as a focal point for experience sharing and monitoring of progress. Four specialised Joint Ventures support the WP-EFF. These cover:

- Managing for Development Results (JV-MfDR)
- Public Financial Management (JV-PFM)
- Procurement (JV-Procurement)
- Monitoring the Paris Declaration (JV-MPD)

### ***Entry Points in Work Plans***

22. There is mention in the current WP-EFF work plan (page 9) of the intention to establish close links on all activities between joint ventures and with other DAC networks such as GOVNET. While GENDERNET is not explicitly mentioned here, in Section III, on page 12 of the Work Plan on experience sharing and reviewing progress, there is recognition by the WP-EFF of a range of interested stakeholders, including the Gender Network, who are eager to establish links with them. Nothing is timetabled on this item but it opens the door for GENDERNET and its members to engage the WP-EFF and JVs. The opportunity currently provided by parallel meetings of the GENDERNET and the Working Party in early July is an example of capitalising on opportunity. These are small openings but offer some possibility for engaging the agenda setters on gender equality issues. It will be important to prepare key messages for such engagement and to identify internal allies to help formulate and promote these messages in the most effective way. If we are to influence the work of the WP-EFF and JVs, rather than argue later for a retrofit, we need to move urgently. Engagement with the various groups is critical and needs to be planned for. GENDERNET members need to actively exert influence within their own agencies by building collaborative, collegial relationships with their colleagues who are active in the WP-EFF and its joint ventures.

### ***Monitoring Progress***

23. The work programme on monitoring is well underway. Twelve indicators and corresponding targets to be achieved by 2010 have now been agreed and monitoring will take place in 2006 and 2008 (ahead of the next High Level Forum in Ghana). These indicators are of a highly technical nature and focused on delivery mechanisms and thus are not amenable to meaningful gender equality mainstreaming. However the review of progress in Ghana in 2008 will not only focus on the monitoring survey. There will be a progress report looking at all 56 commitments, and more generally at how the spirit of the commitments has translated. Work on the report will commence soon and it is important to build alliances and start the groundwork to ensure that there will be a section on gender and that gender is incorporated throughout the progress report.

### ***Dissemination and Communication***

24. A draft communications strategy was recently circulated by the WP-EFF, this draft was neutral on gender dimensions but hopefully this will have been commented on by members and will be improved in the next iteration. If not, this is another lost opportunity for gender advocates to influence and ground will have to be regained when developing communications tools and when planning and implementing dissemination workshops. Table 1 indicates key dissemination actions planned for 2006, with some possible entry points. It is not suggested that all of these can be activated but they need to be reviewed and prioritised.

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19. DAC Working Party on Aid Effectiveness, Revised Draft Work Plan (2006-2008) Draft 9 December 2005

**Table 1: Dissemination and Outreach Work Plan**

<b>Key actions: Dissemination</b>	<b>Time frame and possible entry points</b>
Elaboration and implementation of a communications strategy to support local and international dissemination efforts, including information and communications material	<b>Draft circulated March 28, comments in by early June</b> Review the communication strategy and feed a small number of key gender messages into the strategy development Encourage and facilitate local initiatives, and promote a gender perspective Advocate for user-friendly materials Support gender analysis of commitments and lessons from their implementation
Regional events on implementing PD to be organised by WP-EFF (Regional Dev Banks, World Bank, UNDP)	Plan for involvement of DAC Gender Network members Lobby for gender equity constituents to be represented at regional events
Lead facilitators from partner and donor sides designated in-country to steer the monitoring process	Sensitise lead facilitators and colleagues from partner countries and donor agencies on gender relevance Lobby for gender expertise and representation of women amongst lead facilitators

### ***The Results Agenda***

25. Important work is underway by the JV-MfDR, supported by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, towards the Third International Roundtable on Managing for Developing Results to be held in February 2007. Attention could usefully focus on ensuring that the emerging Global Agenda on MfDR is gender responsive. A draft concept note on the proposed 3<sup>rd</sup> Roundtable has just been circulated as a basis for discussions with prospective stakeholders of the Roundtable.<sup>20</sup> This is a really important agenda for gender equality as it offers the opportunity to influence the support to be provided to partner countries in managing for results in operationalisation of PRS, JAS etc. This, still very open, agenda needs to be supported by donor agencies with commitments to gender equality, as it is likely to be highly influential in terms of future gender responsiveness of all parties. The most immediate entry point is provided by the opportunity to comment on the concept note for the Roundtable. Gender specialists in agencies should liaise with colleagues who are active in this JV.

### ***Increasing role for agencies and countries***

26. As the Declaration moves from formulation to implementation, there will be an increased role for multilateral and bilateral organisations to engage in the process, which will offer real opportunities to gender specialists and advocates to communicate key messages on gender relevance. Alliances need to be forged within agencies and across agencies and with national partners to be strategic and effective in influencing the agenda. Providing sex-disaggregated data and qualitative information on gender issues across the commitments, indicators and targets of the PD is recommended where ever feasible. Other options include:

- Supporting independent studies to get qualitative information on key gender dimensions
- Review of concept notes, draft frameworks and reports by gender experts
- Providing training and tools for country teams involved in the performance assessment frameworks
- Participating in preparation of monitoring and progress reports

### ***Applying the principles and commitments***

27. Wherever possible we should put the Paris Declaration principles into practice to further gender equality and women's empowerment. We should identify, write up and feed in lessons on aid effectiveness

20. World Bank (June 16<sup>th</sup> 2006 Draft) Third International Roundtable on Managing for Development Results February 2007 Concept Note, World Bank Operations Policy and Country Services Results Secretariat

from gender equality experience, such as effective gender budget initiatives. *Providing and documenting examples of harmonization in practice in this area* is one of the ways to bring gender equality issues to the attention of the architects of the Paris Declaration.

28. We should identify and *maximise opportunities for coordinated action to influence the macro-level processes on Paris Declaration* and establish or preferably use existing networks, alliances and own agencies to ensure that gender experts are literate on the Paris Declaration and that representatives in the WP-EFF are informed on gender dimensions. As with all gender mainstreaming initiatives, capacity and resource base is essential, but not easily gained without consistent advocacy and support.

29. While endeavouring to operate effectively within the current narrowly defined Paris Declaration, we should also work to widen the focus from technical internal processes towards results; foster open dialogue on rights and responsibilities of donor and partner countries to citizens, especially poor women and men; *promote the use of outcomes rather than policies to measure true commitment* and to assess progress on gender equality. In pursuing this we should work with allies in other cross cutting areas such as environmental sustainability and human rights which, like gender equality, are essential for development effectiveness. Consider, for example, a cross-discipline team to work on improving aid and development effectiveness by showing donors and partners how to address cross cutting issues and setting indicators and targets for performance.

<b>Issues for discussion</b>
<p><b>Working Party on Aid Effectiveness</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Given that systems, procedures and mechanisms do impact on results, and that gender equality is a key result area for DAC members, how can a shift from a technocratic aid efficiency agenda to a broader development effectiveness agenda be achieved?</li> <li>2. What opportunities are available for gender advocates to promote the development of a gender sensitive results agenda?</li> <li>3. How can gender specialists best engage with and support the upcoming work plan of the WP-EFF?</li> <li>4. What measures do you propose to take to ensure increased gender responsiveness in dissemination and implementation of the Declaration?</li> </ol> <p><b>DAC Gender Network and its members</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Working at an international level, what are the critical elements of a global strategy for influencing the implementation of the Paris Declaration?</li> <li>2. Of the proposed strategic hooks at global level, what are the most promising entry points and how should we capitalise on these?</li> <li>3. At country level, what are the most promising entry points for ensuring that gender equality remains central to harmonisation and alignment processes?</li> <li>4. How can gender specialists in donor agency headquarters contribute to this?</li> <li>5. What can the Network do to assist members to make effective use of the partnership commitments in their work?</li> </ol>

## Annex 1

Table 1: The Paris Declaration and Gender Equality Implications

	Principles (5) & Indicators (12)	Gender Relevance	Entry Points/opportunities
1	<p><b>Ownership</b>  <i>Partner countries exercise effective leadership over their development policies and strategies and coordinate development actions</i></p> <p>(1) Partners have operational development strategies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eradication of poverty, halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and maximising benefits of economic growth are not possible without gender equality – must be reflected in development strategies</li> <li>• Experience indicates that existing structures for consultation and dialogue on national priorities are not representative of poor women and men and will need to be broadened</li> <li>• Donors commit to help strengthen partner country capacity to lead (Para 15), this should include both women and men</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for gender mainstreaming in PRS formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation</li> <li>• Assessment of quality of ownership in relation to the extent to which women’s perspectives are reflected in national development plans</li> <li>• Influence policy dialogue on strategic priorities to include gender equality</li> <li>• Support (as early as possible) gender mainstreaming in the qualitative assessment (QA) of this indicator (1)</li> <li>• Engage with the ‘platform’ (to be established) of organisations &amp; bodies responsible for the QA of this indicator of progress</li> <li>• Disseminate information on the PD and support women’s national machinery &amp; women’s civil society organisations to participate actively</li> </ul>
2	<p><b>Alignment</b>  <i>Donors base their overall support on partner countries’ national development strategies, institutions and procedures</i></p> <p>(2a) Reliable Public Financial Mgt (PFM) systems  (2b) Reliable Procurement systems</p> <p>(3) Aid flows are aligned on national priorities</p> <p>(4) Strengthen capacity by coordinated support</p> <p>(5a) Use of country PFM systems (% of aid)  (5b) Use of country procurement systems (% of donors)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing value is attached to policy dialogue – most donors and partner countries have policies and have made commitments to gender equality – so alignment whereby donors support gender policies and systems of partner governments is within reach if the will exists</li> <li>• Gender differences in opportunities and constraints within and between households can affect consumption and investment choices, productivity, and macroeconomic growth processes.</li> <li>• The efficiency and equity of public spending can be subject to gender-based distortions</li> <li>• Gender must be considered in the appraisal of government spending and taxation, the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Platforms for discussing GE at policy level &amp; strategies already exist e.g. MDGs, Beijing, CEDAW – donors should engage with these in policy dialogue and actively support GE policies and constituents</li> <li>• Build capacity of donor agency and partners to take account of gender equality in analytical work and policy dialogue</li> <li>• Promote the use of gender-sensitive Poverty &amp; Social Impact Assessments of macro and structural reform</li> <li>• Ensure that gender equality is captured in harmonised performance assessment frameworks for country systems (relates to commitment paragraph 21)</li> <li>• Highlight the importance of engendering macroeconomics; build capacity on Gender Budget Approaches/Initiatives and support informed citizen participation in budgetary processes</li> <li>• Support (as early as possible) gender mainstreaming in the qualitative assessment (QA) of indicator 2</li> </ul>

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	<p>(6) Avoiding parallel project implementation units</p> <p>(7) Aid is more predictable</p> <p>(8) Aid is untied</p>	<p>gendered impact of public expenditure policies and the gender-awareness of budgetary strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor the extent to which gender issues are voiced in the policy dialogue process</li> <li>• Engage with the ‘platform’ (to be established) of organisations &amp; bodies responsible for the QA of this indicator of progress</li> <li>• Monitor flow of fund effects and budgets for extent to which they address gender equality</li> </ul>
3	<p><b>Harmonisation</b>  <i>Donors’ actions are more harmonised, transparent and collectively effective</i></p> <p>(9) Use of common arrangements – percent of aid provided as programme-based approaches</p> <p>(10a) Joint missions to the field</p> <p>(10b) Joint country analytical work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harmonisation is changing the institutions, incentives and policies of aid and of development and gender as a cross cutting issue needs to be mainstreamed in evolving new programme mechanisms</li> <li>• There is a risk that programmatic sectoral focus might preclude cross-cutting gender equality and women’s empowerment initiatives</li> <li>• Gender equality needs to be tracked in programme budget approaches, joint analytical work and joint gender assessment work</li> <li>• Delivering effective aid in fragile states involves addressing issues of governance and inclusion, which have significant gender dimensions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strive for policy coherence between gender equality and policies in other areas e.g. economic, environment, social policy and set targets for consistent policy reinforcement</li> <li>• Support the development of agreed accountability mechanisms within budget support to hold governments to account for investments in GE and women’s empowerment</li> <li>• Make gender analysis and mainstreaming capacity a core element in assessment of donors’ comparative advantage and on achieving donor complementarity at country or sectoral level (relates to commitment Para 34)</li> <li>• Paragraph 42 makes explicit reference to the need for harmonisation efforts on CCI such as gender equality, including those financed by dedicated funds – this includes deepening progress on agreed gender equality impact assessment, development of specialised technical and policy capacity necessary for gender analysis and for enforcement of legislation (modelled on Environmental Assessment commitment (Paragraphs 40 &amp; 41))</li> <li>• Ensure that those involved in development of common arrangements and procedures have the skills to analyse and to mainstream gender equality and the resources and technical capacity to implement</li> <li>• Promote joint gender audits, evaluations and assessments and capture harmonisation in donor agencies gender strategies</li> <li>• Provide support for development of gender inclusive institutions in fragile states (Paragraphs 37-39)</li> </ul>

4	<p><b>Managing for Results</b> <i>Managing resources and improving decision-making for results</i></p> <p>(11) Results-oriented framework to assess progress against national development strategies and sector programmes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender equality needs to be captured in strengthened linkages between national development strategies and annual and multi-annual budget processes (Para 44 refers)</li> <li>• Gender equality must be mainstreamed in the results-oriented reporting and assessment frameworks that monitor progress (Para 44) especially against National Development Plans and sector programmes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the development of sex disaggregated data within countries statistical, monitoring and evaluation systems through capacity building and securing of resources (Para 45 refers)</li> <li>• Strengthen the voice of gender equality and women's empowerment constituents in promoting demand for results based management (Para 46)</li> <li>• Ensure that gender dimensions are incorporated in all assessment of performance, monitoring and evaluation – and if it is not, the rationale should be made explicit</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>Mutual accountability</b> <i>Donors and partners are accountable for development results</i></p> <p>Mutual assessment reviews in place in all partner countries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender is a key dimension to be tracked in establishing mutual accountability and transparency in the use of development resources (Para 47 refers)</li> <li>• Women have a key part to play in strengthening the parliamentary role in national development strategies and/or budgets (Para 48 refers)</li> <li>• Reinforce participatory approaches and involvement of a broad range of development partners in formulating and assessing progress in implementing national development strategies (Para 48 refers)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop mechanisms to strengthen mutual accountability of donors and partner countries for promoting Gender Equality, Poverty Reduction and Human Rights</li> <li>• Promote accountability to citizens, including women, and not just between partners and donors</li> <li>• Active engagement of gender specialists with the working group and country teams on monitoring of the PD</li> <li>• Strengthen national capacity in formulation of gender-sensitive performance indicators and inclusion of gender analysis</li> <li>• Strengthen national organisations and machinery for gender equality in support of accountability to constituencies</li> <li>• Promote Gender auditing systems and Gender Budget Initiative</li> <li>• Strengthen the participation of civil society in accountability and review processes</li> <li>• Build capacity towards a strong voice for women in areas where they currently are weak e.g. fiscal, trade and financial policy arenas</li> </ul>