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DAC Network on Gender Equality

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE DAC NETWORK ON GENDER EQUALITY

5-7 July 2006

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE DAC NETWORK ON GENDER EQUALITY

5-7 JULY 2006

Item 1: Opening Session

1. **The Chair**, Ms. To Tjoelker (Netherlands), opened the meeting by reminding members of the DAC's mandate. As a key forum for bilateral donors, the DAC aims to increase aid volumes and effectiveness, improve donor behaviour and support policy coherence. She also highlighted the key elements of the *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness*, endorsed by over 90 donor and partner countries and stressed the importance of integrating gender equality and women's empowerment considerations into the overall work on aid effectiveness. Using the Paris commitments to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment into the new aid modalities are challenges for the Network.

2. The Chair commended members on the work completed during the past year and expressed her satisfaction at the high scores for the Network's proposed outputs in the DAC prioritisation exercise for the 2007-2008 Work Programme. In the coming biennium our core work will be the review of the *DAC Guidelines for gender equality and women's empowerment in development co-operation*. This work will take full account of the new aid modalities, the Paris agenda and our experiences over the past decade with implementing gender mainstreaming.

3. Noting the need for additional financing to implement the Work Programme for 2007-08, the Chair called for the replenishment of the Gender Equality Fund. Spain confirmed their contribution of EUR 60 000 for 2005-06 and announced a further grant for the 2007-08 biennium.

4. The Summary Record of the third meeting [DCD/DAC/GEN/M(2005)1/PROV] and the Agenda for the fourth meeting [DCD/DAC/GEN/A(2006)1] were adopted.

Item 2: Has the approach of DAC members to gender equality and women's empowerment changed since 1999?

5. The objectives of this session were to:

- contextualise the findings of the report *The approach of DAC members to gender equality in development co-operation - changes since 1999*,
- reflect on the anticipated future impacts of the changing international contexts for gender equality and women's empowerment in development co-operation,
- inspire members to consider how to "reshape" and reinvent development work to achieve gender equality,
- provide a forum for a frank discussion by members on what has worked and what has not worked, and
- provide input for the revision of the *DAC Guidelines for gender equality and women's empowerment in development co-operation*.

6. **To introduce the session, Ms. Dorthea Damkjaer** (Denmark) outlined the international context for the report, linking it to changes in the international aid environment including new ways of delivering aid, emerging donors, changing international and bilateral policy objectives and increasingly decentralised bilateral agencies. Each of these changes presents both opportunities and challenges for progressing gender equality and women's empowerment. The study built on the findings of the Creditor Reporting System study, *Aid Activities in Support of Gender Equality, 1999-2003*, and of the outcomes of the gender mainstreaming workshop held at the 3rd Meeting of the Network in July 2005.

7. She drew out three key findings from the report:

- i) most agencies have a solid policy on gender equality that combines mainstreaming and targeted interventions,
- ii) no agency has put in place the structures, resources, incentives and accountability systems needed to implement their policy fully, and
- iii) there is no "magic bullet" for dealing more effectively with gender equality in the new aid environment.

8. **Dr. Karen Oppenheim Mason**, author of the report, presented her observations on what the survey revealed. Even though work on promoting gender equality and empowering women has been ongoing for 30 years, progress is slow. One important reason for this is that changing power structures is generally difficult, and gender is one of the most entrenched and ancient dimensions of social organisation, intimately bound up with sex, reproduction, wealth and power – a society's "hot stuff"! She questioned also why it is that despite DAC members' many policies and statements, there continues to be poor action "on the ground". Perhaps the key to this is deep-seated resistance to taking action to achieve gender equality – both in the power structures of our own ministries and agencies, and in partner governments. To be sure, there are societies where women and their male allies have fought for equality and in some cases have been able to shift the balance of power towards gender equality – but governments and governing bodies have never led the charge. She urged participants to be cautious when placing partner country governments in the driver's seat and stressed the need to support women's groups in partner countries to hold their governments accountable.

9. She posed the following questions:

- How can we create stronger political pressures on our own ministries and agencies – and on our partner governments – to take the issue of gender equality seriously?
- Are there actions that we can take as development agencies? Or does the pressure have to be created by others?

10. **Ms. Damkjaer** set out opportunities and challenges for promoting gender equality and women's empowerment on four different levels:

- i) in *bilateral development agencies* - where opportunities and challenges depend upon political leadership, management, institutional structures (including the composition and training of staff, resources, accountability and incentive systems, monitoring and reporting systems), the number of policy objectives and cross-cutting themes and the degree of centralisation or decentralisation;
- ii) at the *partner country level* – where achieving equal rights for men and women, equal access to and control over resources, and equal opportunities for political and economic influence are some of the main challenges. Partnerships and alliances need to be established between various actors such as Parliament, the Judiciary, civil society including women's organisations, the private sector, the media, research institutions, and different donors in order

- to be able to exploit the available aid mechanisms such as political dialogue, joint assistance strategies, Poverty Reduction Strategies and programmatic approaches;
- iii) at the level of *multilateral institutions* – as neither bilateral nor multilateral development agencies perform optimally in implementing their Beijing commitments or their own policies, it would be timely for agencies to focus on their comparative institutional advantages and agree on a division of labour; and
 - iv) at the level of *gender advisors* – where we have multidimensional roles and need multidimensional skills to be to be influential, effective and perceived as relevant within our agencies. Effective gender advisors need to understand the full range of international development policies and practices; the institutional and operational culture of their own agency; a number of specialist subject areas; how to handle timing and context in a strategic manner; how to use networks and communicate in a convincing manner; how to negotiate with a wide range of actors at different levels; how to create win-win situations for colleagues; how to supply what is required in a way that increases demand; and how to pick their battles and focus on what is important.

Examination of two members' reforms

11. Bearing these opportunities and challenges in mind, a frank examination was conducted of why and how two members (the United Kingdom and Norway) had reviewed their approaches to gender equality in development. The two members answered questions about what had made them evaluate their performance on gender equality; what were the main findings of the evaluation; what were the political and management responses to the findings; what decisions and strategies had been developed to improve future performance; and how these strategies differ from their previous approaches.

12. The examination illustrated that political support and an active interest in gender equality issues remain indispensable starting points. Likewise, ownership of gender equality issues needs to be broadened within agencies beyond the domain of the gender advisors. This can be achieved by using tools such as monitoring systems and performance indicators. Capacity development and increasing the knowledge of existing tools amongst staff remains vital. Visibility and active discourse on gender equality create demand and enhance the status of gender equality issues. In addition, a revitalised two-track strategy – gender mainstreaming coupled with women's empowerment – must be underpinned by financial and human resources. The examination also showed that creating synergies between gender equality and other policy objectives is a useful approach. Gender advisors gain from improving their communication skills and presenting their case in a more straightforward and compelling manner. Finally, the examination demonstrated that in order to initiate a reform process, evaluations are a key tool, as they bring challenges to the forefront.

13. The session's discussions confirmed that although gender mainstreaming has the potential to be an effective strategy for advancing gender equality and women's empowerment, in practice it has often resulted in a reduction in both the financial and human resources available for gender equality work in agencies. Perhaps even more importantly it has resulted in a situation where *everyone and no-one* is responsible or accountable. As has been found in DAC peer review processes, when gender equality is mainstreamed, specialist knowledge is still required to maintain and build capacity and capability. To be effective, mainstreaming requires a greater level of resources, not less.

Discussion and conclusions

14. Participants were asked to reflect on how to change the way they do business in order to “up their game” in the future. They agreed:

That in *bilateral development agencies*:

- increased accountability is necessary to ensure that agencies “walk the walk” and not only “talk the talk”. This can be achieved through strengthened reporting systems, internal evaluations, DAC Peer Reviews, internal management systems, and monitoring and performance indicators – all strategies which have proven their effectiveness when used in the past,
- capacity to address gender equality effectively needs to be strengthened at all levels. Objectives should be to give staff access to knowledge and to encourage them to use fully existing tools,
- ownership of gender equality and women’s empowerment amongst agency staff – including men and managers - needs to be broadened. One means of achieving this is to appoint focal points for gender equality and women’s empowerment in all divisions; and
- the responsibility and “buy-in” for gender equality issues needs to move up the hierarchy, to both managers and the political level.

That at the *partner country level*:

- sustained political support is crucial,
- a greater push to strengthen local civil society organisations and in particular women’s organisations is needed so that they are better able to hold their governments accountable, and
- once gender equality and women’s empowerment is integrated into PRSs, this needs to be translated into increased budgetary allocations focused on closing gender equality gaps and women’s empowerment in programme activities.

That *gender advisors*:

- should make an effort to link up with colleagues working with other policy objectives to create synergies and generate win-win situations,
- need to improve how they communicate, including the terminology and language used,
- should be more specific and concrete in defining what they wish to achieve, and
- must strategically prioritise and focus their work.

Item 3: Workshop on aid effectiveness and gender equality

15. The session Chair, **Ms. Fionnuala Gilenan** (Ireland), introduced the session by reminding participants that the changing aid environment and the projected increase in aid flows bring both new opportunities and greater responsibility for more vigorously tackling gender equality and women’s empowerment. She also stressed the importance of carefully considering where country ownership really lies and who sets the agenda on the ground when promoting gender equality in the context of the new aid modalities.

16. The **objectives** of the workshop were to:

- understand the partnership commitments of the *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness*, their influence on the aid environment and their impact on gender equality work in development co-operation,
- identify strategic entry points and ways to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment using the partnership commitments,

- enhance members' understanding of the focus of the DAC Working Party on Aid Effectiveness and its Joint Ventures and how members might engage with those processes strategically,
- understand how the *Paris Declaration* is being implemented at partner country level through Joint Assistance Strategies and other processes, and
- identify how to influence and locate gender equality and women's empowerment within the associated policy and political dialogue.

17. **Ms. Catherine Gaynor, consultant**, introduced *The Paris Declaration commitments and implications for gender equality and women's empowerment* (DCD/DAC/GEN(2006)1) commissioned by Development Cooperation Ireland. An earlier version of paper had been presented at the joint workshop of the GENDERNET with the United Nations' Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality - *Aid Modalities and the Promotion of Gender Equality*, held on 30-31 January 2006 in Nairobi, Kenya.

18. She noted that the implementation of the *Paris Declaration* is evolving rapidly and that gender equality had not been addressed explicitly to date. The *Declaration* provides considerable opportunity for advancing gender equality, and there are many entry points. Strategic decisions need to be taken as to where and how to influence processes. Ms. Gaynor argued that the implementation of the *Paris Declaration* would benefit from a more broadly based approach, including taking on elements relating to the substance and results of development effectiveness rather than focussing solely on aid and agency efficiency.

19. A number of opportunities for using the partnership commitments of the *Paris Declaration* to pursue gender equality objectives and strategies were identified:

- *Ownership*: there is scope for gender equality and women's empowerment to be higher on partner countries' political agendas and for women's voices and concerns to be more influential in development processes.
- *Alignment*: donors should acknowledge and use mutual commitments and international instruments, such as the *Beijing Platform for Action* and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in policy dialogue to align with, strengthen and support national commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment, and strengthen capacity for coordinated support to gender equality and women's empowerment.
- *Harmonisation*: this commitment is the only one which explicitly mentions gender equality and cross-cutting issues (paragraph 42). However, unless cross-cutting issues are addressed in the evolving new programme mechanisms and the rationalisation of donor support, there is a risk that they will be squeezed out by the more dominant sectoral focus. There is a need for a gender equality perspective in all joint donor processes and for increased joint gender assessment work.
- *Managing for results*: demonstrating gender equality results and impacts is an essential part of managing for development results. Monitoring gender differentiated impacts is a good way of ensuring that aid is reaching those it is intended to serve.
- *Mutual accountability*: strong national accountability mechanisms would include women, and accountability should be monitored with gender responsive indicators.

20. At the partner country level the potential risks from leaving gender equality out of the Paris agenda include the likelihood that women will not benefit equitably from increased development budgets; that aid effectiveness will be measured along a narrow set of aligned process criteria with horizontal cross-cutting issues sidelined; that donor ability to influence how partner countries allocate funding for

gender equality and women's empowerment is likely to decrease as programmatic aid increases; that the national policy fora supported by donors will be distanced and out of touch with the realities faced by poor women and men; and that there will be a continuation of the current gap between policy commitments and policy implementation, resulting in a failure to meet gender equality commitments.

21. Ms. Gaynor proposed a number of strategic entry points for integrating gender equality and women's empowerment considerations into the Paris agenda at the global level. She suggested linking up with the WP-EFF and its Joint Ventures (Managing for Development Results, Monitoring the *Paris Declaration*, Procurement and Public Financial Management) and with other DAC subsidiary bodies working on cross-cutting issues. The leadup to the 3rd High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, scheduled to take place in Ghana in 2008, was identified as a particularly important opportunity for influencing the work programme on aid effectiveness. The WP-EFF's communications strategy, which is currently being developed, also provides a strategic opportunity for advocating for gender equality and women's empowerment. Network members were urged to liaise with their agency colleagues working with the WP-EFF and its Joint Ventures to better understand and take on board the implications of the *Paris Declaration*.

22. A question and answer session followed, where **participants agreed** on the importance of demonstrating the linkages between gender equality and other development objectives. One example could be illustrating how women's access to markets is essential to economic growth and poverty reduction. Participants recognised the importance of making linkages with other DAC subsidiary bodies such as the Evaluation Network, the Network on Governance as well as the WP-EFF. At the same time, participants noted that opportunities were limited for integrating gender equality aspects into the planned work programme for monitoring the *Paris Declaration*.

Zambia Case Study

A case study was presented on integrating gender equality dimensions into Zambia's Joint Assistance Strategy and on Zambia's approach to implementing the *Paris Declaration*.

23. **Mr. Joe Kapembwa** (Director, Gender Economics and Finance, Gender in Development Division, Zambia) described past efforts to mainstream gender within the Government of Zambia. A review of the country's 2002-2004 PRSP had revealed that gender mainstreaming through policy implementation remained a challenge; that women were still under-represented in decision making positions; that there was poor statistical data and limited sex-disaggregation; and that progress towards amending discriminatory legislation was slow.

24. The review identified some gains, however, such as an increased level of gender awareness among both government officials and the public; some successful gender mainstreaming initiatives in the education and health sectors; an improved level of consultation on the Fifth National Development Plan (FNDP); and, strengthened institutional support for gender equality by some donors such as the Netherlands, Norway and the UN. Mr. Kapembwa highlighted the role of civil society organisations in bringing gender equality to the attention of the Zambian government.

25. The FNDP is in the process of being finalised and will seek to improve legislation and the collection of sex-disaggregated statistics, to strengthen the capacity of gender focal points and planners in each sector and to strengthen monitoring processes. It will have a rights based approach which promotes equity in the distribution of resources and promotion of social justice. Gender equality is to be addressed both as a sector in its own right and as a cross-cutting issue in the Plan. This will guarantee adequate financing and actions specifically targeted towards women and, at the same time, ensure that each of the sectors has a gender equality focus. Five sectors had been identified as priorities for mainstreaming gender:

education, health, agriculture, governance and social protection. Mr. Kapembwa acknowledged the importance of including gender equality indicators in the key results areas for public service officials so that they can be held accountable.

26. **Mr. Paul Lupunga** (Economist, Ministry of Finance, Zambia) outlined the approach to the Joint Assistance Strategy (JAS). The JAS aligns with and will act as a donor response to the national development priorities outlined in the FNDP. The JAS is being developed through dialogue between the donors and the government. The overall objectives are to rationalise the aid programme in Zambia and to ensure aid is being disbursed to all sectors by focussing on the division of labour between donors and on joint programming. The JAS process has included a self assessment of comparative advantages by the donors to identify a lead donor for each sector. Terms of Reference for donors and a framework for the division of labour have also been drafted. UNDP is now the lead donor for the gender equality sector, assisted by Norway, the USA and the Netherlands. In addition, a review and comparison of previous experiences from Zambia, Uganda and Tanzania has been carried out, and efforts have been made to decentralise donor decision-making to the country-level.

27. Mr. Lupunga outlined some key challenges for the JAS process in Zambia, such as the existence of “darling sectors” with donors lining up to support work on education and governance but leaving other sectors without the necessary levels of development assistance. Other challenges included identification of motivated individuals at the country level and of competent and accountable lead donors (co-operating partners) for each sector, able to provide the necessary levels of financial assistance, expertise and “soft strengths” such as teambuilding and diplomacy.

28. **Ms. Ineke Van de Pol** (First Secretary, Gender and Environment, Netherlands Embassy Lusaka/Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Netherlands) explained how the partnership commitments in the *Paris Declaration* are implemented by donors in Zambia to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment:

- *Ownership* – the Zambian Government’s Gender in Development Division (GIDD) has been active in defining what was expected from donors relating to gender equality in each of the sectors defined in the FNDP.
- *Alignment* – the Government and the cooperating partners agree that gender equality is a priority issue. Gender equality dimensions will be integrated into the Performance Assessment Framework and there will be a gender audit in each of the five priority sectors every two years. Donors will provide technical analytical support to GIDD, advice on gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation systems, as well as indicative funding commitments for gender equality over a multi-year framework.
- *Harmonisation* – donors need a common understanding of gender mainstreaming in their planning, resource allocation and reporting and to agree on the expertise available to support gender mainstreaming.
- *Managing for results* – GIDD and the donors are working towards a gender sensitive Performance Assessment Framework. Gender equality indicators have been developed for the five priority sectors. Efforts are still ongoing to ensure that all sectors include gender equality indicators and are aligned with the MDGs.
- *Mutual accountability* – donors are to provide timely information on aid flows. Mutual assessment reviews are in place and GIDD are responsible for influencing, showing results and providing direction for other line ministries. The Ministry of Finance has an important role in holding all sectors accountable for taking on gender equality and women’s empowerment.

Discussion groups

29. Participants broke into discussion groups focussing on how to use the partnership commitments of the *Paris Declaration* to advance gender equality and how to make effective use of the commitments in their daily work. Two groups concentrated on opportunities at the **international/policy level**. They were asked to reflect upon what the critical elements would be of a global strategy for influencing the implementation of the *Paris Declaration*, what the most promising entry points are and how these could be capitalised on. Two groups focussed on the **partner country level**. They were asked to consider what the most promising entry points would be for ensuring that gender equality remains central to harmonisation and alignment processes and how gender specialists in donor agency headquarters can contribute to this.

30. Following discussions, participants agreed on a **limited number of strategic entry points** which will also provide input into the revision of the *DAC Guidelines on gender equality and women's empowerment*:

At the **international/policy** level:

- organise a joint workshop with other DAC subsidiary bodies, including the WP-EFF, on how to integrate cross-cutting issues into the implementation of the *Paris Declaration*,
- members to form alliances with colleagues working with the WP-EFF, and
- refocus on a twin-track approach of gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment.

At the **partner country** level:

- bring the *Paris Declaration* and the broader aid effectiveness agenda to the attention of civil society organisations and in particular women's organisations,
- encourage partner-initiated joint country missions to examine the impacts of the new aid modalities on gender equality and women's empowerment, and vice versa, and
- implement the *Paris Declaration* and its agenda by harmonising expertise to improve in-country gender equality arrangements.

31. Further details on the practical outcomes of the workshop are listed under **agenda item 5 – work programme, 2007-08**.

Item 4: Work programme, 2005-2006

32. The Chair introduced the discussion on the implementation and completion of the 2005-06 work programme by referring to Room Document 4 – *Status report on the implementation of the Network's work programme, 2005-06*. The current biennium has realised significant achievements for the Network, providing a solid basis for 2007-08. Highlights include:

- the 2005 Creditor Reporting system study – *Aid activities in support of gender equality 1999-2003*,
- the refinement of the Gender Equality Policy Marker in collaboration with the Working Party on Statistics,
- the joint workshop with the UN's Interagency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) on *Aid modalities and the Promotion of Gender Equality* (Nairobi, January 2006),
- the two papers presented at this meeting - The approach of DAC members to gender equality in development co-operation – changes since 1999, by Karen Mason; and, The Paris Declaration commitments and the implications for gender equality and women's empowerment, by Cathy Gaynor,

- the economics training workshop (July 2006), and,
- the collaborative work with the World Bank on progressing MDG3 – the implementation challenge.

Progressing MDG3 – the implementation challenge

World Bank

33. **Ms. Mayra Buvinic** (World Bank) reported on the process of developing the World Bank's Action Plan for implementing MDG3, which has been supported by the DAC Network on Gender Equality. This collaboration has been commended by the World Bank as a positive example of how the two organisations should interact.

34. The Action Plan – *Gender equality as smart economics* - is in response to World Bank Vice President Danny Leipziger's challenge to "... the World Bank and other interested parties to propose an action plan in 100 days to accelerate the implementation of the gender equality MDG." The objectives are to advance women's economic empowerment in client countries to promote shared growth, accelerate the implementation of MDG 3 and enhance the effectiveness of development interventions. The Plan is based on the rationale that to promote economic development and attain the MDGs - especially MDG3 - the global community must renew its attention to women's economic empowerment and increase investments in women. It fills an existing gender mainstreaming gap in the World Bank's economic policy. A framework of **policy level** interventions ("to make markets work for women") and **agency level** interventions ("to empower women to compete in markets") provides the basis for the Plan. Four focus markets, critical to women's economic empowerment, have been identified: product markets, financial markets, land markets and labour markets. It also takes into account infrastructural interventions.

35. The Plan has four inter-related Action Areas designed to:

- *engender operations and technical assistance* – in sectors such as infrastructure, energy and agriculture;
- *implement results-based initiatives* – through replicating successes and defining short-term objectives. For this action area, UNIFEM is the implementing agency and the International Center for Research on Women will perform impact evaluations. Financing is already ensured;
- *improve research and statistics* – i.e. to track women's economic empowerment and how this contributes to growth. Most of this action area is already financed through the statistics division of the Bank;
- be a *targeted communications campaign* – to demonstrate the importance of investing in women and increase country demand to participate in the implementation of the Plan.

36. The budget for four years amounts to about USD25 million, of which the Bank already has secured USD4 million. The remaining funds will be requested both from the Bank's budget and from donor contributions. The Plan has been formally reviewed and is scheduled to be discussed by the Board in early September.

37. **Participants** congratulated the Bank on this initiative and indicated their willingness to provide well-timed political support. Some noted the need to re-examine the proposed list of focus countries. Others stressed the importance of defining clear baseline indicators and targets to measure progress.

Bilateral donors

38. **Ms. Lina Neeb** (Belgium) introduced the Network's proposed complementary response to the World Bank's initiative. During the consultation process between the two organisations, the idea emerged of identifying success stories – i.e. good examples of programmes targeting gender equality and women's empowerment which could be "scaled up".

39. As a first step a rapid "mapping" exercise of bilateral donors' activities had been undertaken to identify possible focus countries and sectors. By using several screening mechanisms – including the focus countries identified by the World Bank, an analysis of country PRSPs and whether countries have ratified the CEDAW convention - four possible focus countries had been identified: Tanzania, Nicaragua, Vietnam and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

40. The next steps are to:

- compare the suggested focus countries with the analysis prepared for the 3rd OECD/DAC-World Bank meeting on Scaling up for Results (Paris, 27 June 2006),
- contact members who participated in the "mapping" requesting more specific information on opportunities for "scaling up" gender equality interventions in the identified countries, and to identify potential lead donors, and
- continue to follow the joint OECD/DAC-World Bank "scaling up" work with a view to integrating the MDG3 initiative into the wider process.

Progress reports

The gender equality policy marker

41. **Ms. Julia Benn** (OECD Secretariat) reported on the progress of the joint Task Team of the Working Party on Statistics (WP-STAT) and the GENDERNET which worked on refining the Gender Equality Policy Marker. She announced that WP-STAT had approved the Task Team's proposals at its June 2006 meeting including a redefinition of the marker, a new explanatory appendix in a Frequently Asked Questions format and a new purpose code for *Women's equality organisations and institutions* (previously *Women in development*). The aim of refining the marker was to increase the number of DAC members reporting on gender equality focussed aid and to improve the usage of the marker within reporting agencies. An analytical study based on the marker data could be envisaged in a few years time.

42. Members were urged to encourage their agencies' statistical reporters to apply the Marker. Members also expressed an interest in sharing good practice in using the marker as a planning and monitoring tool within agencies. The Secretariat will explore ways of disseminating more widely the information generated from the reported data.

43. Ms. Benn also noted that the WP-STAT was planning to review the type of aid categorisation. It was suggested that, once this work was completed, the joint Task Team should resume its work to consider how the policy marker could be applied to programmatic forms of aid such as general budget support. This was supported by members as an element of the Network's work programme on aid effectiveness in the 2007-08 biennium.

HIV/AIDS

44. **Ms. Katherine Blakeslee** (United States) reported on the status of the work on HIV/AIDS. The Network will commission a brief think-piece on good donor practice for empowering women in the fight

against HIV/AIDS. This will probably be published as an *Issues brief*. Members who wish to comment on the draft Terms of Reference were asked to provide their input promptly.

Poverty reduction (including collaboration with the POVNET and others)

45. **Ms. Patricia McCullagh** (Canada) summarised the work on gender equality and poverty reduction, including the Network's engagement with the DAC Network on Poverty Reduction (POVNET). The Chair of the GENDERNET is an ex-officio member of the POVNET. The Network has actively contributed to each of the POVNET's work streams which culminated in the *Pro-Poor Growth Policy Statement*, endorsed at the DAC High Level Meeting in April 2006. On behalf of the GENDERNET, USAID had prepared a "hot topic" paper on *Enhancing women's market access and promoting pro-poor growth* for the POVNET Private Sector Task Team. The GENDERNET also prepared a paper and presentation for the Infrastructure Task Team which will be published as an *Issues brief*. With the support of Germany, the Network published an *Issues brief* on *Negotiating the economics of PRSs – a reference guide for the non-economist*. A further paper intended for economists is in draft. Finally, the Network organised a two-day training course on the basics of economics (July 2006) in conjunction with the fourth meeting of the Network.

Conflict, peace and security (including collaboration with the DAC Network on Conflict, Peace and Development Co-operation (CPDC))

46. **Ms. Blakeslee** also presented the work on conflict, peace and security. The Network has peer-reviewed and contributed to 15 *Issues briefs* prepared by CPDC, published as *Preventing conflict and building peace: a manual of issues and entry points*. In February 2006 the CPDC decided to put "on hold" the publication of further *Issues briefs*, including one which USAID had drafted on behalf of the Network on *Human trafficking in post-conflict situations*.

47. The focus of the collaboration has now shifted to working with the CPDC on strengthening the gender perspective in the draft *Implementation Framework for security system reform* and with the Fragile States Group on including gender dimensions in the *Draft principles for good international engagement with fragile states*. The *Framework* and *Principles* are on track to be taken up at the December DAC Senior Level Meeting and, if agreed, by the High Level Meeting in April 2007.

Brief reports from members and observers on their current key priorities and activities

48. **The Chair** drew members' attention to Room Document No. 5 – *Members' key priorities and activities* – a collation of the brief reports submitted by members. This is a useful way of identifying members with similar priorities and can facilitate collaboration. Members and observers who wished to provide information which would be of interest to others were invited to make brief presentations.

49. **Australia** (Ms. Kate Nethercott) informed participants of the recently launched strategic framework for the Australian aid programme – *Australian aid: promoting growth and stability* - which has gender equality as an overarching principle. Gender equality outcomes are defined for each key area of the Framework and a new policy on gender equality is to be developed. The budget for research on gender equality has also been increased. Ms. Nethercott called for feedback from members on the suggested gender equality outcomes and the forthcoming policy.

50. **Finland** (Ms. Satu Lassila) reminded participants of the European Commission's Communication on gender and development. She noted that under the Finnish Presidency communications and statements are planned on good governance, policy coherence and infrastructure. These would gain from including a gender equality perspective. In addition, Ms. Lassila encouraged members to support the

inclusion of gender equality and women's empowerment issues in the forthcoming EU High Level meeting on Aid for Trade.

51. **The Commonwealth Secretariat** (Ms. Rawwida Baksh) informed participants of the Commonwealth's work on democracy, peace and conflict and on implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Strategic and systematic allocation of resources, indicators for monitoring progress, political will and enhanced reporting had been identified as vital to progress this work. Ms. Baksh drew attention to a number of forthcoming meetings and workshops planned by the Secretariat, including the 8th Meeting of Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers to be held in Kampala, Uganda, from 11-14 June 2007. The full list is included in Room Document No. 5.

52. **BRIDGE** (Ms. Hazel Reeves and Ms. Susan Jolly) notified participants of their Cutting Edge Pack on *Gender Indicators and Measurement of Change* and called for input from members on the forthcoming pack on *Sexuality and Sexual Rights*. Finally, they reminded participants about their web based resource Siyanda (www.siyanda.org).

Item 5: Work programme, 2007-2008

Update on the DAC prioritisation exercise

53. **The Chair** outlined the background to the DAC's prioritisation exercise for the 2007-08 biennium and set out the timing for the decision-making processes on the future structure of DAC subsidiary bodies.

54. She reminded participants that DAC members had been asked to vote on a list of proposed output results for the 2007-08 work programme. The output results for the GENDERNET are:

- policy and practice guidance including revision of the *DAC guidelines for gender equality and women's empowerment in development co-operation*, and
- integration of gender equality and women's empowerment into development co-operation through collaboration with other DAC subsidiary bodies, the wider OECD and development partners, including multilateral agencies.

55. **Mr. Michael Roeskau** (Director of the OECD's Development Co-operation Division) expressed his delight about the high scores received for the Network's proposed output results and his full support for the planned revision of the *Guidelines*. He stressed that voluntary contributions from members continue to be necessary to finance the Network's proposed 2007-08 Work Programme. As the bulk of the core DAC budget is earmarked for core activities such as Peer Reviews and Statistics, the GENDERNET receives only a small share of this funding. In his view it is highly unlikely that the Network will be subject to structural changes unless the DAC agrees to a radical restructuring of its subsidiary bodies.

56. The next steps of the prioritisation exercise:

- the DAC Chair plans to hold individual soundings with Chairs of the subsidiary bodies (subsequently a video conference was scheduled for 11 September 2006),
- Chairs of the subsidiary bodies may meet to discuss informally,
- the DAC to consider a "first draft" of a proposal on the structure of subsidiary bodies and pledges of voluntary contributions for 2007-2008 on 22 September 2006, and
- the DAC to take the final decision on the structure of subsidiary bodies on 15 November 2006.

Focussing the work

57. Building on the two output results identified in the DAC prioritisation exercise and the discussions during the meeting, the Chair proposed three clusters of work for 2007-2008:

- aid effectiveness and gender equality,
- revision of the *DAC guidelines on gender equality and women's empowerment in development co-operation*, and
- improving donor practice in gender equality and women's empowerment (including collaboration with other DAC subsidiary bodies, the wider OECD and development partners).

Aid effectiveness

58. Activities identified during the previous day's discussions at the aid effectiveness and gender equality workshop include:

i) a workshop on cross-cutting issues and the implementation of the Paris Declaration: a joint workshop is planned with other DAC subsidiary bodies, including the WP-EFF

Responsibility: the Chair and Secretariat to liaise with other subsidiary bodies

ii) identifying allies in the WP-EFF's Joint Ventures

Responsibility: Members to liaise with colleagues and report back to the Secretariat

iii) an issues brief on gender equality and the implementation of the Paris Declaration for bilateral donor staff at Embassies and field missions

Responsibility: The Secretariat to engage a consultant

iv) a think piece on innovative approaches to donor funding and support for gender equality and women's empowerment organisations and movements

Responsibility: the Bureau and Secretariat to develop Terms of Reference and hire a consultant

v) research on the impact of new aid modalities, such as budget support, in selected partner countries to identify lessons learned and good practice at country level

Responsibility: Secretariat to liaise with interested members.

Aid effectiveness task team members: Belgium, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands and United Kingdom.

Revision of the DAC Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development Co-operation

59. The work to be undertaken by the Aid Effectiveness Task Team in the short and medium term will contribute to the revision of the *DAC guidelines on gender equality*. The work of the task teams on aid effectiveness and on revising the *Guidelines* will be aligned and potentially converge. An external reference group will be established to provide guidance and feedback on the revised *Guidelines*.

DAC guidelines task team members: Australia, Denmark, Finland, Spain, Sweden and United States.

Donor practice in development co-operation (including collaboration with other DAC subsidiary bodies, the wider OECD and development partners)

60. Identified areas of work are:

- gender equality policy marker with the Working Party on Statistics,

- social inclusion and empowerment of the poor in collaboration with the POVNET, and
- conflict, peace and security in collaboration with the CPDC and the Fragile States Group.

61. Formal task teams will not be established in these areas of work although it is expected that the already established joint task team with WP-STAT will continue. As necessary, individual Bureau members and the Secretariat will be responsible for liaising with interested members.

i) The Gender Equality Policy Marker in collaboration with the Working Party on Statistics

As discussed by both the Working Party on Statistics and the GENDERNET, the joint task team will focus on how to apply the gender equality policy marker to programmatic forms of aid. Members are also interested in “good practice” in using the marker as a planning, monitoring, evaluation and accountability tool within agencies.

Interested members: Austria, Germany, Switzerland and the World Bank.

ii) Social inclusion and empowerment of the poor in collaboration with the POVNET

Interested members: The Chair is an ex-officio member of the POVNET. The Secretariat and Chair will liaise with interested members.

iii) Conflict, peace and security in collaboration with the CPDC and the Fragile States Group

Interested members: Netherlands and the United States.

Item 6: Election of the Bureau

62. **Mr. Michael Roeskau** chaired this session and conducted the election. He explained that the OECD’s rules require that the Chair and Bureaux of the DAC subsidiary bodies are elected each year.

63. Ms. To Tjoelker was re-elected as Network Chair. Ms. Dorthea Damkjaer (Denmark), Ms. Patricia McCullagh (Canada) and Ms. Katherine Blakeslee (United States) were re-elected as Bureau members. Ms. Lina Neeb (Belgium), Ms. Angela Langenkamp (Germany) and Ms. Andrea Cook (United Kingdom) were elected as new Bureau members.

Item 7: Close of the meeting

64. In concluding the meeting, the Chair highlighted the important role the Network plays as a forum for information sharing. She commended the participants for the richness of the substantive discussions and for the useful conclusions that came out of the meeting which will form the basis of a well-focused work programme in the 2007-08 biennium.

ANNEX

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