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DAC Network on Governance

DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 7th GOVNET MEETING

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This document is submitted FOR APPROVAL at the next meeting of the GOVNET scheduled for 13-14 June 2006

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DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 7TH GOVNET MEETING

Item I. Introduction and Meeting Objectives

1. The GOVNET Chair (Ms Gabriele Geier, Germany) opened the 7th GOVNET meeting by highlighting the role that the GOVNET has increasingly been playing in providing timely guidance on governance and capacity development issues. She emphasized that 2005 has been an encouraging year for the GOVNET. Further challenges for the Network include providing policymakers and field practitioners with more operational guidance, and aimed at changing behaviour on the ground.

2. The main objectives of the 7th meeting were to (i) review the progress made on the key items of the agreed Programme of Work 2005-2006, and (ii) to provide guidance on priorities of future work (2007-2008). The Summary Record of the 6th meeting was approved.

Item II. Capacity Development

3. The meeting welcomed the significant improvements to the paper '*The Challenge of Capacity Development – Working Towards Good Practice*' and agreed a plan for finalisation. Comments and suggestions from members will be integrated into a revised version which will be submitted for final approval by the DAC in early 2006. It was agreed the next challenge is to translate the *Working Towards Good Practice* Paper's main messages into operational guidance for field practitioners and partner countries, one priority area being the operationalisation of the capacity-related commitments in the Paris Declaration, particularly the support to coordinated programmes for capacity development (Indicator 4). Other contributions to the discussion emphasised the possible need to "unpack" capacity for different kinds of contexts, countries and target levels (e.g. how to support capacity development in fragile environments) and the importance of involving partner countries. Further guidance on how to prioritise this work will emerge from the SLM discussions in December and from the DAC in early 2006.

Item III. Human Rights

4. Mrs. Rahel Boesch (Chair of the GOVNET Task Team on Human Rights and Development) gave an interim report on the Task Team's activities. The commissioned study '*Integrating Human Rights into Development: A Synthesis of Donor Approaches and Experiences*' was presented by Ms. Laure-Hélène Piron (ODI). It was very well received and consideration will be given to publishing it in one of the OECD's book series. A report from a GOVNET hosted workshop on this topic held on 19th October was also given. (A written report on this workshop will be available shortly on the GOVNET website.) The workshop had highlighted, inter alia, the compelling case of how a human rights approach was having a significant influence in Kenya, as presented by a delegation from the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights. The meeting agreed the major step for 2006 would be the production of an action-oriented policy paper looking into how to operationalise these and other lessons to achieve sustainable development results. To prepare this paper work on three building-blocks will be undertaken: (i) production of a series of "think pieces" on how human rights relate to the essential elements of the Paris Declaration, (ii) exploring the relationship between human rights and fragile states, (iii) further documentation of practical experience and relevance of human rights to development objectives.

Item IV. Anti-Corruption

5. The meeting discussed and agreed the initial outline of an action-oriented policy paper which will set an agenda for donor action in the fight against corruption. This paper will look at collective action frontiers which can be progressed such as dealing with countries posing the highest risks. The importance of agreeing on a platform for consistent responses to corruption to avoid mixed messages was underlined. To further inform the development of the policy paper, consideration will be given to operationalising the draft *Principles for Donor Action in Anti-Corruption* through joint donor anti-corruption assessments in selected countries. In addition, complementary work on political corruption will be looked into, in collaboration with the Utstein anti-corruption Resource Centre in 2006. The meeting also received a progress report on the development of an OECD-wide anti corruption strategy aiming at supporting integrity and anti-corruption reforms in both member and non-member countries.

Item V. Synergies with other OECD Work

6. Mrs. Raundi Halvorson-Quevedo (Secretariat) gave a briefing on the ECA/OECD-DAC “Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness” in the context of NEPAD. This biennial iterative process of dialogue between Africa and OECD-DAC leaders and policymakers, aiming at assessing development progress in Africa as a matter of mutual accountability of donors and developing countries, has made considerable headway in 2005. Governance counts among the most prominent areas covered, with specific 2007 performance benchmarks for areas such as democratic processes, rule of law, anti-corruption and capacity development.

7. Mr Johannes Jütting (OECD Development Centre) presented the Centre’s on-going work on informal institutions, with a special focus on the linkages and possible synergies with the GOVNET’s work. He pointed out that addressing institutions in a more differentiated fashion is important for enhancing the understanding of the role of institutions in development. Informal institutions such as social norms matter as they often override commonly assumed factors of change and economic growth. Donors face a real challenge when dealing with informal and slow moving institutions. Participants agreed that the GOVNET would be a good place for addressing some of these issues and welcomed Mr Jütting’s suggestion of holding a joint Development Centre/GOVNET workshop on “Informal Institutions and Development” in the Fall of 2006.

Item VI. Communication and Information Platform

8. At the 6th GOVNET Meeting in January 2005, the Secretariat had been tasked to come up with suggestions for how to facilitate and improve the exchange of information and communication between GOVNET Members. Based on discussions within the Secretariat and the experiences of other DAC Networks, Mr Sebastian Bartsch (Secretariat) presented the pros and cons of two options: (i) to make better use of the existing GOVNET website, in particular by using the architecture already established for the CPDC and the Fragile States Group; (ii) to use a platform external to the OECD, which could be, for example, the UK-based Governance Resource Centre. Mr Marc Tocatlian (Secretariat) informed the participants that new interactive elements will be added to the DAC Networks’ website within the next few months which will definitely improve its functionality for GOVNET members. The meeting agreed communication and exchange of information should be improved for the time being through the existing GOVNET website. The Secretariat will reorganise the GOVNET website as soon as possible according to the architecture already established for the CPDC and the Fragile States Group, and will then invite members to provide information they deem worth sharing with others. Experiences with this approach will be re-examined at the next GOVNET Meeting in June 2006.

Item VII. Power and Drivers of Change Analysis

9. Mr Tom Dahl-Østergaard (Consultant, COWI) and Mr Mark Robinson (Consultant, IDS) presented a GOVNET-commissioned report on “*Lessons Learned on the Use of Power and Drivers of Change Analyses in Development Co-operation*” which was well received. The meeting agreed there is considerable potential of political economy analysis to improve development strategies and programmes by enhancing understanding of political and institutional context of donor interventions. There are also important linkages and synergies between political economy analysis and the aid effectiveness agenda. It was agreed that in 2006 major findings of the report will be developed into a GOVNET Guidance Note, focusing on how to approach Power and Drivers of Change Analyses, on lessons from recent experience and challenges for utilisation. In addition, where possible, joint pilot work at the country level will be undertaken with the aim of improving operational value and use of Power and Drivers of Change Analyses in the field, focusing on lesson learning and use of findings in joint strategies. This work will seek to promote coordinated use of political economy analysis approaches in the field.

Item VIII. Synergies with other DAC work

10. Mr Thomas Heimgartner (Metagora Project Coordination Team) gave an up-date on the Metagora Project on measuring human rights, democracy and governance. Preliminary lessons emanating from the project’s first funding phase make a strong case for the feasibility of policy- and action-relevant human rights, democracy and governance indicators as well as the importance of an intensified dialogue among the producers of the respective methods and tools. Future Metagora work will focus, inter alia, on the enlargement of the community of organisations implementing Metagora’s programme, an enhanced collaboration with partners such as the World Bank Institute, UNDP and Transparency International, on strengthening the involvement of National Statistical Institutes and comparing national governance indicators. GOVNET members expressed interest in Metagora’s work and in learning more about the project’s achievements when consolidated results are available.

11. Mrs. Lisa Williams (Secretariat) reported on the work of the DAC Network on Conflict, Peace and Development Co-operation (CPDC). It is focusing in 2005-2006 on improving evaluation of conflict prevention and peacebuilding activities, development of a new Implementation Framework for Security System Reform to help deliver, co-ordinate and harmonise SSR activities in the field, as well as on activities aimed at mainstreaming conflict prevention and peacebuilding knowledge and good practice, for instance by ensuring their application in DAC Peer Reviews.

12. Mr Ben Dickinson (Secretariat) reported on the on-going work of the DAC working group on Fragile States which is focusing on facilitating and disseminating lessons from the piloting of the *Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States*, Whole of Government Approaches, improving understanding of successful approaches to service delivery in fragile states (in the areas of health, education, water and security), and improving transparency and predictability of resource flows to the most marginalised fragile states. Early results and lessons from the piloting across nine countries suggest that the *Principles* are helping as an important complement and supplement to the *Paris Declaration* while their coverage will be extended in a future revision to address current gaps such as human rights, gender analysis, corruption issues and relations with the private sector. The GOVNET will be briefed on these developments on an ongoing basis.

13. In the course of the discussion participants welcomed the high degree of complementarity between various work streams of the GOVNET, CPDC and Fragile States Group. The Secretariat indicated that it is considering issues for joint work and even closer collaboration between the groups in the future.

Item IX. Strategic Discussion: The GOVNET's Future Work Programme

14. Against the backdrop of discussions in the DAC about its future needs and work programme priorities, the meeting discussed preliminary ideas for possible future work in 2007/8. The Secretariat introduced this agenda item by explaining how the DAC is currently approaching this prioritisation exercise and by setting out a proposal for future GOVNET priorities, including the continuation of work on capacity development, anti-corruption, human rights and governance indicators, new work on tax, accountability and aid dependency, and the use of the issue of state-building as an overarching framework for much of the future GOVNET work.

15. In the course of the discussion many participants expressed varying degrees of support for these ideas. There was significant interest in the issue of accountability, taxation and aid dependency which may have increased prominence in an era of scaled-up aid. At the same time members added further suggestions, namely on political parties and party assistance, democratic governance and democratisation, continuation of the work on political economy analysis, disaster risk reduction, and the overhaul of the DAC CRS governance codes. The meeting agreed the Secretariat would re-draft the future directions paper, setting out (i) the further process and dates, (ii) criteria for prioritising, and (iii) priority areas for future work and collaboration with other DAC Subsidiary Bodies.

Item X. Funding and Dates

16. Mrs. Bathylle Missika (Secretariat) informed the members of the GOVNET's financial situation and thanked them for providing the required voluntary contributions. Sweden pledged a contribution of 1M SEK to the implementation of the GOVNET's Programme of Work 2005-2006.

17. The Chair indicated that the next GOVNET meeting will be scheduled for 13-14 June 2006.

Item XI. Future of the GOVNET Chair

18. The GOVNET Chair, Ms. Gabriele Geier, confirmed to GOVNET members that she will no longer be able to continue as Chair of the GOVNET given that she has been assigned new responsibilities within her Ministry in Germany. Ms. Geier also indicated that Germany is willing to continue if this is supported by the Network. It was agreed that Secretariat will invite GOVNET and DAC members to nominate or express their own interest in being candidates to chair the GOVNET until the end of 2006. If a consensus candidate emerges, this person would take up responsibilities as soon as feasible. The new Chair will be formally endorsed at the next GOVNET meeting on 13-14 June 2006. Secretariat and members thanked Ms. Geier for her commitment and excellent work in leading the GOVNET.

Item XII. Closing Remarks

19. In her summary, the Chair praised the meeting as "extremely good" and as proof of the continuation of the spirit that had made it possible in January to add considerable momentum to the GOVNET's work. On all of the 2005-2006 programme areas considerable progress has been made, all work streams are proceeding according to schedule, and some high quality outputs have already resulted from the efforts of the Task Teams. Future challenges increase linking the GOVNET's work to the aid effectiveness agenda and contributing to changing behaviour on the ground.