

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

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 942nd DAC MEETING

held on 7 February 2012 at the OECD Conference Centre, Paris

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 942nd DAC MEETING
held on 7 February 2012 at the OECD Conference Centre, Paris

I. Adoption of the Agenda [\[DCD/DAC/A\(2012\)1\]](#)

1. The DAC Chair, Mr. Brian Atwood, welcomed to the meeting new delegates representing Korea (Mr. Sungsoo Choi), Luxembourg (Ms. Aurelie Klein), Mexico (Mr. Aldo Aldama) and the Slovak Republic (Mr. Matej Dostal). He also welcomed Ms. Liz Peri (Global Partnerships Department, Department for International Development, United Kingdom) and Ms. Sarah Gonzales (US representative to the European Union). Finally, he encouraged delegates to attend a presentation on the 2011 Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness in Africa, to be delivered by Mr. David Batt, Director of the Africa Partnership Forum Support Unit at the end of the meeting's lunch break.

2. The agenda was adopted, with delegates agreeing that the afternoon sessions would be considered informal, pending clarifications concerning the participation of Russia and the OECD's five "enhanced engagement" partners¹ in those sessions. Delegates also agreed to an additional item of "other business": consideration of a Swiss proposal for the DAC to address the issue of "incentives practices" during 2012.

II. Strategic Priorities and Policy Outcomes for the 2013-14 DAC Programme of Work and Budget [\[DCD/DAC\(2012\)2\]](#), [DAC/CHAIR\(2012\)1](#) and BA(2012)7]

3. The Chair recalled the Informal DAC Meeting on 17 January 2012 and reminded delegates of a letter he had subsequently addressed to senior officials in member capitals, requesting their views on strategic priorities for DAC work during the 2013-14 biennium [BA(2012)7]. Based on a review of the responses he had received [\[DCD/DAC\(2012\)14\]](#), he observed that there was general support among members for the outcome-oriented approach being taken to the 2013-14 Programme of Work and Budget (PWB). He also noted support for the interactive process being used to build ownership through strong engagement of members and of Subsidiary Bodies. There was agreement that the PWB needed to be coherent and forward looking, while remaining flexible to respond to evolving events, new challenges and opportunities.

4. Several members referred to the Busan outcomes (and the key principles of results, transparency and accountability) and the OECD Strategy on Development as important strategic signposts for DAC work, with both providing opportunities to examine the interdependence and coherence of all public policies. Other cross-cutting elements that would need to be reflected appropriately in the PWB included the promotion of poverty reduction and gender equality, as well as the implementation of the DAC Global Relations Strategy. Some members emphasised the importance of communication as an instrument to support the pursuit of the DAC's strategic priorities and outcomes. The Chair noted the desire of members to modernise core DAC work on peer reviews and statistics, with particular emphasis on transparency and inclusion. He also underlined a strong interest in future DAC work on risk and resilience. Many members highlighted the need to examine the role of ODA and other development-related finance during 2013-14. Great importance was also given to the DAC's active role in contributing to a post-2015 development framework.

5. In light of budget constraints, and as the DAC's ability to have an impact is a key concern to members, the PWB needs to be strategically focussed, and concentrate on areas where DAC work can have real impact with critical amounts of resources. In response to questions raised about resources, particularly in relation to the OECD Strategy on Development which is of mutual international and national interest, DCD Director Mr. Jon Lomøy highlighted that, in a climate of budget austerity, discussions across government ministries in member countries may wish to prioritise the use ODA resources to finance work that is ODA eligible.

¹ These are Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and South Africa.

III. Guiding DAC Work on Statistics and Development Finance [[DCD/DAC/RD\(2012\)1/RD2](#)]

6. Ms. Hedwig Riegler, Chair of the DAC Working Party on Statistics (WP-STAT), reported on WP-STAT activities in light of a recent informal WP-STAT meeting (Vienna, 1-2 February 2012) and workshop on Development Finance Institutions (3 February). The Working Party's ongoing tasks included the completion of the convergence of aggregate-level and activity-level reporting, the promotion of the transparency of DAC statistical products, and the expansion of coverage and knowledge of non-ODA flows and non-DAC development assistance.

7. Delegates expressed strong support for these activities. They encouraged the Working Party to step up its efforts to become more inclusive, for example by inviting non-DAC statistical reporters, especially those filing at activity level, to participate in its meetings. On transparency, the DAC Chair observed that the Committee was very sound at a technical level, but had fallen behind in terms of its political profile. Several delegates urged for synergies to be pursued with the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), and the DAC Chair indicated that discussions between the DAC/DCD and IATI were planned. Members expressed general support for a proposal to change the name of the group to Working Party on Development Finance Statistics, and the DAC Chair said the name would be changed if no objection was received within a week of the DAC meeting. There was also broad support for a new name for "other official flows" (OOF), and the WP-STAT Chair responded that the Working Party would revert with a proposal on this.

IV. OECD Strategy on Development and DAC Horizontal Work

a. Discussion on DAC's Approach to the OECD Development Strategy [[DCD/DAC/RD\(2012\)1/RD3](#)]

8. DCD Director Jon Lomøy provided an update on the elaboration of the OECD Strategy on Development, including a summary of discussions at the OECD Development Council on 19 January 2012 [[DCD/DAC/RD\(2012\)1/RD3](#)]. He informed the Committee about ongoing OECD-wide discussions to identify potential short-term deliverables for the Strategy, which could be put forward to the 2012 OECD Ministerial Council Meeting (MCM) and would include activities related to both the policy coherence and the policy sharing dimensions of the Strategy. Mr. Lomøy also stated that further discussions would be needed to clarify arrangements for the implementation, monitoring and funding of work carried out under the Strategy. He pointed to the importance of the PWB process in providing clarity on these matters across the OECD. The 2013-14 DAC PWB would be an important opportunity for the DAC to define its proactive contributions to and longer-term priorities for the Strategy.

9. The DAC Chair stressed the need for the Committee to begin identifying and prioritising its potential contributions to the Strategy, for example by supporting pilots for horizontal work with other Committees. He invited both members and the Secretariat to submit their proposals ahead of the DAC Meeting on 7 March, and said that he intended to address this request to members in writing. The DAC Senior Level Meeting (3-4 April 2012) would represent an opportunity for the DAC to agree on proposals to be shared at the 2012 MCM in May. He emphasised that, while the DAC ought to play a strongly supportive role in resourcing the Strategy, the Strategy would only achieve its objectives if responsibility for its implementation and funding was shared across the different Committees and Directorates.

10. Delegates welcomed progress in the elaboration of the Strategy, particularly in terms of the preparation of proposed deliverables. While they agreed that the Strategy ought to be ambitious and go beyond "business as usual", some stressed the need to build on and learn from existing initiatives in areas such as taxation, trade, investment and agriculture. Delegates shared the view that there needed to be OECD-wide ownership of the Strategy, in terms of both financing and implementation. In this context, they highlighted the great value of analytical work from other OECD policy communities. Some delegates called for the DAC to prioritise the PCD dimension of the Strategy and focus on inconsistencies. This might imply stronger PCD elements in DAC Peer Reviews. However, in line with OECD-wide ownership of the Strategy, it would also imply stronger integration of development concerns into country work in other policy areas. Discussing the DAC's role in encouraging such mainstreaming of development in the OECD, some delegates recalled the Committee's agreed criteria for shaping the Strategy [[DCD/DAC\(2011\)27](#)].

b. Policy Coherence for Development (PCD): Presentation by the Trade and Agriculture Directorate on Activities Addressing Impacts of Trade and Agricultural Policies on Developing Countries [DCD/DAC/RD(2012)1/RD4]

11. The Policy Coherence for Development Action Plan calls for a number of presentations to the DAC by experts from other OECD policy communities [DCD/DAC(2011)32]. In the first such presentation, Mr. Jonathan Brooks of the OECD Trade and Agricultural Directorate (TAD) presented a paper on the evolution of agricultural policy issues that are relevant to developing countries. He pointed out that, while total support to agriculture in OECD countries still amounts to more than USD 1 billion per day, this represents a lower burden for OECD countries, as it constitutes a relatively low share of OECD countries' GDP (i.e. less than one per cent). Mr. Brooks further explained that the nature of spill-over effects on non-OECD economies has changed. From the point of view of policy coherence for development (PCD), welcome trends included increasingly rare use of export subsidies and the increasing decoupling of subsidies from commodity support. On the other hand, Mr. Brooks pointed to the potential negative effects of incoherent policies such as export restrictions on staple crops and biofuel mandates that distort world markets and make them less reliable.

12. Mr. Brooks highlighted the growing importance to world agricultural trade of policies in emerging economies, with implications for the development prospects of poorer countries, including their food security. There was great potential for a shared global agenda in the area of food security. Moving beyond a focus only on the elimination of incoherencies, a positive PCD agenda would comprise actions on both the supply side (promoting food availability through work on agricultural productivity, water resource use and climate change) and the demand side (improving food access, including through poverty reduction efforts).

13. The DAC welcomed the opportunity to engage with TAD and thanked Mr. Brooks for his presentation. There were mixed views on the degree of progress that had been made by development agencies in addressing constraints on the developing-country side, as well as on the role of food aid, land acquisitions and food price speculation. The DAC Chair concluded that there was a dual need to help enhance productivity of developing countries and to improve access to global markets.

14. Delegates welcomed the proposal by Ms. Carmel Cahill of TAD to explore further opportunities for in-depth and substantive dialogue, particularly in the context of the OECD Strategy on Development and ongoing support for G20 discussions on agricultural issues. The G20 meeting of Agriculture Ministers at the end of May would feed into the discussions of the G20 Development Group. Ms. Cahill indicated that the TAD paper would soon be shared with the Committee for Agriculture (COAG) and informed delegates about COAG's regular G20 sessions. The DAC Chair proposed to continue the dialogue, for example through a brown bag lunch. He also posited the idea of a horizontal project that could, for example, examine the impacts of agricultural subsidies more comprehensively.

c. Proposal to Establish a Joint Advisory Group on Investment and Development (AGID) with the Investment Committee [DAF/INV/AGID(2011)1/REV1]

15. DAC Members were generally favourable to making the AGID a joint group, to be co-hosted and chaired by the Investment Committee and the DAC. The proposed mandate extends to end 2012, with discussions on future mandates subject to decisions on the PWB. The joint AGID would work under the supervision of and report to its two parent Committees, implying the need for proactive DAC engagement in the AGID's work. In accordance with the agreed categorization of DAC subsidiary bodies, the AGID would constitute the equivalent of a DAC Task Team [DCD/DAC(2011)38/REV1]. In order to finalise the creation of the joint AGID, the DAC Chair indicated that he would transmit a note to Members inviting them to agree on its creation on a 'no objections basis'.

V. Update on Hosting Arrangements for the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN) [[DCD/DAC\(2012\)3](#)]

16. DCD Director Mr. Jon Lomøy provided an update on discussions concerning the OECD's hosting the Secretariat of the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN), a group of 16 donor countries, all of whom are DAC members. He underlined that hosting MOPAN would promote important synergies with DAC work on multilateral aid, development evaluations, and aid quality. He explained that the MOPAN Secretariat, though hosted by DCD, would continue to function under the auspices of the MOPAN Steering Committee. The MOPAN methodology and reports would continue to belong to MOPAN members. The MOPAN Secretariat staff of four would be fully funded on the basis of voluntary contributions from the 16 MOPAN members, who would be required to make a firm financial commitment of three years. MOPAN members would meet later in February to discuss the draft policy note and Memorandum of Understanding, both of which must be agreed by MOPAN members and the OECD before the proposal is submitted to the OECD Council for approval.

17. Ireland (Mr. Niall Morris), speaking on behalf of the current MOPAN Chair, underlined the desire of its members for this hosting arrangement to be put into place as quickly as possible, all the while ensuring the independence of the network. The World Bank (Ms. Julia Nielsen), also on behalf of the African, Asian and Inter-American Development Banks, expressed concern that an OECD-hosted MOPAN would lose its independence, and that the assessments would be perceived as one multilateral agency evaluating another. Moreover, the World Bank suggested it could be of concern for non-OECD board members of the multilateral agencies being assessed. The World Bank urged MOPAN and DAC members to consult on this issue with their representatives on the boards of multilateral agencies. Delegates representing MOPAN members reiterated the need for the MOPAN process to be owned and led by its members, and for MOPAN's governance to remain unaltered by this hosting arrangement. Delegates agreed that further clarification would be needed as to the formal link of MOPAN to the Committee, discussions about which are ongoing.

VI. Update on the Global Forum on Development [[DCD/DAC/RD\(2012\)1/RD5](#)]

18. The Secretariat (Mr. Felix Zimmermann) shared the latest draft agenda of the OECD Global Forum on Development (28-29 February 2012), which would bring together high-level speakers from across the development community. He explained that the Forum would constitute a major opportunity for the OECD to consult with other stakeholders on the OECD Strategy on Development. Jointly organised with the OECD Development Centre and Public Governance Directorate, the Forum would see participants explore a range of governance issues related to domestic resource mobilisation and public spending.

VII. Update on the DAC Bureau Meeting on Communications [[DCD/DAC/RD\(2012\)1/RD6](#)]

19. The Secretariat (Ms. Christine Graves) provided a summary of the discussion on communication at the DAC Bureau Meeting. Members welcomed the opportunity to discuss communication needs and opportunities further at the upcoming 7 March meeting and contributed a few ideas, including the creation of a prize for research about the DAC; regular email notices when publications are released. They stressed the need for effective dissemination and agreed that the DAC needed to make fuller use of communications expertise in Member capitals.

VIII. Proposal for DAC work on “incentives practices”

20. Switzerland (Mr. Philippe Besson) outlined a proposal for the DAC to address the issue of incentives practices during 2012, for example through work on standards and best practices. Mr. Besson pointed to the widespread practice among development agencies of “topping up” the salaries of civil servants in partner countries and thus undermining local incentive structures, particularly in fragile states. He invited Members to provide feedback on their interest in collaborating on such work. The DAC Chair expressed his support for such work, which could also involve multilateral agencies.

Participants list for Development Assistance Committee

Formal DAC Meeting on 7 February 2012 morning session

Chairperson/Président(e) *DAC Chair*

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Ms. Anita WEISS-GAENGER

*Counsellor and Delegate to the DAC
VII/2 - Development Cooperation Policy and
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*Conseiller Coopération Internationale - Délégué au
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Mme Isabelle WITTOEK

*Attaché de la Coopération Internationale
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Permanent Delegation*

Chile/Chili

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*Deputy Permanent Representative
Permanent Delegation*

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Mr. Petr JANOUSEK

*Second Secretary
Permanent Delegation*

Mr. Michal SUPITA

*stagiaire
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Denmark/Danemark

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*Deputy Permanent Representative
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Miss Christina HANSEN

*Intern - Stagiaire
DAC
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M. Jean-Christophe DONNELIER	France <i>Minister Counsellor</i> <i>Service Economique</i> <i>Délégation Permanente</i>
M. Edmond ABOU	<i>Adjoint au Chef du secteur de l'OCDE</i> <i>Secrétariat Général des Affaires Européennes</i> <i>(SGAE) Premier ministre</i>
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Mme Michelle MARLARD	<i>Adjointe au Chef de Bureau Unité d'évaluation des</i> <i>activités de développement</i> <i>Direction Générale du Trésor</i> <i>Ministère de l'Économie, des Finances et de</i> <i>l'Industrie</i>
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Ms. Vasiliki MANAVI	Greece/Grèce <i>First Secretary</i> <i>Permanent Delegation</i>
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Mr. William NICOL

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Mr. James EBERLEIN	<i>Junior Policy Analyst (Research Support & Communications, Capable States) DCD-POL</i>
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Ms. Carina LINDBERG	<i>Policy Analyst SGE/PCD</i>
Mr. Ernesto SORIA MORALES	<i>Senior Policy Analyst SGE/PCD</i>

DAC CHAIR OFFICE

Mr. Jens SEDEMUND	<i>Executive Advisor</i>
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DAC Working Party on Statistics

Ms. Hedwig RIEGLER	<i>Chair of DAC Working Party on Statistics Statistics TBK Technical Consultancy</i>
Mr. Maher MAMHIKOFF	<i>Vice Chair of the DAC Working Party on Statistics Statistics Manager, Statistical Analysis Business Planning Resources management and Systems Canadian International Development Agency</i>

**Informal DAC Meeting
on 7 February 2012 (afternoon session)**

The above participants were joined by the following officials.

Ms. Ruhua CHEN	People's Republic of China/République populaire de Chine <i>First Secretary Economic and Commercial Affairs Embassy of the People's Republic of China</i>
Mr. Yong LI	<i>Third Secretary Economic and Commercial Affairs Embassy of the People's Republic of China</i>
Mr. Peter MAHAFHA	South Africa/Afrique du Sud <i>Third Secretary Multilateral Embassy of South Africa</i>
Mr. Tri THARYAT	Indonesia/Indonésie <i>Counsellor Embassy of Indonesia in Paris</i>