



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

DCD/DAC/POVNET(2003)2  
For Official Use

**DAC Network on Poverty Reduction**

**MANDATE OF THE POVNET**

(Note by the Secretariat)

2-3 June 2003

*This note is submitted to the POVNET for CONSIDERATION at its meeting on 2-3 June 2003.*

Contact person: William Nicol - Tel: (33-1) 45 24 91 37  
Fax: (33-1) 44 30 63 33 - E-mail: [william.nicol@oecd.org](mailto:william.nicol@oecd.org)

**JT00144900**

## MANDATE OF THE POVNET

### I. Discussion issue

1. The DAC decision on subsidiary bodies indicated that the POVNET mandate should more explicitly reflect the fact that some elements of activities justify stronger attention (see paragraph 2 below). Members are thus invited to review the present mandate of the Network (section II) in respect of the DAC's decisions on subsidiary bodies in relation to POVNET (section III) with a view to revising, as appropriate, the Network's mandate (section IV provides a revised draft mandate).

### II. Present POVNET Mandate

2. The present POVNET Mandate is as follows:

“POVNET was established as an informal network in 1998 with a mandate to assess DAC Member performance in addressing poverty reduction and to extract good practice. POVNET work has focused on developing the DAC Guidelines on Poverty Reduction, which were endorsed at the 2001 DAC High Level Meeting. POVNET work is focused on the following objectives:

- Develop and disseminate guidance for the bilateral community on the most effective and sustainable ways to support partner country efforts to reduce poverty, including through national poverty reduction strategies.
- Facilitate the exchange of experience and good practice in emerging areas of importance relevant to establishing poverty reduction partnerships.
- Monitor progress in implementing DAC guidance on poverty reduction, including supporting DAC Member efforts to promote institutional change and learning within their development agencies.”

### III. DAC Subsidiary Bodies Agreement

3. This section reproduces the relevant text of the DAC agreement on subsidiary bodies in respect of POVNET [see DCD/DAC(2003)12/REV1, paragraph 19d]:

“The *DAC Network on Poverty Reduction (POVNET) (2006)*<sup>1</sup> would retain its name, while its mandate should more explicitly reflect the fact that some elements of activities (growth including pro-poor growth, infrastructure, agriculture, trade capacity, ICTs, role of the private sector, and *inter alia* PPPs) justify stronger attention, and coherent integration with other dimensions of poverty reduction. In the spirit of interaction mentioned above, the Chairs of the Networks on Gender Equality and on Environment and Development Cooperation should be invited *ex officio* to take part, whenever justified by the agenda, in POVNET meetings”.

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<sup>1</sup>. Date of expiry of present Mandate.

#### IV. Draft Revised Mandate

4. In light of the above, it is suggested that the POVNET mandate should cover both the growth-poverty nexus as well as the various activity areas suggested by the DAC. On that basis, the following text is offered as a basis for discussion:

“Focusing on the relationship between economic growth and poverty reduction in developing countries, the DAC Network on Poverty Reduction (POVNET) will provide a forum for consideration of strategies and policies in areas and activities that connect poor people to self sustaining economic growth and to the benefits of globalization. The POVNET will address issues such as growth, including pro-poor growth, infrastructure, agriculture, trade and investment capacity building, information and communication technology, the role of the private sector, and public-private partnerships.

The POVNET will involve other stakeholders in its work, including partner countries and development organisations beyond the permanent DAC Observers (World Bank, IMF, UNDP). It will interact with other DAC bodies, including the Networks on Gender Equality and on Environment and Development Cooperation, who’s Chairs will be invited *ex officio* to take part, whenever justified by the agenda, in POVNET meetings”. The POVNET will also interact with other OECD policy communities, as appropriate, to strengthen the development dimension in OECD work and to promote policy coherence for development. The POVNET will determine the appropriate modalities for implementing its work programme”.

5. The POVNET is invited to seek agreement on a revised Mandate, to be presented to the DAC at its meeting with the Chairs of subsidiary bodies on June 24.