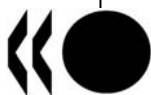


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Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Économiques  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

16-Mar-2010

English - Or. English

DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE  
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

DCD/DAC/POVNET(2010)3  
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## DAC Network on Poverty Reduction

**EMPOWERMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION: EXPLORING OPERATIONAL LINKAGES FROM  
THE PRO-POOR GROWTH, HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER PERSPECTIVES**

**DRAFT AGENDA FOR A PROPOSED JOINT SEMINAR WITH THE DAC NETWORKS ON  
GENDER AND ON GOVERNANCE**

23-24 (a.m.) March 2010, OECD, Paris

*This draft agenda is for DISCUSSION and DECISION under Item IV(b) of the agenda for the meeting of the DAC Network on Poverty Reduction (POVNET) [DCD/DAC/POVNET/A(2010)2].*

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OECD-DAC NETWORKS ON

**POVERTY REDUCTION (POVNET), GOVERNANCE (GOVNET), AND  
GENDER (GENDERNET)**

**Draft agenda for a joint seminar**

**Empowerment and Poverty Reduction:  
Exploring operational linkages from pro-poor growth, human rights  
and gender perspectives**

**Venue and date: To be determined**

(1.5 – 2 days in September 2010?)

**JOINT SEMINAR ON EMPOWERMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION:  
EXPLORING OPERATIONAL LINKAGES FROM THE PRO-POOR GROWTH, HUMAN  
RIGHTS AND GENDER PERSPECTIVES**

There is a growing interest in understanding how to exploit potential synergies in the fields of pro-poor growth, human rights and gender equality. A recent study<sup>1</sup> identified opportunities for greater collaboration on pro-poor growth and human rights and suggested further exploration of fields where these agendas could build on common approaches for greater development gains. It suggested promoting dialogue between practitioners in the respective fields and focusing on empirical evidence to move beyond misconceptions to develop a common knowledge base (see Annex for further information). Within the relevant DAC Networks, work is currently underway on: a) poverty reduction and empowerment; b) human rights, inclusion, growth and accountability; and c) women's economic empowerment, offering potential synergies in pursuit of the common objective of poor people's empowerment.

**Rationale:** A joint seminar aims to build the foundations for effective and mutually reinforcing collaboration between the pro-poor growth, gender and human rights approaches. It will unpack the development gains that can be realised through shared experiences, a common understanding and shared agenda on the key role of empowerment in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

**Overall objectives:** The DAC Networks on Gender, Governance and Poverty Reduction join forces to set out the development gains of a collaborative agenda on empowerment by: a) identifying **operational entry points and success stories** for exploring opportunities and challenges at the nexus of human rights, gender and pro-poor growth; and b) **building the evidence base** to develop common approaches for more effective interventions aimed at empowering poor people.

**Specific objectives:** The joint seminar will allow members of the three DAC Networks to:

- i) Identify opportunities and challenges in developing a collaborative agenda on empowerment based on pro-poor growth, gender and human rights efforts;
- ii) Explore entry points for operational engagement; and
- iii) Share what has been learnt from various initiatives to maximise the impact of results.

**The Seminar:** To lay the foundations for an effective dialogue, the joint seminar will bring together practitioners, policy makers and academics from partner governments, research institutes and donor agencies. In order to identify and take forward the desired more integrated approach, concrete and operational areas for promoting synergies between human rights, gender and pro-poor growth will be presented and the value added demonstrated.

**Expected outcome:** Increased collaboration, supported by a practical guidance note on ways that policy makers and practitioners can make these linkages and identify incentives to influence on-going processes to promote integration of human rights, gender and pro-poor growth to empower poor people.

**Possible participants:** Policy makers and practitioners working on pro-poor growth, gender, and human rights alongside recognised experts working on economic policies and social protection, legal empowerment, human rights and development, and gender.

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<sup>1</sup> See: "Conceptual and operational interfaces between human rights and pro-poor growth", August 2009.

## Draft Agenda

	<b>Date (tbc)</b>
<i>Time</i>	<b>Opening</b> Chairs of the DAC Networks/Task Teams
	<b>Part I. Introduction, challenges and opportunities: from concepts to operations</b>
	<p><b>Objective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present and discuss practical guidance produced by the three DAC networks related to empowerment and poverty to build a common knowledge base.</li> <li>• How has DAC guidance been translated into practice?</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keynote speakers on Human Rights Based approach, women's leadership, and empowerment for economic growth</li> </ul> <p><i>Debate</i></p>
	<b>Part II. Economic policies as entry points for empowering poor people: the examples of social protection, agriculture, and women's economic empowerment</b>
	<p><b>Objective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share developing country case examples: Asia (China), South-east Asia on empowerment on pro-poor growth and social protection, agriculture and women's economic empowerment.</li> <li>• Identify possible links to the Human Rights agenda and potential synergies.</li> </ul> <p><b>Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can practitioners build on recent work demonstrating how social protection, agriculture, and women's economic empowerment contributes to empowerment of poor people?</li> <li>• Work is also underway to assess cash transfer programmes and other social protection initiatives from a human rights perspective (e.g. cash transfers are the objects of an investigation of the Special <i>Rapporteur</i> on Extreme Poverty): in addition, are there other ways in which human rights can strengthen social protection and, in turn, secure pro-poor growth?</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Example of Social Protection (South Africa?)</li> <li>• Example of Food Security (Mali or India?)</li> <li>• Example of women's economic empowerment</li> </ul> <p><i>Debate</i></p>

	<p><b>Part III. Governance, citizen-state relations as entry points for empowering poor people: service delivery, access to justice, human rights and taxation</b></p>
	<p><b>Objective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share developing country case examples: Asia (China), South-east Asia on human rights implementation.</li> <li>• Consider the role of human rights in supporting domestic accountability.</li> <li>• Identify possible links to the Pro-Poor Growth agenda and potential synergies in Developing country case examples: Africa, Latin America (consider conflict-affected countries).</li> </ul> <p><b>Sample questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can access to justice be improved by integrating empowerment in the human rights and pro-poor growth approaches?</li> <li>• How can human rights and accountability be levers for growth?</li> <li>• How can the distributional opportunities of progressive tax policies be harnessed to reduce the burden on poor people and remove barriers to their integration into the economy, and increase government fiscal resources to address inequalities and discrimination?</li> <li>• How can a more pro-poor or rights focused budget promote the allocation of government resources towards those segments of the population previously ignored or marginalised to address problems, including resource allocations to services accessed by the poor (such as public schools and hospitals) to avoid uneven, interrupted and inferior quality provision of services?</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Service delivery in the health sector</b></li> <li>• <b>Rights and elections.</b></li> <li>• <b>Human rights and gender budgeting</b></li> </ul> <p><i>Debate</i></p>
	<p><b>Part IV. Synthesis: Identify common entry points to empowering the poor</b></p>
	<p><b>Objective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify how an empowerment agenda can include gender, pro-poor growth and human rights approaches.</li> <li>• Consider links in this work to other processes, MDGs (Internationally Agreed Development Goals, IADGs), etc.</li> </ul> <p><i>Debate</i></p>

## ANNEX

**Background on Entry Points for Joint Work on Human Rights and Pro-poor Growth**

Six operational entry points were identified through the survey on “Conceptual and operational interfaces in human rights and pro-poor growth” as constituting real opportunities for taking this agenda forward to achieve collaboration and change: employment policies and labour rights; land and property rights; gender and women’s contribution to labour markets; fiscal policies; social protection and food policies; and governance. These can be put into clusters<sup>2</sup> as follows. Additional evidence would be needed to explore how human rights can reinforce pro-poor growth policies and practice.

1. **Economic and Social rights, in particular, *land, property and inheritance rights and key social and economic rights, such as rights to health and education*** with specific attention to the role of women and young people in the economy, investing in their skills and improving their access to markets and jobs.

**Possible outcome:** Increased stability and certainty for rights holders in the state and market place, through emphasis on land rights, which are important conditions for growth and investment. Improved productive capabilities and skills sets of the poor and most vulnerable to engage effectively in the market and growth processes, emphasising universal access to health and education for all, and specifically those marginalised and excluded. Help to negotiate and set basic minimum standards for those services (e.g. free primary education), as quality matters too.

2. **Economic policies: resource allocation, fiscal policies and taxation and social protection programmes**, including taking account of differences between the formal and informal economies in their design and application.

**Possible outcome:** Human rights and pro-poor growth frameworks and relevant practice would both place greater emphasis on progress towards providing equal levels of services, and of a minimum standard, to the poor. Recent experiences in Latin America, e.g. in Paraguay and Ecuador, show that public information, education and transparency play a key role in improved budgetary processes and result in greater allocation on social spending. The emphasis on information access was inspired by experience of rights-based budget monitoring. Human rights mechanisms can provide the basis for putting in place redress mechanisms and accountability systems in large-scale social protection programmes where disputes can arise among competing interest groups.

3. **Governance and the relationship between the citizen and the state** and how the state can be responsive and accountable to all citizens’ needs, including the poor and vulnerable both through service delivery and greater access to justice. Considering the role of the state as regulator is particularly timely in light of the economic downturn, as this has implications for developing countries and the role of the government to correct “market failures” and provide common public goods not delivered by the market, including stability and security in fragile states.

**Possible outcome:** Improvements in the ways in which participatory political, accountability-related and economic processes, such as access to justice and service delivery, benefit from integrating pro-poor growth and human rights agendas. Enhanced joint practice around ways in which human rights provide the legitimacy and credibility for demanding a role in participatory processes, while pro-poor growth focuses on increasing capacities and opportunities for the poor to participate in growth processes.

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<sup>2</sup> The clusters of possible entry points are covered in more detail in DCD/DAC/POVNET(2009)8 and in the survey.