



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

DAC Network on Poverty Reduction

DRAFT AGENDA

to be held at the OECD on Thursday 13 November 2003, commencing at 9:30 and continuing on Friday 14 November 2003 until 18:00.

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DRAFT AGENDA

MEETING OF THE DAC NETWORK ON POVERTY REDUCTION

**Meeting to be held at the OECD on 13 November 2003,
commencing at 9.30 and continuing on 14 November until 18.00**

Part I. Thursday 13 November, 9.30 – 13.00

Informal meeting of POVNET on Infrastructure and Poverty Reduction

1. Discussion of focus, outputs and timelines DCD/DAC/POVNET(2003)3

Part II. Thursday 13 November, 15.00 (and continuing 14 November until 18.00)

Meeting of the DAC Network on Poverty Reduction

1. Adoption of the Agenda DCD/DAC/POVNET/A(2003)2
2. Approval of the Summary Record of the June 2003 meeting DCD/DAC/POVNET/M(2003)1
3. Economic growth and poverty reduction – orientations for work and cross-cutting issues
4. Programme of work on specific themes – focus, outputs and timelines
 - a) Infrastructure DCD/DAC/POVNET(2003)3
 - b) Private sector DCD/DAC/POVNET(2003)4
 - c) Agriculture DCD/DAC/POVNET(2003)5
5. Information/discussion items
 - a) Istanbul Ministerial Conference on SMEs
 - b) Cambodia workshop on trade capacity building and private sector development
 - c) Investment and development
6. Other business and dates of next meetings

ANNOTATIONS

Part I. Informal meeting of POVNET on Infrastructure and Poverty Reduction [DCD/DAC/POVNET(2003)3]

1. Based on preliminary ideas set out by Mr Shoji (Task Team leader on Infrastructure and Vice Chair of the POVNET), the secretariat organised an informal brainstorming on this theme in October to identify the main directions, products, timelines and modalities of POVNET work. The referenced note reflects the outcome of that informal brainstorming. It will be further discussed at this informal session of POVNET experts on infrastructure with a view to presenting proposals to the POVNET (see Part II, item 4a of the present agenda).

Part II. Meeting of the DAC Network on Poverty Reduction

Item 3. Economic growth and poverty reduction – orientations for work and cross-cutting issues

2. An overarching objective of POVNET is to increase our collective wisdom of how to strengthen and sustain growth in developing countries and its contribution to poverty reduction, and to use this knowledge to set out and operationalise a vision to improve the effectiveness of development co-operation strategies and instruments to reduce poverty. Obviously, infrastructure, the private sector and agriculture all have roles to play in stimulating growth and poverty reduction and the task teams on these topics are developing work programmes to that end. However, it will be an important task of POVNET to connect up these and other areas of work (trade capacity, investment, information technology) and to develop synergies between them. The POVNET is therefore invited to reflect on how it will do this. With this background, the following issues are raised for guidance from POVNET.

a) Linking the different areas of work to the overarching objective

3. To ensure the relevance and connectability of work on specific topics (i.e. infrastructure, private sector, agriculture) to the overarching objective of POVNET work, it will be important to seek common ground on what we mean by pro-poor growth and how to operationalise this through policies and instruments. As POVNET is a forum for exchange of information and experience, informal brainstorming sessions on these interlinkages and synergies could be a regular feature of its meetings. If POVNET agrees, such an ongoing brainstorming discussion could be initiated at its next meeting, with first exchange, perhaps led off by one or two donors, on the most recent conceptual and analytical work concerning the relationship between growth and poverty reduction. Bearing in mind the discussion between the DAC and the Development Centre on connecting up their work programmes, the Development Centre will be invited to help guide and contribute to these reflections. To help us prepare for such discussions, Members are invited to indicate any particular themes or directions concerning pro-poor growth they wish to see pursued.

b) Outputs and audience

4. A related question concerning the interlinkages between work areas is that of whether the outputs of work should take the form of an integrated product comprising the results of the work of the individual

task teams, individual products from each task team, or some combination of these. What form should those outputs take – guidelines, guidance, good practices, tool kits, position papers, policy statements, etc., and to which audience are they particularly destined – aid agencies working at the field level, aid agencies in capitals, partner countries?

Item 4. Programme of work – terms of reference

5. For each of the main areas of POVNET work – infrastructure, private sector and agriculture – informal processes have been implemented since the June 2003 POVNET meeting to develop more detailed proposals concerning the focus, products, timelines and modalities of work. The results to date of these ongoing processes are set out in the three referenced notes.

6. For each of these areas, the task team leader will inform the POVNET of the present state of play of discussions and the action required of POVNET, e.g. endorsement of the broad lines of the proposals, agreement on initial products and proposals to get work started, and/or guidance still required to assist specific task teams to conclude their debates on the focus and outputs of work.

Item 5. Information/discussion items

7. Under this item, POVNET will be briefed on ongoing work in other relevant areas and invited to comment on the directions and outputs of this work and how it can be steered to contribute to the broader POVNET mandate on growth and poverty reduction. Reports on the following activities will be provided:

- The Istanbul Ministerial Conference on SMEs (June 2004): Preparations are now well underway for this event, where DCD/DAC has been invited to lead preparations on the theme of SMEs and Development. This includes preparation of a background, analytical report and a set of recommendations. Room document DCD/DAC/POVNET/A(2003)2/RD1 sets out preliminary ideas being developed by the secretariat concerning the background report and recommendations. Members are invited to comment on the directions set out in the room document. Over the next months, it will be revised and tested with stakeholders (e.g. at the Cambodia workshop – see below) and resubmitted to POVNET and DAC prior to finalisation for Istanbul.
- The Cambodia workshop on trade capacity building and private sector development (2-3 December 2003): This meeting responds to requests from donors and developing countries to pursue field level actions to implement to the DAC guidelines on trade capacity building and to strengthen the ability of the domestic private sector to trade and invest. The workshop therefore also represents an important milestone in preparing for the above-mentioned Istanbul conference on SMEs. Also, this work is relevant to ongoing work in the organisation on its post-Cancun work programme. The agenda for the meeting is set out in document COM/DCD/DEV(2003)3/REV1. Members are invited to take note of these preparations and consider how this area of work can be integrated into the main growth-poverty reduction thrust of POVNET work.
- Investment and development: Members will be briefed on work to define an OECD strategy on investment for development, following the proposal by Japan at the 2003 MCM. The Committee on International Investment and Multinational Enterprises (CIME) favourably reviewed a work proposal at its September 2003 meeting – see DAF/IME(2003)10. As the output of this work will be a policy framework to enhance the capacity of developing countries to attract investment and maximise its benefits, Members are invited to consider how DAC/POVNET could contribute to this initiative as well as on how it could exploit the eventual product of this work. In a related context, the CIME has also been considering work to strengthen the synergies between ODA and

FDI and discussed initial ideas on this at its September 2003 Meeting – see DAFPE/IME/WPD(2003)5. POVNET will be briefed on the outcomes of that discussion and invited to consider how and where it feels such synergies could be developed and/or strengthened. Finally, mention is made of other relevant work on an investment framework for Africa and concerning governance and investment in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.