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REPORT ON RECENT MEETINGS OF DAC SUBSIDIARY BODIES

17 January 2006

This note provides the key outcomes from the POVNET meeting which took place on 16-17 November 2005.

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POVNET RECENT MEETINGS OF DAC SUBSIDIARY BODIES

POVNET MEETING OF 16-17 NOVEMBER 2005

1. The POVNET met in Paris on 16-17 November 2005 to take stock of ongoing work, including that being followed by the Task Teams, to discuss possible dissemination activities and to consider challenges and opportunities for follow-up work beyond 2006. Luca Barbone of the World Bank presented findings from the 2005 Review of the PRSs, focusing on the two themes for 2005 – rebalancing accountabilities and scaling up for results.

Key outcomes of the POVNET meeting were as follows:

a) Guidance to donors on promoting pro-poor growth (the “Overarching” paper)

2. Key policy messages were identified to guide the preparation of a shortened next version of this report. At the meeting, the DAC Chair suggested that the value added of this work was to bring together and build some consensus around the roles and synergies between growth and other factors in reducing poverty. The revised version of the report will be presented to POVNET at its next meeting on 7-8 February with a view to its approval by POVNET and subsequent transmission to the DAC for its 17 March meeting. A “work in progress” version of the key policy messages also figures in chapter 2 (Promoting Pro-Poor Growth) of the 2005 Development Co-operation Report [DCD/DAC(2005)59/REV1].

b) Infrastructure

3. The Infrastructure Task Team’s report, “Guiding Principles on Using Infrastructure to Reduce Poverty”, was adopted. This has now been transmitted to the DAC for approval through the written procedure [see DCD/DAC(2006)1]. A series of dissemination activities related to this guidance is planned.

c) Private Sector Development

4. The draft report of the Task Team, on how to promote the contribution of the private sector development to pro-poor growth was reviewed and approved ad referendum, to provide members with the opportunity to submit drafting amendments. The revised version, which includes key policy messages, a summary of the analytic framework and six hot topic papers will be transmitted to the DAC for approval at its 17 March meeting [see DCD/DAC(2006)9].

d) Agriculture

5. Discussion centred on the Task Team’s key messages. It was agreed that the full draft report would be submitted to the POVNET early in 2006 with a view to endorsement at the next POVNET meeting on 7-8 February. Dissemination has begun, inter alia, through OECD Regional Workshops organised by the Agriculture Directorate. The final version will also be submitted to the DAC meeting on 14 March for approval.

e) Ex Ante Poverty Impact Assessments

6. A number of Members volunteered to pilot the approach that has been developed by the task team, with a view to integrating lessons learned into an “Ex Ante PIA Guidance Note” to be completed in 2007.

f) Dissemination/communication strategy

7. Based on the broader DAC strategy under development, discussions focused on audiences, impacts and tools for dissemination, with particular attention to websites. It was agreed that Members would submit information about on-going events and that the Secretariat would provide a follow-up paper with further ideas and clarifications for the 7-8 February POVNET meeting.

g) Next steps/future work priorities

8. Building on earlier discussions in the DAC and with the Chairs of Subsidiary Bodies, POVNET held a preliminary exchange of views on future work themes for the 2007-8, based on the note by the secretariat [DCD/DAC/POVNET(2005)26]. It was agreed to refine and develop the three broad themes considered -- implementing the pro-poor growth guidance developed during the current mandate, and ways and means to deepen and broaden poverty reduction efforts. The Chair concluded that POVNET should be both responsive to DAC interests and priorities as well as to be in a position to prepare a revised note with more developed proposals for the 7-8 February POVNET meeting.