

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

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REPORT ON RECENT MEETINGS

DAC Meeting, 20 October 2006

This note is for INFORMATION under Item 3 of the agenda [DCD/DAC/A(2006)12]. It provides the key outcomes from the following meetings:

- DCD/Trade - Regional Forum on Trade Facilitation, Cameroon (27-28 September)
- DCD/AGR - OECD regional Event: Fostering Country Owned Policy Strategies for Agriculture and Rural Development, Senegal (3-4 October)
- LenCD Forum: Addressing the Paris Declaration , Kenya (3-5 October)
- Policy dialogue with non-DAC Members of the OECD, Turkey (12-13 October)

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REPORT ON RECENT MEETINGS

DCD/Trade Directorate – Regional Forum on Trade Facilitation, 27-28 September 2006

1. On 27-28 September 2006, DCD and the Trade Directorate in collaboration with the Government of Cameroon hosted a Regional Forum on "*Maximising the Developmental Benefits of Trade Facilitation*" in Yaoundé (Cameroon). The event brought together over 100 key public and private sector stakeholders involved in trade facilitation in Western and Central Africa – including delegates involved in WTO negotiations; policy makers and practitioners; donors, regional and multilateral aid agencies; and private sector stakeholders.

2. Participants exchanged lessons learned from trade facilitation reforms and donor assistance; established a dialogue around policy and operational issues related to the WTO negotiations and, more generally, trade facilitation reforms and donor assistance; and discussed OECD work on trade facilitation with non-member countries. In addition, the Forum allowed participants to discuss issues that remained unresolved due to the suspension of the WTO negotiations on trade facilitation. In particular, they exchanged views concerning the challenges with operationalising "special and differential treatment". In conclusion, all acknowledged the positive impact trade facilitation can have on development and recognised the important role the private sector, bilateral donors and regional and multilateral organisations play in helping partner country governments design, implement and finance effective trade facilitation reforms at the domestic and regional levels.

DCD/AGR – OECD Regional Event: Fostering Country Owned Policy Strategies for Agriculture and Rural Development, Saly, Senegal, 3-4 October 2006

3. This regional outreach event was a collaborative effort by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Platform in Dakar (Platform on Rural Development and Food Security in West and Central Africa), jointly organised by the Agriculture and Development Co-operation Directorates. The Government of Senegal hosted the meeting, provided an audience for OECD officials with President Abdoulaye Wade, and organised a dinner-debate with Ministers of Agriculture and Commerce, and senior level representatives from the Ministries of Finance, Regional Integration and NEPAD.

4. This event followed on from two recent *OECD Global Forums on Agriculture*; one on policy coherence for development and the other on constraints to agriculture development in Sub-Saharan Africa. African participants emphasized the need for a "Made in Africa" strategy and welcomed the support of the OECD in fostering dialogue in this area. This Saly event also coincides with a large number of international initiatives which recognise the importance of agriculture for economic growth and poverty reduction (G8 Gleneagles summit, NEPAD/CAADP, POVNET work, Global Donor Platform on Rural Development (GDPRD)).

5. The objective was to share lessons learned from policy experiences and analysis in both OECD and developing countries on how best to foster a country-owned strategy for agriculture and rural development. More specifically, it examined the specific challenges and roles for the public and private sectors, and for donors on how best to:

- develop a country-owned strategy for agriculture and rural development including setting objectives, identifying constraints and priorities and reconciling sectoral, national and regional objectives; and
- adopt and implement a country-owned strategy for agriculture and rural development including mobilising investments, fostering partnerships and policy monitoring and evaluation.

6. A broad cross-section of stakeholders (about 60 participants) attended the event including policy makers, practitioners, producers, researchers and private sector representatives from OECD member states and West/Central Africa, international and regional organizations. Background papers, presentations, participants' list and news releases are available at: www.oecd.org/agr/ete/Africa (English) and www.ocde.org/agr/eet/Afrique (French).

LenCD Forum: Addressing the Paris Declaration, 3-5 October 2006

7. "Addressing the Paris Declaration. Collective Responsibility for Capacity Development: What Works, and What Doesn't", Nairobi 3-5 October 2006. Learning Network on Capacity Development (LenCD) Forum in collaboration with the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness and the GOVNET.

8. Around 100 LenCD and GOVNET members plus government, civil society, private sector and donor representatives from around 20 partner countries participated actively in the meeting. The DAC paper *The Challenge of Capacity Development : Towards Good Practice* was launched by the GOVNET Chair and provided the reference guide for the conference.

9. The Forum emphasised learning from practical experience at the country level, around three main themes : joint approaches to capacity development, assessing, monitoring and evaluating capacity development and strengthening capacity through domestic accountability. The topic of joint approaches was led by the GOVNET and the case materials presented will form the platform for delivering the GOVNET's 2007/8 PWB commitment to provide guidance on joint approaches in support of partner country strategies for capacity development. DAC Secretariat staff facilitated several sessions in the conference and presented on the topics of procurement, capacity and domestic accountability, human rights and mutual accountability, and managing for development results. A full report from the Forum will be available in December 2006.

10. The LenCD met after the conference to consult on its future status and objectives. Although no firm conclusions were reached, the LenCD reconfirmed its wish to retain no more than an informal association with the DAC at this point, in line with the DAC's views on this issue.

Policy Dialogue with non-DAC Members of the OECD hosted by TIKA, Istanbul, 12-13 October 2006

11. On 12-13 October, the Turkish International Cooperation Agency (TIKA) and DAC/OECD hosted the "Policy Dialogue with non-DAC Members of the OECD" at the OECD Istanbul Centre. The meeting addressed the issues of (1) the DAC and emerging donors in a context of scaled up global aid; (2) selection of partner countries; (3) aid effectiveness; (4) technical co-operation in the debate on capacity development; (5) aid statistics; as well as (6) effective aid management. The discussions were held against questions of a 'roadmap' towards DAC membership, as well as more generally convergence between the development assistance of DAC and non-DAC Members, and any challenges this may imply for the DAC, emerging donors and establishing international good donor practice. Over the next weeks, the Secretariat will distribute a meeting report synthesising the discussions and meeting outcomes.