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## REPORT ON RECENT MEETINGS OF DAC SUBSIDIARY BODIES

14 February 2006

*This note is for INFORMATION and provides the key outcomes from the following DAC Subsidiary meetings:*

*GENDERNET (30-31 January 2006 and 1 February 2006)*

*POVNET (7-8 February 2006)*

*CPDC (7-8 February 2006)*

Contact Persons: Patti O'Neill [patti.oneill@oecd.org] - Ebba Dohlman [ebba.dohlman@oecd.org] -  
Lisa Williams [lisa.williams@oecd.org] - Mark Downes [mark.downes@oecd.org]

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## RECENT MEETINGS OF DAC SUBSIDIARY BODIES

**DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET) biennial meeting with the UN Interagency Network on Women and Gender Equality (30-31 January 2006); and informal meeting of the GENDERNET (1 February 2006) in Nairobi**

**Contact: Patti O'Neill DCD/POL**

### **Aid modalities and the promotion of gender equality - workshop**

1. The Network on Gender Equality and the United Nations' Interagency Network on Women and Gender Equality held a jointly organised workshop on *Aid modalities and the promotion of gender equality* on 30 to 31 January. The two Networks hold joint workshops every two years on a topic of mutual interest and relevance. This meeting, hosted by UN-HABITAT in Nairobi, brought together over 60 participants, representing the UN system, 11 DAC members, the Government of Zambia and the Commonwealth Secretariat. Several GENDERNET members included staff based in Embassies and High Commissions in the Africa region on their delegations.

2. The purpose of the workshop was to identify:

- how to use changing aid modalities and increases in aid to accelerate progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment;
- good practice in implementing the partnership commitments of the *Paris Declaration*, in particular harmonisation;
- effective ways to support people and organisations in partner countries to place gender equality and women's empowerment high on policy and political agendas;
- strategies for strengthening how bilateral donors and multilateral agencies work together to support partners' development efforts.

3. Papers and presentations examined the changing development context, focussing on financing for development, the *Paris Declaration*, programme-based approaches, accountability mechanisms and emerging pan-Africa organisations and structures. In-depth case studies were presented on integrating gender equality into the second generation Poverty Reduction Strategy in Tanzania and on how donors, the Gender in Development Division and the Ministry of Finance worked together to integrate gender equality considerations into Zambia's Fifth National Development Plan. Challenging papers were presented on harmonising donor and multilateral support for national women's ministries, reflecting on experiences in Uganda and Rwanda.

4. The workshop concluded by developing a set of common understandings and agreements on how increased aid volume and the partnership commitments of the *Paris Declaration* can be used to promote gender equality and women's empowerment and improve the quality of development assistance.

5. The next workshop is scheduled for early 2008, hosted by GENDERNET.

### **Informal meeting of the DAC Network on Gender Equality (1 February 2006)**

6. Network members who had participated in the joint workshop met on 1 February. The mix of participants comprised members from their agencies' head offices, field-based staff, UN observers, the World Bank and the Commonwealth Secretariat. As an input to the planned review of the *DAC guidelines on gender equality and women's empowerment in development cooperation*, we took advantage of the presence of field based staff from Kenya, Ethiopia, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia to exchange views and experiences on the practical implementation of:

- gender mainstreaming; and
- the new aid modalities.

7. Members also discussed the completion of the remaining elements of the 2006 work programme, the DAC prioritisation exercise, the Network's proposed 2007-08 work programme, planning for the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Network (July 2006), a proposal for brokering economics training for members and the World Bank's initiative to promote the gender equality MDG.

8. Full reports will be prepared on both meetings.

### **DAC Network on Poverty Reduction (POVNET) 7-8 February 2006 in Paris**

**Contact: Ebba Dohlman DCD/PRG**

9. The DAC Network on Poverty Reduction met on 7-8 February 2006. The meeting started by re-electing Mr. Jay Smith (United States) as POVNET Chair and Mr. Hitoshi Shoji (Japan) as Vice-Chair. The outcomes of the meeting are as set out below:

- The Task Team papers on Agriculture [DCD/DAC/POVNET(2005)20] and Poverty Impact Assessments [DCD/DAC/POVNET(2005)22REV1] were approved subject to a number of changes.
- The draft policy guidance on ODA/Investment synergies [DCD/DAC(2006)5] was welcomed and a number of refinements were proposed.
- POVNET considered the revised draft of the policy guidance paper, "Promoting Pro-Poor Growth" [DCD/DAC/POVNET(2005)24REV1], and agreed on the processes for revising and bringing the document to closure.
- POVNET considered the HLM Issues paper [DCD/DAC(2006)12], identified a number of changes and key policy issues for Ministers to consider, agreed on the process for forwarding it to the DAC.
- Members welcomed the ideas presented on communications and dissemination [DCD/DAC/POVNET(2006)1], and agreed to move in these directions.
- Members made a number of suggestions for refining Programme of Work and Budget proposals concerning poverty reduction [DCD/DAC/POVNET(2006)2] and indicated its interest in working with other subsidiary bodies and Committees to carry out the work.

**DAC Network on Conflict, Peace and Development Co-operation (CPDC) 7-8 February 2006 in Paris - Chair:** Tom Owen-Edmunds (UK) - **Vice-Chairs:** Inger Buxton (EC), Bjorn Holmberg (Sweden) and Cristina Hoyos (Switzerland)

**Contact:** *Lisa Williams and Mark Downes DCD/POL*

10. The **DAC Network on Conflict, Peace and Development Co-operation (CPDC)** met on 7-8 February 2006. Preceding that meeting, on 6 February, the CPDC and the Fragile States Group held a joint brainstorming session on "Early Warning, Analysis and Harmonised Approaches to Aid in Conflict and State Fragility" that looked at the scope for future work in this sensitive area. The CPDC's Security System Reform Task Team also met on 6 February to discuss the main outcomes of the SSR Practitioners' workshop held in Ghana in December and the next steps in the development of the 'Implementation Framework on Security System Reform (IF-SSR)'. Members agreed that the operational guidance provided by the IF-SSR was a welcome step forward and agreed to pilot the draft framework upon completion. Its potential as a co-ordinating mechanism for bi-lateral and multi-lateral engagement in SSR was underlined.

11. During the CPDC plenary meeting, the Chair and Bureau were confirmed, and a new Vice-Chair, Cristina Hoyos (Switzerland), was elected. The CPDC Network reviewed progress across its two major work streams on the implementation of security system reform and on evaluating conflict prevention and peacebuilding programmes, joint work with the Evaluation Network. CPDC Members emphasised the need to focus on disseminating and mainstreaming the Network's policy and guidance in order to ensure its impact at field level over the coming year and beyond. The Network launched its publication, *Preventing Conflict and Building Peace: A Manual of Issues and Entry Points*, and a CD-Rom of all CPDC products. Members also agreed to develop training around its current publications, not only to help integrate conflict, peace and security issues into development policy, but also to work with the Joint Donor Competency Network to develop field-level training for embassy and agency staff, as well as staff from partner countries and organisations.

12. The Deputy Chef de Cabinet in the Office of the President of the UN General Assembly, Anna Karin Enestrom, provided an update on the development of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). Members discussed the importance of interfacing effectively with the PBC, including communicating CPDC and other DAC products on an ongoing basis.

13. The CPDC also discussed its possible 2007/8 work priorities, including synergies and linkages with other subsidiary bodies, and how they may be taken forward, pending the outcome of the DAC prioritisation exercise. The group agreed to further develop tools (e.g., pilots, training, work with regional organisations, etc.) to promote a culture of conflict prevention and peacebuilding in development. It is considering ways to develop guidance on: armed violence and security; evaluating conflict prevention and peacebuilding activities; and early warning and response.