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REPORT ON RECENT MEETINGS

Room Document 1

DAC Meeting, 12 February 2010

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REPORT ON RECENT MEETINGS

Peer Review Methodology Meeting - 08 January (am) 2010

1. See Room Document DCD/DAC/RD(2010)2/RD5

POVNET Task Team on Empowerment – 22 January 2010

2. In its meeting on the 22nd of January 2010 the POVNET Task Team on Empowerment made progress in a number of good practice notes focusing on empowerment and pro-poor growth. Papers on Legal Empowerment, Empowerment and Local Development, and Empowerment Processes in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management are available as first drafts. The work plan of good practice notes was updated for the remainder of 2010 and thematic areas identified that still need to be covered were identified. It was decided to pursue thematic guidance on Empowerment and Aid Modalities and Empowerment in Fragile States.

3. The collection of stories of empowerment is advanced. First experience show a wealth of empowerment experience, but also the limits of the ambition of collecting stories. The main challenge remains to get the role of the donor reflected in the stories, allowing agencies to advance their support of empowering processes. Key messages from both stories and good practice notes will be fed into an overarching policy guidance note. A first draft of this should be available in June

Joint EPOC-DAC Task Team on Adaptation to Climate Change, Zurich (Switzerland) 28-29 January 2010

4. At their meeting on 28-29 January 2010, Members of the Joint EPOC-DAC Task Team on Climate Change Adaptation discussed progress and the avenues for future work of the Task Team. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Anton Hilber of Switzerland and Mr. Aart van der Horst of the Netherlands.

5. Task Team Members agreed that the OECD Guidance on Integrating Climate Change Adaptation into Development Cooperation was a key product of the Task Team and had been well received by many audiences. The emphasis is now on continuing to disseminate the guidance and developing user tools and a training course. The GTZ, acting on behalf of BMZ, presented a training course based on the Guidance and invited Task Team members to suggest individuals to be trained as trainers.

6. Task Team Members shared experiences with using climate risk screening tools and assessments and agreed to support a study by the Secretariat in partnership with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) to look into options for harmonising the use of climate screening tools.

7. The OECD Secretariat presented a review of the integration of Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) into Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedures. The Task Team agreed to the publication of this report as an OECD Working Paper following the incorporation of comments.

8. The Task Team also agreed to carry out work on the following issues / themes: monitoring and evaluation of climate change adaptation efforts, disaster risk reduction and risk sharing (led by Switzerland) and linkages between adaptation and mitigation. Proposals in these areas are to be discussed at the next meeting of the Task Team. The Task Team also agreed to examine climate change issues in selected sectors and the Netherlands agreed to take the lead on developing sectoral guidance for the water sector. It was agreed to consider additional sector-specific guidance at a later stage.

Women’s empowerment, accountability and national ownership: joint biennial workshop of the DAC Network on Gender Equality and the United Nations’ Inter-agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE), 1-2 February 2010.

9. Every two years the GENDERNET and IANWGE hold a workshop on an issue of mutual relevance and interest. The workshop brings together over one hundred gender equality advisors from across the UN, from bilateral agencies and from the regional development banks.

10. This year’s workshop was a mix of case studies and presentations made by partner country speakers, the private sector, donor and multilateral representatives which covered: entrepreneurship, land, social protection, international trade, ownership, dimensions of accountability and monitoring and measuring.

11. The key messages from the workshop were that:

- All actors need to change the way that women’s economic empowerment is defined and implemented.
- Making markets work for women is important but not enough to achieve economic justice.
- It is time to think BIG for women, by moving beyond microcredit to providing appropriate financing facilities targeting women and by scaling up programmes that work.
- There are unexploited opportunities for women in international trade and in aid for trade.
- “Don’t waste a good crisis.” This is an opportunity for rethinking and transforming power relationships, including those between women and men.
- Strengthening women’s rights to land and other assets is key to economic independence and security for women and their families.
- Empowerment, accountability and ownership are interlinked and reinforce each other.
- Accountability mechanisms can bring about change when those on the *outside* (such as NGOs and the private sector) support the actions of those on the *inside* (donors and governments) who are working towards change, and vice versa.
- The biggest challenge for embedding gender mainstreaming is ensuring accountability.
- Inclusion matters. Too often women are excluded from accessing the benefits of development.
- Improved information is essential for accountability, transparency and managing for development results. UN agencies have now recognised this, with virtually all major agencies making a serious effort to measure their gender equality focussed aid by using a marker system, based on the DAC’s gender equality policy marker.

12. The *Paris Declaration* and the *Accra Agenda for Action* are becoming valued as tools for advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment.

Informal meeting of the GENDERNET and consultative meeting with the World Bank, 3 February 2010.

13. GENDERNET members immediately followed up the workshop with an informal meeting, hosted by Austria, to assess the outcomes which the Network should carry over into its own proposed work programme. The twin pillars of the current and proposed future work programmes are: women’s economic empowerment and implementation of the *Accra Agenda for Action*.

14. Members confirmed that they wished to:

- Intensify work on international trade and on improving women's economic opportunities, including in situations of fragility and conflict.
- Continue to focus on implementing the Accra Agenda for Action, including monitoring the implementation of the DAC Guiding Principles on aid effectiveness, gender equality and women's empowerment.
- Increase the emphasis on the practical implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions on women, peace and security and of para. 21(b) of the *Accra Agenda for Action*.

15. Members were also fully briefed on the progress with establishing the proposed UN agency for women, the key gender equality focussed events planned for 2010 and on the World Bank's plans for making the transition from its current gender action plan – *Gender equality as smart economics* – to fully integrating gender equality dimensions into the operations of the Bank. Of particular note is President Zoellick's MDG3 torch commitment to increase investments in gender equality through the IDA16 replenishment.

Informal Group on DCD/DAC Communication Strategy - 04 February (am)

16. The third meeting of this Informal Group entered on the presentation of the preliminary results of the DCD/DAC Communication Review. A broad range of actors were interviewed and surveyed for this review. Respondents in member countries were largely senior policy-makers in capitals who play a key role coordinating their organisation's interaction with the DAC. The findings can be summarized in several key points:

- DCD/DAC work is highly valued and responds to a real need.
- The topics most clearly in demand are statistics, aid effectiveness and peer reviews.
- BUT, there are too many products – DCD/DAC could increase its reach by being more selective.
- The primary target for products are policy advisors at member headquarters. They are the gatekeepers who filter the information upward to management and outward to programs and the field.
- Nonetheless, improvements are needed to promote uptake of key findings, guidance and recommendations among Members:
 - Focus: Those surveyed call for greater focus on a limited number of themes that are of key importance.
 - Synthesis: Interviewees requested short documents with clear policy messages to promote uptake at senior levels, both at headquarters and in the field, and facilitate communication with the general public and the media.
 - Language: Clearer, simpler less technocratic language was recommended, as was the speedier provision of summaries and in more languages.
 - Case studies: Partner country interviewees emphasised the usefulness of case studies.
 - Less paper – more www/electronic: In general, there was a clear call for a shift from the emphasis on publications to better, more effective and efficient communication through the website and email.

17. Delegates confirmed their general agreement with the main findings of the exercise. Mention was made of the usefulness of an annual publications list (which the Secretariat confirmed would be presented for the 12 February DAC meeting).

18. Delegates also highlighted the need to work with PAC to try to develop a method in which priced publications could be made available to partner countries free of charge.