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REPORT ON RECENT MEETINGS

Room Document 1

DAC Meeting, 16 March 2010

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REPORT ON RECENT MEETINGS

DAC Network on Development Evaluation - 10-11 February 2010

1. The DAC Network on Development Evaluation held its recent meeting 10-11 February and is moving forward in several areas notably in developing its normative framework. The DAC Quality Standards for Development Evaluation has been finalised: members agreed that the Standards are of high quality and welcomed that they are based on a thorough consultation process including members and partner countries. The task team on developing an approach on assessing multilateral effectiveness presented a revised approach 'to strengthen information on the development effectiveness of multilateral organisations'. The approach builds on existing work and will be further developed before it is piloted later in the year. Members involved in piloting the evaluation methodology for budget support in Tunisia, Mali, Zambia and Tanzania reported back to the Network on the various evaluations. Members reviewed progress with the application of the draft Guidance on Evaluating Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding in complex evaluations in DRC and South Sudan. The Secretariat presented key findings of a draft study of central evaluation unit resources and systems. Members highlighted that the findings are useful for setting benchmarks and informing discussions within their own agencies and governments on the role and position of evaluation. A task team was formed to develop a joint strategic approach to evaluation capacity development.

2. Progress was also made regarding the Network's effort to promote joint approaches to evaluation. The Secretariat presented practical tools, an inventory of evaluation plans and an online discussion platform used to facilitate more harmonised and joined up evaluation efforts, and drew attention to areas for possible collaboration. The Network is monitoring members' progress on meeting commitments to carry out joint evaluation and the involvement of partner countries. Base-line data were presented and next steps discussed. Finally, members stressed the need to co-ordinate evaluations in a number of countries and sectors. Specifically, a coherent approach to evaluations of relief and reconstruction aid in Haiti should be used to avoid an un-coordinated avalanche of individual evaluations as members respond to policy makers' demands for accountability for the Haiti response. It was agreed to set in motion a process to engage with other actors, notably ALNAP and UNEG, to map out planned efforts on Haiti, promote a coherent approach and inform policy discussions.

Informal DAC Meeting on Untying - 18 February 2010

3. Based on the note DCD/DAC(2010)11, Members discussed the assessment by the Secretariat of their individual plans to untie aid to the maximum extent, in line with the commitments agreed in the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA paragraph 18b). The note and the discussion will form the basis of reporting to the SLM and the WP EFF.

4. Some delegates noted that the statement "fully untied" required further clarification. Other delegates noted that there is a need for informal guidance about how to report the tying status of certain aid categories such as imputed student costs and NGO support. The secretariat pointed out that a discussion on these issues is planned for the next meeting of the WP STAT in June 2010.

5. Members also asked for a discussion on the other issues related to AAA paragraph 18 such as the use of local procurement system, improved transparency and corporate social responsibility. In addition, some delegates suggested to take account of the global context in which DAC untying takes place (i.e. new donors, not members of the DAC). The secretariat will reflect on how best to address these issues.

ENVIRONET Special Meeting on Biological Diversity in preparation for the 2010 Conference of the Parties (COP) on Biodiversity being co-organised by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat - 24 February 2010

6. DAC/ENVIRONET and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat (UNCBD) held a joint meeting to discuss the role of development cooperation in biodiversity-related issues. The objective of this meeting was to facilitate the discussion of biodiversity-related issues by donors and to pave the road for the upcoming 10th Conference of Parties (COP 10) of CBD in October 2010.

7. The meeting discussed five issues: (i) the evolution of the 2010-2020 Strategic Plan of the CBD, which includes measurable targets; (ii) the Draft DAC Policy Statement on integrating biodiversity into development co-operation being prepared by DAC/ENVIRONET for the forthcoming DAC Senior Level Meeting; (iii) the scope for expanding OECD-CBD collaboration, including through the EPOC Expert Group on the Economics of Biodiversity iv) the High Level Forum on Biodiversity and Development Cooperation, to be held on 26 October prior to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and which will focus on how to improve the integration of biodiversity in the development agenda and v) the various events and initiatives being planned to celebrate the year 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity

INCAF Directors' level Meeting, Washington, USA - 24 February 2010

8. Members of the DACs International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) held a Directors-level meeting on 24 February 2010 in Washington D.C. The meeting was hosted by USAID and was preceded by a working dinner which focused on the role of the international donor community in the post-earthquake situation in Haiti. The Directors-level meeting was briefed on the results of the INCAF monitoring survey, which focused on the application of the *OECD DAC Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States* in Afghanistan, Haiti, Sierra Leone, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and East Timor. Directors also approved three INCAF policy statements on financing and aid architecture, statebuilding and preparation for the MDG Review Summit in September 2010.

9. In almost all cases members were represented at Director-level or Deputy Director-level at the meeting, which gives an indication of the profile of INCAF and also greatly helps to raise INCAF work from the technical level to the political level in aid agencies, foreign ministries and other relevant bodies and fora.

INCAF Plenary Meeting, Washington, USA - 25 February 2010

10. A regular INCAF meeting was held in Washington D.C. on the 25th February, where members made progress on a number of pieces of INCAF work and also devoted considerable time to brainstorming on how to ensure that the INCAF PWB for 2011/2012 corresponds with the priorities of the 'New DAC.'

Informal Group on DAC Engagement - 26 February 2010

11. The Secretariat briefed participants on current engagement activities, including DAC support for the Moscow International Conference on New Partnerships in Global Development Finance (17-18 February 2010), the ongoing DAC Special Review of Poland and preparations for a Technical Meeting with Arab donors, to be hosted by the OPEC Fund for International Development on 29-30 April 2010. There were also progress reports on the China-DAC Study Group, the OECD Global Forum on

Development, the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding and the Bogota High-Level Event on South-South Co-operation and Capacity Development.

12. Delegates endorsed the activities outlined in the draft 2010 Work Plan for DAC Engagement. Discussing the outcomes of the DAC Reflection Exercise, delegates drew attention to a number of questions that would need to be addressed by the Committee as it considers its strategy for engaging with other stakeholders beyond 2010. They agreed that a revised version of the 2010 Work Plan should capture these questions and provide for ongoing reflections on DAC engagement [DCD/DAC/RD(2010)3/RD7].

GOVNET Plenary - 01-02 March 2010

13. The DAC Governance Network (GOVNET) held the “First Roundtable on International Support for Elections: Effective Strategies and Accountability Systems” on 1 March 2010, also sponsored by the UN Electoral Assistance Division, Department of Political Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the European Commission (EC), the UNDP-EC Task Force on Electoral Assistance, and International IDEA, and the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID). The Roundtable was designed to build on collective efforts to raise discussions around electoral support to a more strategic level and to develop “Draft Strategic Principles for International Support for Elections” and an action plan for their elaboration and testing over the next year. This Roundtable was conducted as an integral part of the GOVNET work-stream on aid and domestic accountability, an initiative managed by partners from developing country accountability institutions and governments with donors, designed to avoid undermining accountability and to improve support in this politically sensitive area.

14. Commissioners and representatives from the Electoral Commissions of Sierra Leone, Zambia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Electoral Commission Forum made some concrete recommendations to counterparts from international and regional organisations, electoral development practitioners and multilateral and bilateral donors on ways to better support electoral processes and institutions. Points included the need for external actors to: better understand the political climate; pay more attention to sustainability in governance reforms by looking at more coherent, strategic, politically integrated approaches in line with aid effectiveness principles, taking the whole electoral cycle into account and supporting greater domestic accountability; be realistic about elections in fragile and conflict-affected countries; and consider more direct support to electoral management bodies and for women’s participation.

15. Together with the action plan, the key outcome of the meeting was the development of draft principles on support to elections which were prepared with the support of Thomas Carothers, Vice President of Studies, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. These will be discussed in various policy fora over the next year, refined and may then be finalised in the DAC. The principles will be integrated into policy messages and guidance developed on aid and domestic accountability for the High Level Forum 4 on Aid Effectiveness. The Draft Principles on International Support to Elections, as presented on 1 March, can be found at www.oecd.org/dac/governance/govnet.

16. The 13th Plenary Meeting of the DACs Network on Governance (GOVNET) took place 2 March 2010 and key objectives were to: a) take stock of the GOVNET’s achievements on aid and domestic accountability, tax, anti-corruption and human rights to date and plan strategically on follow through in 2010; b) consider Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) proposals for 2011/12; and c) identify next steps and leaders to take key aspects of this future work forward. The meeting focused on the development of GOVNET’s strategic orientation around the work on aid and domestic accountability which involves a series of multi-stakeholder dialogues and analysis in Mali, Mozambique, Peru and Uganda. Plans for the Mali case study, for example, were presented by M. Ousmane Sy, former Interior Minister and founder of

the Forum Multi-acteurs sur la gouvernance which will be the main pole for the case study. Each country case is being developed in support of existing processes in-country and through co-operation with counterparts in accountability institutions e.g., parliaments, parties, civil society, supreme audit institutions and government. The 13th GOVNET meeting included participants from key accountability institutions, bringing in the range of views necessary to effectively unpack ways to improve support to domestic accountability.

17. Members discussed preliminary proposals outlining GOVNET's priorities for 2011/12, focusing particularly on the outcomes of the DAC Reflection Exercise and the Policy Directors meeting. It was agreed that a "mini" strategic reflection exercise on the role and comparative advantage of GOVNET would be useful in determining the way forward and the most appropriate structure for this work. Additionally, members underlined the importance of monitoring the impact of existing GOVNET policies and guidelines.