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DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE  
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**UPDATE ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE TECHNICAL MEETING BETWEEN ARAB  
CO-ORDINATION GROUP INSTITUTIONS AND OECD DAC MEMBERS**

**Room Document 10**

**DAC Meeting, 16 March 2010**

*This Room Document is circulated for INFORMATION under Item 8 of the Draft Annotated Agenda [DCD/DAC/A(2010)3].*

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**UPDATE ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE TECHNICAL MEETING  
BETWEEN ARAB CO-ORDINATION GROUP INSTITUTIONS AND OECD DAC MEMBERS**

**Introduction**

1. Following initial discussions between the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) and the DAC Secretariat in November 2009<sup>1</sup>, an informal Steering Group composed of Germany, the United States, the United Kingdom and the World Bank was established to help prepare the Technical Meeting. A teleconference took place on 3 March between Steering Group members and the OFID Secretariat during which initial thinking regarding the scope, purpose and timing of the Technical Meeting was further refined. Details of the conclusions from this discussion are detailed below, followed by a brief exposé of next steps that will be undertaken.

**Outcome of the teleconference**

2. Participants agreed on the following points:

- Meeting themes Core issues for discussion identified in November were confirmed by SG participants e.g. food security, energy poverty, information exchange and learning regarding Arab development (including the Arab Development Portal) and a case study of Yemen.
- Dates The meeting will take place in Vienna at OFID headquarters on **29-30 April 2010**.
- Meeting objectives Participants recalled that the dialogue process between OECD and Arab donors was still nascent after many years of dormancy, and agreed that it would be useful to pitch discussions at a technical level as a way of rebuilding relationships, sharing ideas and developing common understandings. According, ***the meeting will be organised as an open-ended technical exchange on substantive issues where participants feel free to provide whatever information they want regarding the issues at hand, including details and insights regarding field operations.*** The meeting will be opened by Mr. Suleiman Al-Herbish as head of the host organisation, and sessions will be chaired by OFID.
- Participant profile In line with the technical nature of discussions, ***the desired participant profile is now “head of operations”.***
- Meeting format The meeting will be organised in four sessions over 1 ½ days, with lead-off speakers from each of the two donor communities for each session, followed by an open-ended discussion.

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<sup>1</sup> The outcome of these discussions was summarised in DCD/DAC/RD(2009)17/RD5, which was presented at the DAC's 9th December 2009 meeting.)

### **Next steps**

3. The OFID and DAC Secretariats will work closely over the next few weeks to develop an agenda, issue a joint invitation letter, identify specialised institutions/experts who could make presentations and organise logistical arrangements. Steering Group members will be consulted on meeting specifics, including possible documentation and lead speakers. The DAC Secretariat will scope out OECD work on energy poverty, food security, Yemen and information exchange/learning themes (e.g. DAC statistical concepts/definitions, DAC evaluation reports database, INCAF policy briefs, OECD MENA policy dialogue/technical assistance regarding governance and private sector development, etc.) that could figure in meeting documentation, and identify staff with specialised expertise who could contribute to Technical Meeting discussions.

4. DAC Members are encouraged to contact Ms. Raundi Halvorson-Quevedo regarding further information or subsequent updates in the run-up to the Technical Meeting.