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REPORT ON RECENT MEETINGS

Room Document 1

DAC Meeting, 19 May 2010

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REPORT ON RECENT MEETINGS

POVNET Plenary - 23-24 March 2010

1. The meeting opened with a DAC/Povnet seminar on accelerating progress towards the MDGs, led off by Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Assistant Secretary-General in UN DESA and in charge of preparations for the September Summit reviewing progress with the MDGs. He highlighted the need for a new pact to accelerate progress, that there are no 'magic bullets' and important challenges to be met in areas such as climate change, food security, economic and humanitarian crises and the special needs of the most vulnerable. A note summarizing the discussion was transmitted to the SLM (see DCD/DAC/POVNET(2010)5]. In the 'business' part of the meeting, Povnet reviewed progress with the main strands of its 2009-10 PWB, including work on empowerment of poor people and implementing policy guidance and noted that this was fully on track to meet end 2010 deadlines. Povnet also reviewed proposals for the 2011-12 PWB and emphasised that work on the areas of food security, greening pro-poor growth and social protection represents a coherent package with strong synergies across the themes, all important for accelerating progress to the MDGs by 2015.

WP-EFF Executive Committee meeting, Bogota, Columbia - 26 March 2010

2. The WP-EFF got the opportunity of the High Level Event on South-South Cooperation in Bogotá last March to hold its 5th Executive Committee meeting. Building on the success of this HLE, based on the collection of 110 case stories, it stressed the need for all workstreams to build a sound evidence base for the HLF-4 in 2011. Part of it will be delivered by the monitoring survey of the Paris Declaration at the beginning of 2011, and there was a decision that assessment of indicators on Ownership and Managing for Results (indicators 1 and 11) would be carried out through Clusters A and E respectively, with the World Bank support, rather than by the WB itself as in the past. Other evidence will come from countries expressing the wish to receive particular support from the WP-EFF. Ten countries have done so up to now, and a co-chair visited one of them, Ecuador, the day before the HLE in Bogotá. Next co-chairs' visits will be Indonesia (24 May) and Mali (beginning of June). The first outline of the HLF-4 (Korea, Oct 2011), and of the roadmap towards it, will be presented at the next ExCom in Paris, 8-9 July.

1st Global Meeting on the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, Dili, Timore Leste - 9 – 10 April 2010

3. The International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding chaired by the UK and Timor-Leste held its first meeting in Dili, on 9-10 April 2010, bringing together over 130 participants from fragile states, development partners and civil society. The delegates shared findings from 6 national consultations, which identified country-level priorities and good practices, as well as bottlenecks in achieving peacebuilding and statebuilding objectives.

4. The outcome of the International Dialogue is captured in the Dili Declaration which outlines seven common peacebuilding and statebuilding goals and identifies concrete commitments for fragile states and development partners alike to improve development outcomes in conflict and fragile situations. The Declaration sets out four areas for future work of the International Dialogue which will feed into the preparation of an International Action Plan on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding. The Action plan will be presented at the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness.

China-DAC Study Group (CDSG) Event on Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development. Bamako, Mali - 27-28 April 2010

5. The China-DAC Study Group held its second event – on Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development for Growth and Poverty Reduction in Africa – in Bamako, Mali on 27-28 April 2010. Some 100 participants attended this conference from China (State Council Leading Group on Poverty Alleviation and Development, Ministry of Agriculture, business and academia), from African countries and DAC donors, which was opened by the Prime Minister of Mali and the Chinese Ambassador to Mali. While very successful Chinese approaches to using agriculture to reduce poverty in China may not be easy to copy in Africa, a key point is for African countries and donors to be inspired by what the ‘right’ policies can achieve, e.g. by state-led development processes and by shifting the emphasis from agriculture to rural development. Chinese engagement in Africa differs from that of DAC donors – with market-based approaches blending aid, trade and investment, and a focus on smallholders and innovative delivery mechanisms. Chinese benefits also bring issues requiring attention – linkages to local markets, China-Africa trade imbalances, labour practices, environmental impacts, low transparency and little co-ordination with other donors. Efforts are required to develop and pilot a new engagement approach between African countries, China and DAC donors, where all can meet as equal partners in a new policy space.