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REPORT ON RECENT MEETINGS

Room Document 1

DAC Meeting, 1st March 2011

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Contact: Françoise Villard - Tel: +33 (0)1 45 24 17 82 - Email: Francoise.villard@oecd.org

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REPORT ON RECENT MEETINGS

Experts' Meeting – How we measure results, for what and for whom? 2-3 February 2011

1. The purpose of the meeting was to cast a critical eye on current approaches to results measurement in the aid industry with a view to promoting an effective system for measuring the impact of aid and accounting for aid resources in a way that is consistent with Paris principles. The discussion confirmed that the current international system of results measurement, data collection and reporting is not meeting the needs of either the donor community, partner governments or civil society. A broad consensus emerged around the need for common results frameworks building on country leadership and capacity to define, produce and report on results and for renewed mobilization of support for country systems in those areas. The workshop brought together middle-level managers responsible for results and performance management in their agencies and a wide range of stakeholders representing “end users” including executives, parliamentarians, and civil society organisations from donor and partner countries.

2. The meeting also recommended that the Busan High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness should discuss results-related issues with a view to developing concrete commitments. It was proposed that the 2011 DAC Senior Level Meeting consider options for taking the results agenda forward and muster early support for possible commitments to be agreed at Busan. This will be discussed at the DAC meeting on 1st March.

China-DAC Study Group event on the Enabling Environment for Enterprise Development, 16-17 February 2011, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

3. The China-DAC Study Group's fourth event, “Enterprise Development and Economic Transformation: Creating the Enabling Environment”, was organised in association with the African Union Commission and the UN Economic Commission for Africa. At the opening session, held at the AU Conference Centre, AUC Chairman Jean Ping stressed the importance of this topic for Africa, the timeliness of the event and the value in platforms such as this for sharing experiences and promoting dialogue between the Chinese, Africans and the donor community.

4. More needs to be done in Africa to meet the Millennium Development Goals and African countries need policies that will increase economic growth with more substantial and sustained impacts on reducing poverty. And, there is greater recognition today of the important role of the state in stimulating competitive markets and private enterprise. Indeed, China's own development experience over the last 30 years shows that a state dedicated to broad-based development can be effective in leading a market-driven development process, and this is an important lesson for Africa.

5. China's expanding economic relations with Africa provide a new opportunity for promoting growth and reducing poverty and support Africa's economic transformation process. By working together on the basis of mutual benefit and respect, this can be a “win-win” situation for both Africa and China. African countries would benefit from increased access to the Chinese market and a greater transfer of skills and technology from its external partners. For many Chinese firms, Africa's large population makes it a large potential market and gross returns on investment are high (risks on investment are high as well).

6. The main policy lessons from this event - as well as the China-DAC Study Group's previous events on development partnerships, agriculture and infrastructure - will now be brought together in a report to be launched at a Policy Symposium with related events planned for Beijing in early June 2011 (tentative dates are 7 or 8 June).

INCAF and DAC Evaluation Network, “Evaluating Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Activities: What have we learned?” 16-17 February 2011, Oslo, Norway

7. Experts and policy makers from a wide range of OECD member states and international development institutions met in Oslo to review lessons from piloting of the draft *DAC Guidance on Evaluating Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Activities*. This guidance, produced through an ongoing collaboration of INCAF and EVALNET, has been used for major joint evaluations of donor peacebuilding policies and programmes in three fragile states: Southern Sudan, Sri Lanka and the D.R. Congo and was also used for evaluations in Haiti and Afghanistan and a number of other evaluative studies. (Evaluation reports and further background on the draft guidance are available [on the Evaluation Network website](#).) The workshop aimed to review both policy messages and evaluation lessons emerging from these evaluations and to provide input for finalization of the guidance.

8. The wealth of findings, policy lessons and evaluation knowledge shared during the event demonstrated that, while many challenges remain, quality evaluation in these fields is possible and can contribute valuable insight for improving the strategic focus and effectiveness of peacebuilding programmes and policies. Feedback from participants illustrated that the Guidance has made a significant contribution to thinking in these fields. Participants welcomed progress made over the past couple of years to better understand peace and statebuilding issues, including OECD work on these topics.

9. Key messages from the evaluations suggest that donors need to do better at grounding interventions in solid and continuous conflict analysis and targeting the sectors that matter most to sustainable peacebuilding and statebuilding. The assumption that any socio-economic development or humanitarian project will somehow contribute to peace needs to be questioned; evidence from Southern Sudan and D.R. Congo show that effectiveness could have been improved by better targeting of support at priority issues. Participants stressed the need for greater realism and flexibility of engagement in fragile states to effectively address changing priorities and to enable rapid reactions to emerging opportunities to support peace.

10. Development agencies also need to recognize the influence of domestic donor politics on aid effectiveness, in particular in the case of Whole of Government efforts. Major challenges remain around ownership and the involvement of partner governments (in both programming and evaluation), particularly when governments are parties to an ongoing conflict. External support is not politically neutral; it provides resources and influences outcomes. Evaluation in these settings is itself a highly political undertaking.

11. Based on the outcomes of this event and other feedback received, an advisory team will revise the guidance and present it to EVALNET and INCAF for approval by mid-2011.

DAC Working Party on Statistics (WP-STAT) - Informal Meeting, 22-23 February 2011

12. This annual informal meeting is designed to refine proposals for agreement at the formal WP-STAT meeting in June. Good progress was made on numerous strands of work.

13. Members welcomed the Secretariat’s draft Introduction to **DAC Statistics on Tying Status**, and suggested adding a note explaining that tying status was assessed on the prime contract. The meeting agreed to present to the DAC a proposal made jointly by Canada, Austria, Switzerland and the Secretariat to exclude from assessments of progress towards complete untying certain forms of aid that could not, in principle, be untied. Most members agreed with the proposal itself, though Japan flagged that it may not agree.

14. The meeting agreed that the **Rio markers** should be used as widely as possible to identify climate-relevant financial flows. The new reporting directives now being prepared would include an option to report the markers in respect of development lending, including non-ODA loans.

15. Further work would be done to more closely define the ODA share of members' contributions to **peacekeeping missions**, including missions delegated by the UN to other forces. Norway would be bringing a proposal to the DAC to consider amending reporting instruction to allow for the counting as ODA of certain **anti-terrorism and disarmament** actions, including in respect of nuclear weapons programmes. Sweden would be bringing proposals to the June formal meeting to allow for wider ODA coverage of contributions to bodies promoting **human rights**.

16. There was extensive discussion of the WP-STAT's efforts to improve the **transparency** of its data, and promote their full exploitation by developing countries. Workshops had been organised for developing countries, data were being made available free for use in other portals (e.g. Aidflows. AidData), and new fields were being added to the CRS. The Secretariat agreed at this meeting to investigate with Austria and Belgium the possibility of offering a means for members to post forward spending estimates in CRS format. The DAC Facilitator pointed out that decisions about the future functioning of the Working Party, including its openness to non-OECD members, were largely a matter for the DAC.

17. The meeting was also briefed by Canada and the Secretariat on OECD work to assist in **monitoring international commitments**, and by the Secretariat on its workplan for deepening coverage and understanding of **non-ODA flows** for development.