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REPORT ON RECENT MEETINGS

Room Document 1

DAC Meeting, 10 May 2011

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REPORT ON RECENT MEETINGS

POVNET Plenary Meeting - 17-18 March 2011

1. The first POVNET meeting of the current biennium was held on March 17th and 18th. Following the election of Finland and Italy as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively, the meeting opened with a half-day Seminar on **Rural Poverty and Food Security – Status, Prospects and Priorities** aimed at informing delegates on the current status and drivers of rural poverty and providing the opportunity to discuss approaches and priorities for donor support for action on food security in the context of the medium- to long-term global trends and evolution of food production, availability and access. The seminar involved presentations and discussions on the UK's Foresight report on **The Future of Food and Farming** and IFAD's recent **Rural Poverty Report**. This was followed by a presentation from UNCTAD on the on the upcoming **LDC IV** conference and a response from the Trade and Agriculture Directorate.

2. The meeting discussed and approved detailed work plans for the three POVNET workstreams in the 2011-12 Plan of Work and Budget (PWB) - Food Security, Social Protection and Green Growth. These workplans specify the objectives and outputs of the work, the added-value that the POVNET will bring and outline how the work will be co-ordinated with other relevant initiatives and processes within the DAC (e.g. Environet and Gendernet). The workplans also describe how they will contribute to and complement i) horizontal OECD work on related themes and ii) initiatives in forums outside of the OECD. The meeting also reviewed progress on the work programme from the 2009-10 PWB and approved a number of products on Empowerment and Pro-Poor Growth to go forward for DAC endorsement, including a Policy Guidance Note and a series of Good Practice Notes. It was decided to prepare a launch event for the empowerment products and develop a dissemination programme to be implemented jointly by POVNET members and the Secretariat targeting DAC member agencies and international events.

Cairo Workshop on Capacity Development: from Concepts to Implementation (Cairo, Egypt) – 28-29 March 2011

3. The *Cairo Workshop on Capacity Development: from Concepts to Implementation* was successfully held on March 28-29 in Cairo, Egypt. The event was hosted by the Government of Egypt with the support of OECD and JICA. The workshop attracted over 70 participants, representing Southern and Northern perspectives in roughly equivalent measure. These included government officials, civil society and CD specialists. Prior to the event, a **Synthesis Report** ("*Capacity Development: Lessons Learned and Actions for Busan and Beyond*") was drafted by experienced practitioners (under the guidance of a Southern *High Level Group*) which consolidated lessons learnt on capacity development. It offered an evidence-based framework for workshop discussions which focused on progress and shortcomings since Accra, particularly bottlenecks faced in ensuring the concept and key principles of capacity development are more operational. Participants from Southern countries provided evidence on their country experiences in strengthening national and local capacity; development partners also shared progress and drawbacks in promoting change towards aid business process which better support demand-driven and sustainable capacity development processes.

4. The event generated the *Cairo Consensus on Capacity Development: Call to Action* – a joint South-North statement on capacity development for Busan and beyond. Participants jointly called for more action-oriented plans in capacity development and launched various initiatives to take actions in a number of priority areas – prior and post Busan. The Cairo workshop represented a strategic turning point within the DAC agenda for capacity development, marking the emergence of more clearly stated and organized **Southern leadership** on the road to Busan, particularly in Africa. It also illustrated the existence of a stronger and more explicit **coalition of aid agencies and other development partners** to support more Southern-led processes.

2011 PARIS21 Annual Meetings - 27-29 April 2011

5. From 27 to 29 April 2011 the PARIS21 Partnership held its 2011 Annual Meetings in Paris, which included two sessions of the PARIS21 Board, a seminar, and a Meeting of Statistical Capacity Development donors. The Board approved a series of actions for PARIS21 involvement at the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness to be held in Busan, Republic of Korea later in the year. In particular, the Partnership will push for endorsement of a Busan Action Plan for Statistics, which will outline achievements and progress thus far as well as steps for the international community to take to support the development of statistical capacities. This action plan is intended to update the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics agreed at the Second International Roundtable on Managing for Development Results held in Morocco in 2004 and be a central framework for development co-operation in statistics for years to come.

6. On 28 April, PARIS21 organised a seminar on opening access to data for better development results, drawing on the experiences of data users in Mali and the Netherlands and statisticians in Ethiopia, the World Bank, and the UN Statistics Division. On 29 April, donors supporting statistical development convened a discussion on funding issues, including financing for the PARIS21 Secretariat, the World Bank's Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building, and the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural Statistics.