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Development Co-operation Directorate
Development Assistance Committee

DAC Working Party on Development Finance Statistics

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE WORKING PARTY ON DEVELOPMENT FINANCE STATISTICS (WP-STAT)

24-25 November 2020 and 16 December 2020
Virtual meeting

The Secretariat received no objection. The Summary Record is approved and It is now issued as final and declassified.

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE WORKING PARTY ON DEVELOPMENT FINANCE STATISTICS

Day 1 – Tuesday 24 November 2020

Item 1. Introduction and welcome

1. The Chair, Mr. Jérôme Le Roy, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Mr. Le Roy introduced the Vice-Chair, Ms. Megumi Muto and the DAC facilitators Ms. Hege Haaland and Ms. Maria Oliveira Fernandez.
2. The DAC facilitators reported on the topics treated at the latest DAC meetings. Ms. Hege Halland recalled the agreement reached in July on how to treat debt relief in the grant equivalent system and the exceptional one-year delay to updating the list of countries that are eligible to receive ODA, which will now be updated in 2021 based on 2020 GNI-figures. On this topic, the DAC had also agreed to shorten the reinstatement mechanism that allows countries to become eligible for ODA again if their GNI drops below the high-income threshold. Ms. Halland also recalled the topics discussed during the first day of the DAC High Level Meeting, which included the launch of the Global Outlook on Financing for Sustainable Development and a discussion on priority actions to help partner countries build back better and greener amidst the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The discussions had focused on the need to maximise financing for sustainable development to help developing countries respond to the crisis and a strong call to ensure a green and resilient recovery from COVID-19, with the communique highlighting the importance of increasing the proportion of ODA that is climate, environment and biodiversity sensitive.
3. Ms. Maria Oliveira Fernandez recalled the discussions held on the second day of the HLM meeting, which had focused on how deliver development better. DAC members had discussed the implementation of the Busan principles for effective development co-operation as well as on the implementation of recently agreed DAC standards on the development-humanitarian-peace nexus and on preventing sexual exploitation. Finally, the issues of democracy and civic space had been raised several times during the discussion, not only with regard to DAC's work with CSOs on creating an enabling environment for civil society, but also in relation to digitalisation and how the DAC can support developing countries, best use digital technologies for their own development.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda [DCD/DAC/STAT/A(2020)4]

4. Members adopted the meeting agenda.

Item 3. WP-STAT procedural items: election of the WP-STAT Bureau for 2021

5. The Secretariat (Mr. Haje Schütte) chaired this session. He recalled that bureaus of the subsidiary bodies are elected at the last formal meeting of the year following the procedures contained in the “Manual for the guidance of chairs of the subsidiary bodies of the Organisation” and that due to the virtual nature of this meeting, all decisions will

have to be formally confirmed by a subsequent written procedure on a non-objection basis.

6. Mr. Schütte recalled the steps taken to prepare the election:

- On the 6th November 2020 the Secretariat had asked members for nominations for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions, and informed that Mr. Jérôme Le Roy (EU), the Chair, and Ms. Megumi Muto (JAP), Vice-Chair – were available to continue in their roles in 2021 and would be standing for re-election.
- On the 20th November 2020, the Secretariat had informed members that it had received the nomination of Ms. Miryam Duvaux Rordorf (Switzerland) for the position of Vice-Chair, and that no other nominations had been received.

7. Several members supported the nominations of Mr. Jerome Le Roy as the Chair of the WP-STAT, and of Ms. Megumi Muto and of Ms. Miryam Duvaux Rordorf as Vice-Chairs. No member objected.

8. Mr Schütte declared the WP-STAT bureau elected in principle, and invited the Secretariat to circulate a written procedure to formally confirm the election.

Item 4. Debt relief: presentation of the DAC agreement on the treatment of debt relief in ODA grant equivalent system

9. The Secretariat (Ms. Valérie Gaveau) presented the rules for calculating the ODA grant equivalent of debt relief operations, as agreed by the DAC in July 2020. Members welcomed the suggestion to develop an excel template to guide reporters for reporting on this item, given the complexity of the methodology. The Chair emphasised the importance of reaching a consensus and the need to engage and inform various stakeholders on this topic going forward.

10. Action points

- The Secretariat will integrate the DAC agreement in the Revised Reporting Directives to be presented at the December session.
- It will also develop an excel template/tool to collect the details and assist members in calculating the ODA grant equivalent of debt operations (ODA and non-ODA claims).
- The Secretariat will carry out communication actions to ensure that the new rules for reporting on debt relief are well understood by external stakeholders.

Item 5. Reporting and tracking COVID-19 activities

11. The Director of the Development Co-operation Directorate (Mr. Jorge Moreira da Silva) introduced the discussion item on reporting and tracking COVID-19 activities. Mr. da Silva recalled that COVID-19 is a global issue and that the fight will not be won unless it is won everywhere, in both developed and developing countries. He highlighted that the international co-operation and ODA will be fundamental to make sure that everyone gets equal access to immunisation and to support the recovery from the economic and social crisis caused by COVID-19. In this context he stressed that properly monitoring and tracking COVID-19 expenses assume a fundamental role and that there is an obligation to assure the maximum transparency of COVID-19 expenses and pay strict attention to verifying their ODA eligibility. Mr. da Silva praised the efforts of the WP-STAT community in this regard and recognised the collective and critical work to clarify COVID-19 ODA eligibility rules, noting the role of the Secretariat in assessing

the eligibility of COVID-19 research case by case. He highlighted the fundamental importance of such rules for the credibility of the ODA figures in 2021, and of the DAC as a community with high standards for accountability.

12. Mr. da Silva further recalled the role of TOSSD in tracking COVID-19 expenses, and its fundamental role to assure greater transparency as the measure is not bound to ODA eligibility rules and has a tailored pillar for international public goods and global challenges. Mr. da Silva concluded expressing his gratitude for all the work that members have been doing in this area, noting that COVID-19-related development finance data will be one of the most important pieces of information that – with the contribution of everyone – the Secretariat will publish in 2021.

Item 5.a ODA eligibility of COVID-19 related activities (including an ODA coefficient for earmarked contributions to CEPI) [DCD/DAC/STAT(2020)43, for discussion]

13. The Secretariat (Ms. Valérie Gaveau and Ms. Aimée Nichols) presented updated FAQs on the eligibility of COVID-19 related activities and a proposed ODA coefficient for earmarked contributions to CEPI.

14. As regards the ODA coefficient for earmarked contributions to CEPI, members' positions diverged:

- Several members supported the Secretariat's proposal (53%).
- One member stated that its earmarked contribution to CEPI did not count as ODA, as it had no development intent and was instead a contribution to a global public good.
- Other members supported the attribution of an ODA coefficient, but suggested improvements in the calculation: it should take into account the vaccine doses to be distributed to UMICs as well (not solely LICs and LMICs), it should reflect the real distribution of vaccine doses, not forecasts.
- A few members stated that 100% should be counted as ODA as i) coefficients only applied to core, not earmarked contributions and ii) while some research work on the COVID-19 vaccine would indeed in principle not count as ODA, the focus of CEPI's work on developing countries made it ODA-eligible.

15. On the eligibility of COVID-19 related activities, members queried whether the FAQs would be submitted for approval before being posted on the web. One member commented that the assessment of the eligibility of the WHO's Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP) would come too late as it already had to make a decision to count it as ODA for year 2020.

16. The Secretariat recalled that, although comparability of reporting practices was key, members could still decide to exclude specific items from their ODA reporting if they consider they have no development intent. The Secretariat also explained that there were precedents for attributing ODA coefficients to earmarked contributions and the DCD Director, Mr. da Silva, clarified a point of process: the FAQs were part of the Secretariat's duties to implement the rules set by members and were not for members' approval. The Chair concluded that, although CEPI's work on the vaccine could not be entirely discarded from ODA, it could not be counted in full either due to its global public good nature. He took stock of the progress in discussing this matter and recalled that the WP-STAT would in any case need to agree upon a reasonable ODA coefficient in time for reporting preliminary ODA data for 2020.

17. Action points

- Members were invited to provide comments in writing (in the community space) within 10 days.
- The Secretariat would examine whether, on the basis of these comments, it needed to revise its proposed methodology for assessing the ODA-eligible share of earmarked contributions to CEPI for COVID-19 related work.
- The Secretariat would update the FAQs on the ODA eligibility of COVID-19 related activities with the concrete examples from the document DCD/DAC/STAT(2020)21/REV1.
- The WP-STAT will continue discussing eligibility taking into account the evolving situation.

Item 5.b Tracking COVID-19 related activities in the CRS in 2021 data collection: feedback from the discussion on the WP-STAT community space and written procedures

18. The Secretariat (Mr. Giorgio Gualberti) presented the outcomes of the written procedures for approval on non-objection basis of the documents DCD/DAC/STAT(2020)36 (amendments to the CRS purpose codes) and DCD/DAC/STAT(2020)37 (establishment of a keyword field). Both documents had been approved by members and will enter into force in 2021 for the data collection on 2020 flows.

Item 6. Review of data reported against the migration purpose code [DCD/DAC/STAT(2020)38, for discussion]

19. The Secretariat (Ms. Melissa Li) presented the findings of the review covering ODA-eligibility of activities reported under the new migration purpose code, overlaps with other codes, and the relevance of changing the title of the code.

20. Members welcomed the review, some acknowledged it highlighted the grey areas where the assessment of ODA-eligibility was not straightforward while others shared the view that it was legitimate to link development co-operation programmes to migration. One member emphasised that the introduction of the migration code should not lead to underreporting of humanitarian aid. More clarifications were needed to specify the boundaries of the code and avoid overlaps with other codes. Members preferred not changing the name of the code at this stage, to avoid confusion.

21. The Chair concluded that the introduction of the code represented a progress, as it improved transparency. He shared the group's view that it would be advisable to stick to the current title (copied from SDG 10.7) to avoid a perception that ODA is being broadened.

22. Action points

- Members were invited to provide comments on the issues for discussion identified in the review of the migration purpose code 15190 (e.g. ODA eligibility of activities and overlaps with other purpose codes) in the community space.
- The results of the review would then be shared with the DAC Temporary working group on clarifying the ODA-eligibility of migration-related activities as an input to its discussion.

Day 2 – Wednesday 25 November 2020

Item 7. Climate change and biodiversity related development finance

Item 7.a. Refinement of the definition of the climate change mitigation marker [DCD/DAC/STAT(2020)42, for discussion]

23. The Secretariat (Mr. Giorgio Gualberti) presented for discussion a note proposing a refinement of the definition of the Rio marker on climate change mitigation DCD/DAC/STAT(2020)42. The note was in follow-up to a room document presented by Germany at the WP-STAT June 2020 meeting [DCD/DAC/STAT/RD(2020)5]. All members that intervened welcomed the proposal, and several asked that the explicit reference to the Paris agreement and its temperature goals contained in the original proposal be reinstated. One member noted that, while in favour of including support to nationally determined contributions (NDCs) as an eligibility criterion, given the great diversity in scope and ambition of NDCs, this might not be a sufficient criterion. Another member suggested that the criteria should include the enhancement of the mitigation component of the NDCs. Members also asked the Secretariat to involve Environet in the discussions on the definition of the climate change marker.

24. On a related topic, the European Union asked the Chair and the Secretariat to launch in the WP-STAT a discussion on the follow-up of the Secretariat report “Aligning development co-operation and climate action: the only way forward” which had been published at the end of 2019. The Chair asked the Secretariat to revert on the issue in the December session, clarifying the steps forward on this topic.

25. Action points

- Members expressed broad support for the proposal to refine the definition of the Rio marker on climate change mitigation and asked the Secretariat to lead consultations (including with ENVIRONET) to arrive at a final proposal on this topic.
- The Secretariat will revert to the EU request for initiating WP-STAT discussions on the ODA eligibility aspects of fossil fuel projects at the meeting on 16 December

Item 7.b. Results of the questionnaire on coefficients applied to Rio marker data when reporting to the UN Conventions on Climate Change and Biodiversity [DCD/DAC/STAT(2020)41, for information]

26. The Secretariat (Mr. Giorgio Gualberti) presented the results of the second survey on coefficients applied to Rio marker data when reporting to the UN conventions on Climate Change and Biodiversity. Members welcomed the paper and found this exercise useful. Most members agreed to expand it to include the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and to continue collecting these data on a regular basis. One member affirmed that in their understanding the first survey in 2018 had been a one-off exercise and would not be repeated, but had nevertheless decided to participate in the second survey to co-operate with other members. The member suggested to also involve Environet on this topic. One member noted that while they support the survey, they could not participate because in their case reporting to the DAC and to UNFCCC is made through different procedures (it is a process that starts from the data produced for

UNFCCC that is then transformed to Rio markers). Another member asked if it could provide updates to the table.

27. Action point

- The Secretariat will present the results for discussion at Environet, including the follow-up actions and the addition of UNCCD in the next edition of the questionnaire. A REV1 document could be issued if members provide updates.

Item 8. Adjusting development co-operation modalities to track support to refugees in developing countries and refugees returning to their countries of origin [DCD/DAC/STAT(2020)40, for approval through the written procedure after the meeting]

28. The Secretariat (Ms Marisa Berbegal-Ibáñez) presented a proposal to create two new co-operation modalities to track support to refugees in developing countries and refugees returning to their countries of origin in the Creditor Reporting System (CRS, see DCD/DAC/STAT(2020)40). In December 2019, the OECD committed to provide data on ODA to refugee situations on a regular basis for five indicators of the UN Global Compact on Refugees' Indicator Framework. Aid in support to refugees in developing countries cannot be separately identified in the CRS today so the data provided by the OECD are based on ad-hoc surveys administered with DAC members. The proposal was made to deliver on the commitment by the OECD while reducing the reporting burden of DAC members. The proposed categories had been introduced in 2020 in the Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD) framework and are available for members to use in their TOSSD reporting.

29. Members expressed broad support for tracking aid to refugees in developing countries and refugees returning to their countries of origin in the CRS. One member raised concerns about the complexity of filling the Survey on Financing for Refugee Situations and welcomed the effort of tracking support on a regular and systematic manner through the CRS.

30. However, members did not agree with the Secretariat's proposal of tracking support to refugees through co-operation modalities, mainly because information would be lost on the modality used when support to refugees is delivered through for example technical co-operation or contributions to NGOs. A few members proposed tracking this support through the CRS purpose codes, others through the new keyword field while others did not propose a concrete alternative. Some members raised concerns about making a proposal to the WP-STAT of a classification that had been agreed by the TOSSD Task Force (until now it had rather been the opposite, the TOSSD Task Force had integrated CRS classifications such as purpose codes or financial instruments). Other members appreciated the streamlining between TOSSD and CRS and suggested that any agreement in the WP-STAT is presented to the TOSSD Task Force for consideration.

31. A few members proposed that the categories could make reference to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and to host communities. One member asked for a more general category on support to refugees in developing countries as their system was unable to distinguish the different types of support.

32. The Secretariat welcomed feedback and requested more concrete suggestions on the appropriate classification to track this support, noting that information would also be lost on the sector of support if tracked through purpose codes. It did not recommend tracking support to refugees through the keyword field since it is a voluntary field and

results would be imprecise. IDPs are outside the Global Compact on Refugees Indicator Framework and therefore of the Secretariat's proposal.

33. Action points

- An ad-hoc session will be organised for interested members the week starting 30 November to discuss concerns over the complexity of the Survey on Financing for Refugee Situations.
- The Secretariat will launch a written procedure to gather concrete feedback on the options to track support to refugees in developing countries. It will then make another proposal.

Item 9. Changes in the DAC statistical collections taking effect in 2021 [DCD/DAC/STAT(2020)39, for information]

34. The Secretariat (Mr. Andrzej Suchodolski) presented a summary of the changes in the reporting instructions to be implemented in 2021 on 2020 data. Members welcomed that the document listing the changes is issued at the end of the year, rather than at an informal meeting in February. There were also a few suggestions on how to handle the tying status of the co-operation modalities: D01, D02, E01 and E02. This topic will be further discussed in a subsequent WP-STAT meeting.

Item 10. Statistical Peer Reviews [Working Paper on “Peer Reviews on Development Finance Statistics: Lessons learnt from seven pilots” at <https://doi.org/10.1787/22220518>, for discussion]

35. The Secretariat (Ms. Friederike Ruhmann) presented the working paper “[Peer Reviews on Development Finance Statistics – Lessons learnt from seven pilots](https://doi.org/10.1787/22220518)”. The Secretariat informed members that it would prepare a mapping of members' interpretations of the concept of commitment and conduct a survey on how different institutions count ODA-eligible administrative costs. In addition, the Secretariat would review all “requests to the Secretariat” collected during the statistical peer reviews and share an implementation plan with the WP-STAT in 2021. The Secretariat inquired whether members would be interested in making the reviews a regular feature of WP-STAT work, for which several members expressed their interest. Additionally, the Secretariat (Ms. Julia Benn) explained that the working paper could be used as a tool for members to explain the statistical issues to other government agencies and the general public (e.g. CSOs).

36. The Chair signalled his interest in seeing the result of Artificial Intelligence (AI) development by the OECD in the area of data integrity. In response, the Secretariat (Ms. Yasmin Ahmad) explained that the tool is being developed to check descriptive data e.g. purpose codes.. The Secretariat added that the tool would be ideally tested in Q1-Q2 2021 and the results be shared at the WP-STAT meeting in June 2021. Several members offered their assistance to test such a tool. The Secretariat also mentioned the possibility of organising a WP-STAT workshop on data collection/quality assurance that could include AI. Several members appreciated this proposal and revealed that they faced the issue of data quality and thus would be triggered by a machine learning technology.

37. Action points

- Members were invited to comment on the discussions items (peer learning report, peer review process and suggestions for future WP-STAT workshops) in the community space.

Item 11. Update on ODA graduation discussions

38. The Secretariat (Ms. Yasmin Ahmad) informed members of the final compromise proposal regarding the 2020 Review of the DAC List of ODA Recipients [DCD/DAC(2020)64/FINAL]. The DAC had agreed to graduate Antigua and Barbuda, Panama and Palau from the DAC List of ODA Recipients as of 1 January 2022, noting that if between now and the date of effect of graduation, GNI per capita data are published (revised or new data) that show that any of them fell below the high-income threshold in the last three years, that country would no longer meet the graduation criterion and would therefore remain on the List until at least the next triennial review in 2023.

39. The Secretariat also informed members that the DAC groupings will be based on the World Bank's latest income classifications at the time of the update, i.e. 2020 classifications, with LDCs listed separately. The DAC had also agreed to shorten the reinstatement mechanism so that the date of effect, for countries that qualify and agree to reinstatement, be immediate upon decision and retroactive to the beginning of the same calendar year. The Secretariat will subsequently circulate the modified rules of reinstatement to the DAC for formal approval under written procedure.

Item 12. Update on work on measuring mobilisation and blended finance

40. Following members' approval to update the Reporting Directives in order to better capture blended finance operations in the CRS [see DCD/DAC/STAT(2020)1/REV2], the Secretariat (Ms. Cécile Sangaré) clarified how blended finance operations will be reportable as from 2021 (on 2020 flows). It also informed members on the status of the data collection on mobilisation for 2019 as well as on the methodological work expected for 2021 (e.g. technical assistance). On the latter, two members supported continued work to adapt and finalise the reporting guidance for accounting the role of some technical assistance activities in the mobilisation measure, building on the outcomes of the 2020 working session on measuring private finance organised by the Secretariat. They also informed the WP-STAT that a group of eight members was working on a proposal to adapt the approach discussed during the working session.

41. Finally, the Secretariat shared an update on recent work and discussions at the MDB – OECD DAC working group on measuring mobilisation, in particular regarding the development of a possible data analytical tool on mobilisation to be hosted on the OECD.Stat data platform. One member supported further disaggregation of mobilisation data in the tool for providers having less restrictions and suggested further investigation in this area. Another member encouraged further collaboration between the MDB and OECD communities on methods and data exchange related to the amounts mobilised and considered that the tool was a good way forward. While feedback from MDBs on the tool was still pending, the Chair was in the view that this could also indicate that the tool was well received by this community.

Day 3 – Wednesday 16 December 2020

Item 5a – (continued) - Update on the ODA-eligibility of COVID-19 related activities.

42. Since the November meeting, several members had commented on this topic through the community space. To follow-up, the Secretariat had reached out to CEPI but had not obtained sufficiently granular information on the allocation of vaccine doses to UMICs that would permit to improve the calculation of the ODA coefficient. The

Secretariat therefore proposed that the current 53% coefficient be used in the preliminary questionnaire on 2020 ODA data unless, on the basis of further exchanges with CEPI, a revised coefficient can be submitted to the WP-STAT in time; if too late for preliminary ODA reporting, a revised coefficient could still be possibly applied in final ODA reporting later in the year. The Secretariat also reminded members that an agreement by the WP-STAT on the coefficient would be necessary to include these expenses in their ODA reporting.

43. One member agreed with this approach while two members disagreed. In particular, one member requested a broader consultation with southern experts – economists and epidemiologists – to attest the assumptions in the Secretariat’s paper.

44. The Chair concluded by noting the future two windows of opportunity for revising the 53% coefficient, i.e. WP-STAT in March 2021 in time for preliminary ODA reporting or in June 2021 in time for final ODA reporting.

45. Action points

- The Secretariat would pursue dialogue with CEPI to obtain information on the allocation of doses, and possibly revise the 53% coefficient.
- The Secretariat would update the FAQs on the web, integrating the new FAQs. It would also assess the “Wellcome Trust for the COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator”, as suggested by one member in its comments, and share its assessment at the next meeting of the WP-STAT.

Item 13. SDGs and policy markers

46. The Secretariat presented the updated Draft Handbook for reporting the SDG focus of development co-operation activities [DCD/DAC/STAT(2020)7/REV1] and the final versions of the handbooks on the policy marker on nutrition [DCD/DAC/STAT(2020)46] and on the policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities [DCD/DAC/STAT(2020)48].

47. Members welcomed the preparation of these guidance documents and provided several suggestions regarding continued development of the SDG guidance tool, including refinements to the text and inclusions of additional topics.

48. The Secretariat suggested organising a workshop to discuss SDG reporting in detail in early 2021.

49. Action points

- The Secretariat will open a discussion on the community space to collect members’ feedback and will organise a workshop on SDG reporting in early 2021 with the objective of further developing a common understanding and coherent reporting practices.
- On the handbooks on disability inclusion and nutrition, the Chair invited members to send any comments in writing. The Secretariat is preparing a version with a more curated design for publication in early 2021.

Item 14. Development co-operation modalities: additional guidance on OOF / channel codes and default modalities for UN entities and MDBs [DCD/DAC/STAT(2020)47]

50. The Secretariat (Ms Marisa Berbegal-Ibáñez) informed members of the progress made on the implementation of the new co-operation modalities B031, B032 and B033

that take effect in the reporting in 2021 on 2020 activities, on a voluntary basis. It informed members that it would launch a written consultation on the use of co-operation modalities for Other Official Flows (OOF). It also invited comments on a number of implementation issues, namely:

- (i) The creation of a channel code for the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office and the removal of one of the channel codes for the UN Peacebuilding Fund;
- (ii) The creation of new channel sub-categories for UN entities; and
- (iii) The need to change the reporting on general contributions to trust funds currently classified as core funding. See document DCD/DAC/STAT(2020)47.

51. After the Secretariat's presentation, Mr Remo Lalli (Secretary at the High-Level Committee on Management/ Chief, Geneva Office of the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination - CEB) made an intervention to reinforce the UN request to the OECD to harmonise the list of UN channels with what is included in the UN Data Cube Standard. Mr Lalli highlighted that the UN Data Cube is a milestone achievement towards harmonisation across the UN system, and it has the highest political support at the UN. The UN Data Cube is part of the Data Strategy of the UN Secretary General that had been recently released. The UN Data Cube has transparency and accountability as key objectives, in line with commitments of the UN Funding Compact. He thanked the Secretariat and stressed the importance of the collaboration between the OECD and the CEB Secretariat which had been key to advance on the UN Data Cube Standard. He also asked members to further support the harmonisation of OECD and UN Data Cube Standards through the proposal.

52. Members generally welcomed guidance provided by the Secretariat on reporting contributions to trust funds managed by UN entities and the IADB and agreed with points (i) and (ii) above. The raised few questions about Annexes B and C of the discussion paper, and the Secretariat clarified and informed that the lists will be adjusted and revised to make some minor corrections and to include information on trust funds that was received after the production of the document.

53. Members also requested more time to discuss implications of point (iii) above, including implications on their reporting systems, the portion of bilateral and multilateral aid, and imputed multilateral shares. One member suggested that contributions to some of the funds included under the B031 and even B032 contributions could qualify as multilateral contributions (as per paragraphs 17 and 18 in DCD/DAC/STAT(2018)9/FINAL). Another member asked about future plans for updating the list.

54. The representative from the World Bank informed members that the Bank's reform of trust funds was ongoing and that the number of trust funds would be significantly reduced. She confirmed that the Bank's website is a useful source to provide guidance on the classification of contributions to trust funds for which the World Bank group provides certain services.

55. The Secretariat thanked members for their comments. It acknowledged that more time will be needed to provide comments on the reclassification of trust funds currently classified as core funding. The Secretariat further noted that most trust funds included in Annexes B and Care bilateral in their nature because they are for a concrete theme and geographical location, but potentially general contributions to some Global Funds in Annex B (UN inter-agency pooled funds) could qualify as multilateral funding. The Secretariat would consult the UN on this point.

56. Action points

- Members will provide further comments on the need to change reporting on general contributions currently classified as B02 (the Secretariat will launch a written consultation);
- The Secretariat will revise Annexes B and C;
- The Secretariat will consult with the UN whether contributions to some Global UN inter-agency pooled funds could be reported as multilateral;
- The Secretariat will launch an informal consultation on the WP-STAT Community Space to gather inputs from members on the use of co-operation modalities in their OOF reporting.
- The Secretariat will make an updated proposal at the next WP-STAT meeting.

Item 15. Revised Statistical Reporting Directives [DCD/DAC/STAT(2020)44 & ADD1-ADD2-ADD3 & DCD/DAC/STAT(2020)45]

57. The Secretariat introduced the changes made to the Directives. One member asked about the future developments of the keywords/hashtags field, and in particular on its potential use by reporters to submit voluntary keywords, in addition to the COVID-19 keyword that is defined in the Directives. The member pointed out that the field could be useful to introduce tracking on new themes. The Secretariat replied that, while so far only the COVID-19 keyword had been defined and included in the annexes of the Directives, the system is in principle ready to collect any keyword that members would like to submit.

58. Members expressed the need for more time to carefully check the updated Directives, which implemented previously approved changes. Members acknowledged that the huge amount of changes made to the Directives was a testimony of work accomplished by the WP-STAT. However, some members also pointed out that the multiple and constant changes were adding burden both on members and on the Secretariat in the implementation phases. Therefore, it was concluded to add an agenda item at the next WP-STAT meeting to discuss WP-STAT processes.

59. The following timeline was agreed to finalise the Directives:

- Secretariat to share revised annexes by 8 January 2021.
- Members to share comments on the revised Directives by 15 January 2021.
- Members to share comments on the revised annexes by 22 January 2021.
- Secretariat to integrate members' comments and share a new version of the Directives and their annexes with the DAC for approval at its meeting in February (deadline for submitting the document is 26 January 2021).

Item 16. Insights into the Statistical Peer Review of Iceland

60. The Secretariat (Ms. Friederike Ruhmann) presented the highlights from the Statistical Peer Review of Iceland, which was carried out in virtual format on 2-6 November 2020 with Slovenia and Luxembourg as examiners and Poland as an observer. The Secretariat highlighted and appreciated the interactive sessions on various topics including in-donor refugee costs, TOSSD, etc. and announced that the further details would be shared at the next WP-STAT.

61. As an observer, Poland mentioned that the exchange of information had been valuable. Poland specified that quality handbook and Power BI introduced by Iceland had been particularly interesting and beneficial to them. Poland then recommended other members to participate to this exercise.

62. As the country being reviewed, Iceland shared its experience to organise the sessions virtually, highlighting pros (e.g. efficiency) and pointing out cons (e.g. lack of informal conversations). Iceland further explained that the overall experience had been useful and insightful. Iceland had made much progress in its reporting system in the past years in order to make the process more efficient. In this regard, Iceland found the exercise and received feedback quite useful.

63. The Secretariat also informed of the staff turnover and introduced Mr. Hirofumi Kyunai as the new contact person for statistical peer reviews. As regards the plan for 2021 (see below), Mr. Kyunai noted that several spots are still available and encouraged members to participate, emphasising the benefit of the exercise.

Statistical peer reviews foreseen in 2021

- Slovenia
 - Examiners: Iceland and Poland
 - Observers: N/A
 - Dates: 8-12 Feb. 2021
- Finland
 - Examiners: Austria and Hungary
 - Observers: N/A
 - Dates: 2-6 Nov. 2021
- N/A
 - Examiners: N/A
 - Observers: N/A
 - Dates: TBD

Item 17. WP-STAT work programme for 2021

64. The Secretariat (Mr. Giorgio Gualberti) presented the WP-STAT work programme for 2021, on the basis of the DAC agreed Programme Work and Budget for 2020-21.

65. Action points

In 2021 the WP-STAT is scheduled to meet on:

- 3-4-5 March (Virtual)
- 16-17 June (OECD La Murette)
- 23-24 November (OECD Boulogne)

Item 18. Any Other Business

66. The European Union presented a Room Document on ODA, climate resilience and achieving the net-zero emissions goal [DCD/DAC/STAT/RD(2020)7], asking members to open the discussion on this topic at the Environet and WP-STAT. Several members

welcomed a WP-STAT discussion on this topic, noting the need to involve also some other fora, such as ENVIRONET and the DAC itself.

67. One member was not in favour of having this discussion at WP-STAT level and will share further comments in writing.

68. The Chair recalled that the WP-STAT mandate clearly allows the discussion on ODA eligibility of activities in any sector. The Chair requested the Secretariat to prepare an orientation paper on how to treat the subject, recommending to be as broad and far reaching as possible.