

DEVELOPMENT CENTRE  
GOVERNING BOARD OF THE DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Mutual Learning Group for the Multi-dimensional Country Reviews

DRAFT GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE MUTUAL LEARNING GROUP FOR THE MULTI-DIMENSIONAL COUNTRY REVIEWS (MLG-MDCR)

*The document on the draft guiding principles of the MLG-MDCR is submitted to delegates for INFORMATION AND COMMENTS.*

*Thereafter, it will be discussed and approved at the first Annual Meeting of the MLG-MDCR (date tbc shortly).*

*Also, in the context of the discussions of this item, the Secretariat will report on the outcome of the first Review Meeting of the Mutual Learning Group for MDCR (MLG-MDCR): the Panama Multi-Dimensional Country Review and the Multidimensional Economic Study of Argentina, which was held on 16 May. The Summary Record of this meeting will be issued as a room document for information.*

Jan Rielaender, Head of MDCRs Unit, DEV (Jan.Rielaender@oecd.org)

JT03416084

Complete document available on OLIS in its original format

*This document, as well as any data and map included herein, are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.*

## **Context**

1. The mandate of the Mutual Learning Group for Multi-Dimensional Country Reviews [hereafter the “MLG-MDCR”] sub-committee of the OECD Development Centre Governing Board (see Annex 1) was approved by the Governing Board of the Development Centre [DEV/GB\(2016\)32/REV1](#) and [DEV/GB/M\(2016\)5](#) and notified to the Executive Committee [\[CE\(2017\)1\]](#). The decision to establish the MLG-MDCR was an outcome of the High-level Meeting of the Governing Board in June 2016. It aligns with the MDCR output area in the Programme of Work and Budget of the Development Centre [\[DEV/GB\(2016\)8/REV4\]](#). The MLG-MDCR will assist the Governing Board of the Development Centre in improving and refining the MDCR methodology and approach. This document provides draft principles related to the fulfilment of the Group’s mandate.

## **Objective**

2. The MLG-MDCR will:
  - i. provide a platform to accompany the preparation and discuss in-depth the results of the MDCRs;
  - ii. assure the continuous development of the MDCR methodology;
  - iii. draw lessons learned from MDCR implementation and advance mutual learning on implementing multi-dimensional development strategies and the Sustainable Development Goals;
3. Specific actions will be to:
  - i. Review MDCR reports.
  - ii. Propose policy solutions and recommendations to challenges faced by countries undertaking reviews.
  - iii. Engage in mutual learning exercises and identify technical experts within their government administrations to participate in reviews, when necessary.
  - iv. Support the Governing Board of the Development Centre to deliver on its Programme of Work and Budget with respect to the MDCR-related output areas.

## **Designation of the Chair**

4. In accordance with OECD procedures, the proposed chairmanship (Chair/Co-Chairs) of the MLG-MDCR will be discussed and approved by MLG-MDCR on the occasion of its first annual meeting (date tbc).

## **Meetings of the MLG-MDCR**

### ***Annual Meeting of the MLG-MDCR***

5. The objective of the annual meeting of the MLG-MDCR annual will be to approve the calendar of work, to discuss methodological issues and substantive issues in the thematic areas relevant to the MDCRs (e.g. structural transformation, taxation, education and skills, ...)etc.). The MLG-MDCR will favour the exchange of good practices and mutual learning on the design and implementation of reforms in these key areas.

*Review Meetings*

6. In advance of the Annual Meeting, MDCR Review Meetings will be organised accordingly with the calendar of the ongoing MDCRs (in principle two Review Meetings for each MDCR). The purpose of these meetings will be to comment on and review:

- i. the evaluation and main conclusions of the phase 1 (Volume 1. Initial Assessment) reports of the MDCRs, and;
- ii. the assessment and recommendations of the phase 2 (Volume 2. In-depth analysis and recommendations) reports of the MDCRs.

7. These will take place on an ad-hoc basis and will follow the production cycle of the MDCR reports. A tentative calendar of meetings for the forthcoming year will be circulated during the MLG-MDCR annual meeting.

*Organisation and venue*

8. Unless otherwise informed all meetings organised in the context of the MLG-MDCR will take place at the OECD Headquarters in Paris. If necessary, the participation of officials can be arranged by video-conference if travel to Paris is not feasible.

9. As a general rule, the Review Meetings will take place in one of the two official languages of the Organisation and interpretation and translation services will not be provided. The Annual Meetings of the MLG-MDCR, however, will be carried out in the two official languages of the Organisation: English and French, and translation and interpretation services will be provided.

*MDCR Process*

10. For each MDCR, two members of the MLG-MDCR will take the role of lead reviewers and prepare comments on the reports. Also, other members of the MLG-MDCR will be invited to comment.

11. Two weeks before the MLG-MDCR Review Meeting the Secretariat will submit to MLG-MDCR members a first draft of the report, incorporating the comments received from the country under review.

12. Lead reviewer countries are highly encouraged to send written comments on the draft reports to the Secretariat (at the latest 48 hours before the meeting). MLG-MDCR members can also send written comments to the Secretariat prior to the Review meeting or provide oral contributions on the day.

13. A typical Review Meeting will include the following agenda items:

- i. Statement by the Chair/Co-Chairs (tbc) and DEV Director
- ii. Opening remarks by the country undertaking the MDCR and the Secretariat
- iii. Comments from lead reviewers
- iv. Open discussion
- v. Chair's summary and conclusions

14. Following the Review Meeting, the Secretariat will send a Summary record of the meeting and an edited version of the Report to the MLG-MDCR and GB Members. This should be done as soon as possible, within one week's deadline.

*Participation: MLG-MDCR Annual Meeting and the MDCR Review Meetings*

15. The MLG-MDCR group will be composed of high-level/senior-level officials (e.g. Director General level) from a ministry or government body with cross-sectoral responsibilities (e.g. Prime Minister's or President's offices, or ministries of Planning, Economy or Finance).

*Participation of experts in MDCR Phase 2*

16. MLG-MDCR members will be invited to identify technical experts within their national governments to participate in the second phase of an MDCR, when necessary and if feasible. In accordance with the country under review, typically one to three experts will be invited to participate in the field missions with OECD experts and to contribute to the drafting of the Phase 2 report. These experts should have significant experience in the areas which have been identified as binding constraints for the development of the country under review.

17. The participation of experts from MLG-MDCR member governments will be on a voluntary basis, and the cost of participation will be borne by the MLG-MDCR member country.

## Annex I

### Excerpt from the OECD Manual for the Guidance of the Chairs

#### I. Type of Body

##### ii) “Sub-committees” (Level II bodies) (page 12)

Bodies set up by the substantive committees are sub-committees. They are usually called working parties, but may bear a variety of other names, such as advisory or expert groups, task forces, networks, steering groups (for the preparation of a ministerial meeting or a conference), etc.<sup>5</sup>

They are answerable directly to the substantive committee which set them up and to which they report. Some sub-committees have been created by two committees and thus answer to both of them: these are known as joint working parties.

#### I. BUREAU (page 26)

##### *Rules 15, 16 and 17 of the Rules of Procedure*

15 a) [...] the Chair, Vice-Chairs and other bureau Members of bodies of the Organisation shall be designated yearly by mutual agreement through a transparent and fair process.

15 c) The[ir] term of office [...] shall begin on 1 January.

15 d) The[y] [...] shall be designated for the coming year at the last plenary meeting of these bodies or no later than 31 December of the preceding year.

16 a) In the absence of the Chair in meeting, a Vice-Chair shall take his/her place.

16 c) If, in the course of the term of his/her office, the Chair is unable to continue to act as Chair, a new Chair shall be designated for the unexpired term.

17. The conduct of the business of each body of the Organisation shall be in the hands of the Chair whose function shall be to determine any question of procedure arising in the course of the meeting, in conformity with existing rules and established practices.

#### a) Designation

##### *i) Guidelines and Principles*

When preparing for the designations of their Chair and other bureau members, to be decided no later than 31 December of each year, subsidiary bodies should ensure a transparent, fair and inclusive process, guided by the best interests of the Organisation.

They should bear in mind the following principles:

“1. It is important to avoid formalising and centralising the procedure for *designating Chairs*. This should continue to be the responsibility of each body concerned and should not involve a formal majority vote (which should imply a prior amendment to the Rules of Procedure by a unanimous decision of the Council). 2. So far as it is possible, *Committees* and *sub-Committees* or *sub-groups* should *designate* their *Chairs* from amongst their own members.

3. In making its choice, each body should endeavour to *designate* the person who appears best qualified to give effective, helpful and impartial direction to its work.

4. A candidate’s nationality should have no bearing on the choice. The ‘exclusive reserve’ concept is not compatible with the spirit and principles of the OECD.

5. No *Chair* of a *Committee, sub-Committee or sub-group* should normally remain in office for more than three consecutive years.
6. The combination of principles 3, 4 and 5, together with the changes in national delegates arising from the normal progress of their administrative careers, should ensure that, taking all the *Committees and sub-Committees or sub-groups* and over a sufficiently long period of time, each *Member* has a chance – insofar as it looks to their quality – of seeing certain of its representatives *designated as Chairs*.
7. To reduce the risk of ‘politicising’ the *designation* process and the deadlock which could ensue, it is important:
  - To avoid as far as possible government intervention and diplomatic *démarches*;
  - That, except in exceptional circumstances and for particularly serious reasons, no country should veto a candidate backed by the majority or totality of the other delegations;
  - That no ‘joint candidates’ be put forward or ‘block voting’ practised by the delegations of countries belonging to groups [...].
8. The Secretariat should, to the best of its ability, assist *Committees and sub-Committees or sub-groups* in choosing their *Chairs*. It should contribute to the application of the above principles and ensure that the necessary consultations involve the delegations of all *Members*.
9. When difficulties arise which delay or jeopardise the *designation* of a *Chair*, it is the Secretary-General’s responsibility to take such measures as are appropriate. As a last resort he may raise the problem in a meeting of Heads of Delegation.
10. The above-mentioned principles should also be applied with respect to the other *bureau members* of the *Committee and sub-Committee or sub-group*.”

Representatives of the European Commission, as well as non-Members when full participants in the work of an OECD body, may be designated as members of bureaus.

## ii) *Established Practice*

The bureau remains in place until the new bureau is designated. In principle, therefore, the Chair does not become vacant, unless both Chair and Vice-Chair are unable to take the chair.

It is usual for the Secretariat (Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General or Director concerned, as the case may be) to take the chair during the designation of the Bureau.

It is further recognised that Rule 16 c) may also apply to bureau members.

Nominations are sought by the Secretariat, the outgoing Chair or by third-party facilitator(s) appointed for this task by the body. Prior to the formal designation of bureau members by mutual agreement at a subsidiary body session, the person(s) entrusted with this task consult(s) all Delegations in a transparent manner regarding their preferences.

In case several candidates are in competition, the person(s) entrusted with this task shall, acting impartially and objectively, make every effort to assist in narrowing the field of candidates. Straw polls may be used, at an advanced stage of the consultations, to measure the relative support for candidates in order for ultimate consensus to be reached.

## **b) Composition**

Several Committees have developed guidelines governing the composition of their bureaus. The practice of Co-Chairs has appeared as well as an increase in the number of bureau members, which reflects the membership and the opening of the Organisation.

Each substantive subsidiary body decides, in the light of experience and taking into account the need for efficiency, how many bureau members it wishes to designate.