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NOTES ON THE AGENDA

PRODUCTIVITY MEASUREMENT IN THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT SECTOR Expert Meeting, OECD, Paris, 18-19 March, 1999

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Purpose of the meeting

To identify:

- an appropriate productivity measurement method for the general government sector;
- how to undertake future productivity measurement work in member countries; and
- current developments in measuring general government productivity.

Session 1 – Introduction and Presentation of National Experiences

Jim Brumby, PUMA Head of Division on Budgeting and Management will open the session, with Richard Murray, Chief Economist at Statskontoret and Paul McCarthy, Principal Administrator from the OECD Statistics Directorate each providing introductory comments.

Following these presentations, participants will be asked to comment on their country's work in measuring productivity in the government sector. Presenters should briefly outline the productivity measures developed in their countries and any proposals for future work. A written version of each country report will be provided to all participants at the meeting.

Presenters are asked to talk for about ten minutes. Time will be set aside for questions at the end of each presentation.

Session 2 – Advantages and Policy Application of Presented Methods

This session aims to identify an appropriate productivity measure for the general government sector. The discussion will begin with participants identifying the strengths of their methods. Specifically, participants are asked to:

- discuss the advantages of their respective methods;
- identify significant productivity measurement issues; and
- discuss how they have addressed these measurement issues.

Before moving to Richard Murray's concluding remarks for day, participants will be asked to discuss how productivity measures are applied in the policy context. They are encouraged to provide practical examples of how productivity measures are used in their countries and the success of these applications.

After a brief review of the main issues discussed in the morning of day two, consensus will be sought on the most appropriate method to use for PUMA's future work. PUMA will present this method to Senior Budget Officials in June of this year.

Session 3 – Future Work of PUMA

This session will identify how PUMA can use the general government productivity measure for future projects. Jim Brumby will begin the session with a brief overview of the type of work PUMA will undertake in the future.

Participants are asked to advise on how the productivity measure can be used to assess the impact of technological change and public sector reforms, and measure potential productivity in the general government sector, given current technology in member countries. PUMA could apply this analysis to an individual country or undertake cross-country comparisons.

Practical Arrangements

Participants are asked to write a brief report on their country's developments in productivity measurement for the general government sector. The presentations should focus on measurement issues in general public administration and to a lesser extent on those in the health and education sectors.

Where possible, the reports should include the following information:

- an outline of the model(s);
- the advantages of using the model for general government productivity measurement;
- significant productivity measurement issues and efforts to address them;
- use of the model in the policy context; and
- future plans for productivity measurement in the general government sector.

These texts, which together with a summary paper will be photocopied and distributed to all participants, should be e-mailed in advance to the attention of Diana Joslin (diana.joslin@oecd.org) by Friday, 5 March 1999.

Documents to be distributed

- Background Paper on Productivity Measurement in the General Government Sector, by Goran Normann, Normann Economics International.
- Individual Country Reports.
- Summary of Country Reports.