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Strategy and Policy Group

PROPOSED MEETING -- MANAGEMENT AND SECRETARY ISSUES

Strategy and Policy Group (SPG) Meeting
Washington, 15-16 June 2000

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PROPOSED MEETING — MANAGEMENT AND BUDGETARY ISSUES

*OECD/Club du Sahel Headquarters, Paris
Monday 3rd July, 2000*

Club du Sahel Strategy and Policy Group (SPG) Meeting Washington, 15-16 June 2000

The Club's shareholders have received the execution and financial report for 1999 [SAH(2000)1] and the mid-term report for 2000 is available at this meeting. Given the changes on-going in the OECD and the Club Secretariat, a meeting of interested shareholders is proposed at the OECD/Club du Sahel Headquarters in Paris on Monday 3rd July, dedicated to management and budgetary issues. For those shareholders that are not in a position to send a participant from headquarters, their DAC delegates may be able to attend. The meeting will deal with the following issues:

Discussion of the Mid-term Budget and Work Programme

The Strategic and Policy Group approved the main lines of the 2000 work programme at its meeting of 6 December 1999. The document "Mid-year review of the 2000 Programme of Work and Budget" [SAH(2000)2]) provides a detailed overview of the execution of the work programme and of the level of expenditure by activity at end-May 2000.

The New OECD Budget Management System

Information concerning changes in the management of financial resources by the Club du Sahel and the new budget management system being introduced by the OECD were outlined in the documents entitled "Information Note on Budget 2000 and Changes in the Management of Financial Resources" presented to the Strategic and Policy Group at its December 1999 meeting. An update would be provided on the progress made in the first half of 2000 in streamlining procedures to provide greater clarity and better control over expenditure. It is also proposed to hold a first discussion on the presentation of the next tri-annual work programme and budget for the period 2001-2003 inclusive.

Budgetary Implications of the New OECD Employment Strategy

In 1999 OECD's Council agreed a new employment strategy which has considerable implications for the Club du Sahel Secretariat. Officials with six years or more of service as a staff member will be entitled to an indemnity for loss of employment equal to one month's salary for every year of service in the OECD in the event that his/her appointment is not extended. A discussion is proposed on the financial implications of this new policy and the appropriate future staffing policy that should be adopted.

Fund-raising Strategy

If the Club is to undertake a work programme in the coming years that is in line with its new orientations and momentum the level of contributions will need to be increased. Annual contributions for 1999 and 2000 are estimated at approximately 13.3 million francs, which is insufficient to cover the level of activity foreseen in the work programme. In the past few years, the additional funds required have come from

accumulated reserves but these reserves will have been largely exhausted by end-2000. It will therefore be necessary to find ways of increasing contributions to the Club or to identify new sources of financing in the framework of the next tri-annual work programme beginning in 2001.

The Club's New Contacts Management System and the Organisation of Annual Visits

The Club has invested this year in analysing how to develop and structure its networks in order to foster debate and consultation between committed players in the South and the North. It has begun identifying key contact points — particularly in the North where the Club's networks are less developed — and has introduced a new contacts management database to allow rapid and targeted communications. This work is crucial for ensuring the quality of the consultation processes from which work outputs are derived. Special emphasis will be placed this year on better understanding the priorities of the Club's fourteen participating development co-operation agencies, on identifying committed individuals willing to join thematic north-south networks and in assessing the degree of involvement that donors are prepared to make. Relations with donors will be strengthened in the course of 2000 and each donor agency will be visited at least once a year.