

AGENDA ITEM IV.
Forward Looking Discussion

Room Document 3

EVALUATION AND THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

This room document has been prepared by the Secretariat *for discussion* at the 16th meeting of the DAC Evaluation Network.

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Evaluation and the Post-2015 Development Agenda

The development landscape is constantly changing. A number of today's trends have important implications for development evaluators – in terms of evaluation methods, actors and topics – as well as for the mandates of evaluation units. As development partners focus on the sunset date for the Millennium Development Goals and make plans for future international objectives, evaluation will need to adapt. Even as evaluation is shaped by this broader context, the discipline itself is also moving forward and innovative methods and ways of managing evaluations continue to emerge. Some of the salient trends affecting evaluation include:

- The shifting **geography of poverty** is affecting how and where development partners are targeting funds and engaging in development co-operation, particularly in terms of addressing poverty in middle income countries and fragile states. At the same time, in many developing countries the **share of ODA** as a portion of overall development finance is dropping.
- A number of DAC members are moving to **integrate development co-operation more closely with foreign policy and trade**. “Whole of government” approaches can support more coherent action, but may also result in development and poverty-related goals taking a back seat to national interest and other policy objectives.
- **Climate finance and sustainable development** are sure to be top priorities in the post-2015 agenda and a number of new programmes are being set up in these areas. For evaluation this means working with new actors and funding mechanisms, as well as looking at new topics of study and innovative methods to capture complex long-term change processes.
- International partners have committed to **help strengthen and use national systems for monitoring and evaluation**. Partner countries are taking on a bigger role in evaluating their own national development policies and programmes, including the role of development co-operation. And yet capacities remain weak in many countries. Even where country systems are strong, international partners have often found it difficult to collaborate given differences in ways of working and the need to also address their own reporting and domestic accountability requirements.
- **Evaluation tools and methods:** The recent past has seen an increase in the number of impact evaluations and systematic reviews. Other innovative approaches have also emerged, including new ways of understanding complexity and applying systems thinking to evaluation.

Small group discussion

In this context, members are invited to reflect on the opportunities and challenges for evaluation in the next three to five years. This can include both changes to the role for evaluation within your own institution and your thoughts on the role of the network as a key player in international development evaluation. Key queries that might guide your discussion include: How is this changing landscape affecting your work? Which pressures are you feeling most strongly at home and how are you responding?

Report back

Following the discussion, each group will be asked to report to the plenary on the **top three priority topics or issues** for future work, based on their small group discussion.