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Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Economiques  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

**19-Dec-2001**

**English - Or. English**

**DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE  
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE**

**Working Party on Aid Evaluation**

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 35th MEETING**

**held on 14-15 November 2001**

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1. Mr. Niels Dabelstein, Chair, opened the meeting.

**Item 1. Opening session**

2. The Agenda [DCD/DAC/EV/A(2001)2] was adopted.
3. New meeting participants briefly introduced themselves. The WP was reminded that the Secretariat maintains a list of Members with full contact details and that Members should make sure that any changes to their contact details are systematically communicated to the Secretariat. This way the master list, used for all electronic communications and mail send outs, will be accurate.
4. The Chair recalled the tragic passing away of Annette Binnendijk. Annette had contributed to the Working Party in many ways over a long period, first as a member of the US delegation, and more recently as a consultant on RBM in particular. Gerry Britan (US), who had worked for over 20 years with her, made a moving tribute to Annette as an evaluation professional and a remarkable person. Her death constitutes a great loss for the members of the WP-EV.
5. The Summary Record of the 34th meeting [DCD/DAC/EV/M(2001)1/PROV] was approved.
6. During a discussion on the budget, the Secretariat confirmed that since the DAC had re-voted for its work programme priorities for 2002, evaluation had moved up on the priority list and there was hence no imminent danger of a cut. The Chair noted the need for Members to remain vigilant at next year's round of budget negotiations and voting exercise.

**Item 2. Ongoing work**

- i) Lessons Learned in Donor Support to Decentralisation and Local Governance  
[Room Document No. 1]

7. An update on work was provided by Mr. Horst Breier (Germany). The Steering Group on the project met in September and selected the Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (NBIR) to conduct the study under the supervision of the Steering Group. Members of the WP-EV were requested to provide inputs to the synthesis study and make relevant evaluation studies and analytical assessment material available as quickly as possible. A workshop is planned for June 2002 in Norway to discuss a draft report and review the results of the synthesis study. Members of the DAC GOVNET, as well as the WP-EV, should be invited to the workshop.

- ii) Evaluation and Gender [DCD/DAC/EV(2001)4]

8. The Secretariat introduced the options paper, noting that the three areas of possible work were not mutually exclusive. The options are: i) Reviewing institutional approaches among donors for integrating gender equality and women's empowerment in development co-operation activities and management systems; ii) Improving the gender dimension in evaluation methodologies and processes; and iii) Assessing whether engendering development activities improves the achievements of overall results. The options were well received by Members and many indicated a strong interest in pursuing this work, including Australia, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, UNDP and the World Bank. The second option received the most support from Members, and was considered the one most closely linked to the mandate. Some Members suggested that options 1 and 2 could be combined. Options one and three received equivalent support. Australia agreed to develop the options further in consultation with interested Members of the WP-EV, WP-GEN and the Secretariat. The Chair referred to previous

contributions by the WP-EV in this area and noted that many Members consider that the WP can contribute significantly to gender issues, which is an important area of work for many of them.

iii) Peer reviews

a) Evaluation Systems [DCD/DAC/EV(2001)5, Room Document No. 2]

9. Members welcomed the note prepared by the Peer Review and Policy Monitoring Division (PRPM), presented by Pietro Veglio, Head of Division. It was noted that, on the whole, findings of recent reviews corroborated the results of the review of the DAC Principles on Aid Evaluation conducted in 1998. Some caution was voiced, however, about drawing general conclusions from a sample of reviews. At the same time, it was underlined that the WP-EV should continue to be attentive to evaluation systems and to foster "learning from each other" through joint work and sharing of experiences. Following a suggestion by the World Bank, it and other interested Members could design an "experimental scorecard" on evaluation systems for possible consideration in peer review processes and perhaps also in evaluation capacity development work.

10. The question of the learning vs. the accountability role of evaluation systems was raised in the discussion. Some Members felt that the issue was not principally one of a trade-off but rather of maximisation of both aspects. Hence, learning and accountability are complementary rather than competing concepts. Given the advent of RBM, an analysis of results orientation and learning needs to take this fact into account. Several participants queried the exact meaning of "learning organisation" and asked what were the implications for aid management systems. It was agreed that these issues should be pursued in the brainstorming session to follow.

b) Client Survey [Room Document No. 8]

11. The Chair of the WP-EV Informal Sub-Group on Peer Reviews (Jan Dybfest, Norway) reported on the meeting of the Sub-Group held the day before and on its discussion of the proposed client survey of the Peer Reviews. The WP-EV agreed to the Sub-group's suggestion on the way forward, including conducting a client survey and that the Terms of Reference for the survey be drafted. The study should be open, user-friendly, and as inclusive as possible. The TOR should also reflect eventual suggestions by the ensuing December 2001 DAC Senior Level Meeting (SLM). The preliminary results of the study would be presented at the next meeting of the WP-EV in May 2002, at which time key elements requiring further improvement in the Peer Review process would be considered.

iv) Evaluation Inventory [Room Document No. 3]

12. Goberdhan Singh (Canada) reported briefly on progress made since the last meeting, namely on improving accessibility and simplifying the submission process. Canada raised the issue of the relevance of restricted access to the inventory and indicated it would circulate a list of restricted documents to verify the validity of these restrictions with the Members concerned. Members agreed the inventory was still useful, and some suggested exploring whether the inventory could be part of the "Development Gateway" web site. It was agreed to pursue the implementation of the planned improvements by Canada.

v) Glossary [DCD/DAC/EV(2001)2]

13. Work on the French and English versions are completed. The Inter-American Development Bank will finalise work on the Spanish version for inclusion in the publication. The Secretariat was asked to explore either the possibility of commercial sales or seek financial contributions for a free distribution publication. Suggestions for a title were also invited. The Chair noted with appreciation the offers by Japan for a Japanese version and by Portugal to provide a Portuguese translation.

vi) Results Based Management

14. The Secretariat provided a brief status report. Following the loss of Annette Binnendijk, work on Phase II had been suspended. Members were invited to indicate names of suitable consultants and/or potential sources of financial support needed to resume the work and take it forward. The work would need re-direction, given that a simple synthesis would not be feasible on the basis of acquired material and information. The Chair asked the Secretariat to devise such an approach and solicit Members' support in order to advance Phase II work.

vii) Evaluation Development Forum

15. The Chair of the Steering Group on the Evaluation Development Forum, Daniel Kamelgarn (France), reported on the previous day's meeting. The Chair presented some of the background to the Forum, including the interest expressed by non-member agencies in the work of the WP-EV, and the interest within the WP to expand its dialogue with other actors to foster transparency and mutual learning. He indicated that the event (whether it is called a Forum is still to be determined) would probably be held in Paris in December 2002 (back-to-back with the WP-EV) and involve a variety of actors, namely selected international NGOs, international organisations including members of the UN family, and evaluation societies. Members were supportive of the idea of the event, and France agreed to develop planning further in consultation with the Secretariat and the Steering Group.

viii) Joint evaluation [Room Documents No. 4, 10]

16. Several major joint evaluation initiatives are underway, as indicated in Room Document No. 4. This paper gives brief descriptions a) by the World Bank on the CDF evaluation, b) by the Netherlands on: basic education, progress on the Mozambique recipient-led evaluation, and the triple Cs (complementarity, coherence and co-ordination) in the context of the EU, and finally c) by Germany on the evaluation of contributions by the UNFPA and the IPPF towards the implementation of the programme of action for the International Conference on Population and Development.

**Items 3 and 4. Brainstorming session and reporting back – key elements**

[DCD/DAC/EV(2000)5/REV2, Room Documents No. 5, 6, 7, 9, 11]

17. Michael Roeskau, Director of DCD, introduced briefly the brainstorming session by stressing the importance of the work of the WP-EV, and welcomed any analyses the group might be able to contribute to the DAC on issues such as working for development in difficult partnerships, and addressing terrorism in development co-operation and the changed international environment.

18. Group 1 was chaired by Colin Kirk (UK), and reported on its discussion on four topics: i) methods and systems, mainly on the need for the WP-EV to tackle the new development co-operation agenda; ii) sharing findings, to enhance the impact of evaluation lessons; iii) approaches to joint evaluations to continue reducing costs and the burden on partner countries and address new challenges of development assistance; iv) evaluation capacity building and the need to create a sub-group which would build on past efforts, create links with the key bodies involved in evaluation capacity building, and expand the work in this area.

19. Group 2 was chaired by Robert Picciotto (WB). Goberdhan Singh (Canada) reported on the strengths, weaknesses, key areas of interest and suggestions for further work. Among the strengths of the WP-EV are its co-operative approach, and its positioning in the DAC. The group felt that one weakness is that too much time in the plenaries is devoted to process issues and not enough to substance. Key areas of interest in current work include: decentralisation and local governance, joint work, gender, poverty

reduction evaluation methods, and RBM. Suggestions for future work include: enhancing quality in practice, country-based evaluations, peer review of evaluation systems, as well as new work modalities.

20. Group 3, chaired by Elizabeth Brouwer (Australia) reported on the group's discussion on capacity building issues and the need for furthering these efforts; evaluation of humanitarian assistance as well as in the context of post-conflict reconstruction; synergies between evaluation and audit functions within agencies and within Members' national systems. Other subjects discussed included their interest in impact factors on aid effectiveness (e.g. corruption); and the interest of the group to pursue work on experience with 'poor performers', on the effectiveness of NGO partners, of multilateral organisations, etc.

21. On behalf of Group 4, chaired by Rob van den Berg (Netherlands), Christoph Graf (Switzerland) reported on the group's discussion on the mandate of the WP-EV. The group felt that the mandate was not always reflective of the new challenges in development co-operation. It concluded that the modalities of the work of the WP-EV should take into consideration further participation by partners as well as new realities of development. The work of the WP-EV should aim at the maximisation of its utility, more sharing of findings and lessons between its Members and the broader evaluation and development communities. This group introduced the idea of a "kit" for newcomers and partners involved in the work of the WP-EV, including past publications.

22. The Chair of the WP-EV concluded the discussion by noting that the brainstorming session and breakout groups had been considered useful and participatory by Members. He noted the suggestion of working in sub-groups on themes or issues especially challenging in the current development co-operation agenda (SWAPs, PRSPs, pre- and post-conflict situations, difficult partnerships, etc.). He evoked the need to be able to bring key findings to a higher level, including the SLM and the HLM. In response to the suggestion raised by Germany and several others in the brainstorming discussions, the Chair proposed to prepare a paper on key lessons as background for the December SLM's discussion on Afghanistan. He further requested that the Secretariat prepare a paper which would synthesise the discussions in the brainstorming sessions. This would feed into the preparations for the next meeting as well as the discussions on the Work Programme for 2003-04.

#### **Item 5. Interaction with DAC WPs and other networks [DAC/DAC(2001)26]**

##### i) Interaction with DAC Working Parties and Networks

##### – DAC Task Force on Donor Practices

23. Fred Roos (Secretariat) briefly presented the work of the DAC Task Force on Donor Practices. He indicated that efforts to further simplify and facilitate administrative and management procedures for our partners should be sought, and encouraged the WP to think about ways that this could be promoted in the field of evaluation. The Terms of References of this Task Force can be found in DCD/DAC/TFDP(2001)1.

24. The Task Force has set up three sub-groups: on financial management and accountability; on the pre-implementation phase of the project cycle; and on reporting and monitoring. The last sub-group is chaired by Christoph Graf, Switzerland, who is also a Member of the WP-EV. This should substantially facilitate interaction.

– GOVNET: Poor Performers

25. Paul Isenman (Secretariat) introduced the work to date on this topic. Members were interested and supportive of the proposal made by the GOVNET in its note for the SLM on “Poor Performers: Working for Development in Difficult Partnerships” [DCD/DAC(2001)26/REV1], which would involve work by the WP-EV on lessons learned through experience.

ii) Other evaluation networks

26. A brief report on work by the Evaluation Co-operation Group was provided by Robert Picciotto (World Bank). Ongoing work on good practice standards in public sector operations which could be of interest to WP-EV Members would be shared with them at a later stage of development, as had been the case with the good practice standards for private sector operations. Khalid Malik (UNDP) gave a brief report on the UN Interagency Working Group on Evaluation. He also reported on recent developments with regard to IDEAS and indicated that a launching event would probably take place in the second half of 2002. Oswald Feinstein (World Bank) reported on the IPDET training event that took place last summer and the plans for a follow-up course next year. The organisers are seeking scholarships for developing country participants.

27. The Chair stressed the importance of working in partnership with other evaluation fora, and singled out in particular evaluation capacity development and joint events.

**Tour de Table**

The Chair invited Members to report on new activities and developments in their organisations. Upon the conclusion of the *tour de table*, the Chair noted that this item needed to be further up on the Agenda and, at the same time, a new format needed to be found in order to limit the time spent on what is largely an exchange of information. The Chair welcomed the participation, for the first time, of the newly created Independent Evaluation Office of the IMF.

**Item 6. Other business**

28. The WP meetings for 2002 are scheduled for 29-30 May and 3-4 December (the latter tentatively).

## ANNEX 1

## LIST OF DOCUMENTS

<b>Item 1.i.</b>	Draft Annotated Agenda	DCD/DAC/EV/A(2001)2
<b>1. iii.</b>	Summary Record of the 34th Meeting	DCD/DAC/EV/M(2001)1/PROV
<b>Item 2.i.</b>	Lessons Learned in Donor Support to Decentralisation and Local Governance	Room Document No. 1
<b>2. ii.</b>	Options for Future Work on Gender Equality by the DAC WP-EV: A Discussion Paper	DCD/DAC/EV(2001)4
<b>2. iii.</b>	Peer Reviews and Evaluation Systems One-pager on Principles Outline for a Client Survey Study	DCD/DAC/EV(2001)5 Room Document No. 2 Room Document No. 8
<b>2. iv.</b>	Evaluation Inventory	Room Document No. 3
<b>2. v.</b>	Glossary of Evaluation and Results Based Management Terms	DCD/DAC/EV(2001)2
<b>2. viii.</b>	An Update on Some Current Major Joint Evaluation Initiatives Development Assistance in East Timor and Kosovo: a Joint Evaluation	Room Document No. 4 Room Document No. 10
<b>Item 3</b>	Work Programme 2001-2002 Overview Table of Current Joint WP-EV Activities Note by the Chair for the Brainstorming Session Planned Evaluation Matrix Impact Evaluation: Proposal for a Partnership Framework Agreement Press Release by Professor Hirono Chairman of the Tokyo Workshop on ODA	DCD/DAC/EV(2000)5/REV2 Room Document No. 5 Room Document No. 6 Room Document No. 7 Room Document No. 9 Room Document No. 11
<b>Item 5 i</b>	Poor Performers: Working For Development in Difficult Partnerships – Suggested Basic Approaches	DCD/DAC(2001)26

ANNEX 2

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**Président/Chair: Mr. Niels DABELSTEIN (Danemark/Denmark)**

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	<b>Ms. Valérie VIEHOFF</b>	Intern, German Delegation to OECD
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\* Participating in Peer Review discussions, Agenda item 2 iii.