



ROOM DOCUMENT NO. 6

DAC WORKING PARTY ON AID EVALUATION

**NOTE BY THE CHAIR
FOR THE BRAINSTORMING SESSION**

Submitted by the Chair of the WP-EV

Agenda item 3

**35th meeting
14-15 November 2001**

Purpose and structure of the brainstorming

The brainstorming is intended to enable members to have a more in-depth and participatory discussion on the work of the WP- EV. The half-day session will be devoted to a discussion in four break-out groups. The four groups will then reconvene in plenary to share and discuss findings.

It is suggested that the four groups focus on the question: **In what ways can the WP-EV further contribute to improving aid effectiveness?** This will involve discussion on the mandate, work topics, and innovative means and modalities to implement work. Each group will be requested to come up with about 6 concrete ideas or suggestions for consideration by the group.

The following background documentation will be helpful for the discussion: this note, the updated Work Programme 2001-02 [DCD/DAC/EV(2000)5/REV2], the table with an Overview of Current Activities (Room Document No 5), and the Planned Evaluation Matrix [Room Document No 7].

Purpose and Mandate of the WP-EV

The purpose of the WP-EV is to contribute to improving aid effectiveness. Its mandate aims to implement this goal via the following means:

1. By improving Members' evaluation activities through shared learning and development of systems and methodologies (e.g. evaluation principles, guidelines for humanitarian assistance, country programme evaluation, joint evaluations, glossary, feedback, web site, meetings and workshops, networking).
2. By producing collective synthesis studies of lessons learned to feed into the DAC and the broader development community (e.g. on NGOs, participatory development and good governance, RBM, poverty workshop Edinburgh, conflict prevention and peace building).
3. By producing joint evaluations in areas of strategic interests to Members (evaluation matrix, decentralisation and local governance, gender, facilitating joint work such as transport in Ghana etc.).
4. By supporting enhancement of partners' evaluation capacity (earlier seminars in Africa, LAC and Asia, Development Evaluation Forum, joint training, promotion of recipient-led evaluation, support of IDEAS).

Past performance and future work

It is always a good idea to look back at past performance: Have we done the right things? Have we done them well? What can we do better? What have we not done? What more can we do?

These are not terribly sophisticated questions. But the answers will lead us forward.

We have done fairly well in development of methodologies – what are the new frontiers?

At the same time, how can we support present and future members with weak evaluation systems?

How can we improve feed back of results of our work into the DAC and to the broader development community?

What might be the key themes for future work? In which areas can we add most value collectively?

How can we involve partners up front and continuously?

Much of the present Evaluation Capacity Building work has developed from the regional workshops organised by the WP-EV. How can we *as a group* contribute further to the present work, which is mainly carried by the multilaterals? How can we link better partner involvement in evaluation with this work?

What suggestions do members have regarding our modalities of working with task forces, and steering groups? How can we speed up joint work? Combined, do we have enough resources to make a difference in the aid effectiveness debate? Should agencies devote a higher percentage of their evaluation budgets to joint or co-ordinated evaluation efforts to move towards more joint assessment and collaboration required by the change in supply (more joint sector support etc.) and in demand (accountability on higher levels and shared responsibility for progress achieved)?

These are many questions, which I raise in order to stimulate the debate.