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

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DAC Network on Development Evaluation

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 1ST MEETING

15 - 16 January 2004

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 1ST MEETING OF THE DAC NETWORK ON DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION

Item 1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA, SUMMARY RECORD AND BRIEFINGS

- i). The agenda was adopted [DCD/DAC/EV/A(2004)].
- ii). The Summary Record of the 37th meeting was adopted [DCD/DAC/EV/M(2003)1/PROV].
- iii). The Secretariat (Hunter McGill) provided a summary of the discussion from the DAC Senior Level Meeting held on 10 - 11 December 2003. He highlighted some topics that currently have high priority such as security and development, aid and private investment and ODA definitions. He informed participants that the DAC High Level Meeting is scheduled for 15 - 16 April 2004.
- iv). Michel Reveyrand, Chair of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness, presented the architecture of the Working Party and its five areas of work (Harmonisation and Alignment, Public Financial Management, Managing for Development Results, Aid Untying and Procurement). Mr Reveyrand stressed that implementing the WP-EFF work programme will require a great effort by all involved and highlighted the need for close links between the WP-EFF and the Evaluation Network (Room Document 1).

The Network Chair noted the Network's current involvement and commitment to contributing, particularly by feeding in the results of the joint evaluation of general budget support, work on results based management and by keeping WP-EFF members up-to-date with the results of relevant evaluations. Participation by the Network Chair as ex-officio member of the WP-EFF also facilitates interaction.

Item 2: REVIEW OF ON-GOING WORK

i). Review of the quality of evaluations (Room Document 2)

1. Members welcomed the initiative led by Australia (Peter Ellis) to conduct a systematic analysis of the quality of evaluation reports. Many participants emphasised quality as a central issue for evaluation departments, and noted that the end product could result in useful and practical guidance for evaluation managers. A number of substantive suggestions on the minimum standards were provided, which Australia was asked to take into consideration for a revision of the paper. Members were asked to provide further comments in writing by end February. The Chair noted that several members had suggested a step by step approach and to hold a workshop or video conference which could specifically focus on the standards as further discussion would be required to reach full agreement based on various suggestions.

2. It was also noted that interaction with NGOs might be useful. Switzerland indicated that it will be able to feed in results of an internal review in spring and Belgium offered to provide consultancy support.

ii). General Budget Support

a. Overview of progress with the GBS (Room Document 3)

3. Mike Hammond (UK) provided a progress overview of the joint evaluation of General Budget Support based on Room Document No 3 and the Steering Group meeting held the day preceding the Network. There is strong support for this joint evaluation among Network Members with 16 agencies participating. Strengthened interaction and involvement by the MDBs in this exercise were encouraged.

b. Learning forum/ platform on programme aid (Room Document 4)

4. The Chair outlined the suggestion made at the preparatory workshop of the GBS Evaluation (Brighton, 14 - 15 October 2003) to set up a learning platform on programme aid. This would cover modalities falling outside the area of focus of the GBS evaluation (balance of payment support, debt relief, food aid, etc.). Some concerns were expressed over the dangers of overburdening partner countries with new evaluations and it was suggested to focus more on exchange of evaluation methods and lessons in this area. A review of the evaluation evidence already available was more favourably considered, providing that the necessary synergies with the literature review (conducted by Sweden as part of the GBS evaluation) are properly sought. In endorsing these considerations, Denmark and the Netherlands suggested to review existing thematic work on PA for possible synthesis studies for consideration by the Network. The Bureau were asked to consider introducing a feedback or methodological session on programme aid at forthcoming meetings.

iii). Partners in Development Evaluation

a. Partners in Development Evaluation – Learning and Accountability (Room Document 5)

5. Daniel Kamelgarn (France) presented the outcomes of the Steering Group meeting held in Paris, 19 September 2003, on the follow up to the March 2003 workshop. Members of the Network generally welcomed the three proposals emerging from the meeting, including a) improving lessons sharing and information exchange on partnership evaluations; b) establishing more open links with other evaluation communities, particularly IDEAS and c) developing concrete partnerships on thematic issues, through sub-groups open to partners. It was suggested that more specificity should be developed by the lead agency and that the Steering Group and other interested members should work together on this.

6. A continuation of collaboration between the bilateral and NGO evaluation communities was welcomed by Jim Rugh (CARE International/Interaction) and Laurent Denis (F3E), who also expressed a more specific interest in collaborating with the work on quality and standards setting.

7. To maintain the momentum of collaboration a suggestion was made to organise a second Workshop, possibly in 2005, and that synergies or co-operation with IDEAS' planned conference should be investigated.

b. Third Tokyo ODA Evaluation Workshop (Room Document 6)

8. Kanji Kitazawa (Japan) presented the main outcomes of the Third Tokyo Workshop on ODA evaluation held in November 2003 in which 18 Asian countries participated at senior government level. The Secretariat (Hans Lundgren) noted that this workshop was part of a sustained effort by Japan to engage in a dialogue on evaluation with Asian partners, and related to the Network's mandate which includes promotion and support to evaluation capacity development in partner countries.

Item 3: FOCUS SESSION ON JOINT EVALUATIONS

9. Niels Dabelstein (Vice-Chair) introduced the session by encouraging greater flexibility and coordination among Members to make joint evaluations more of a rule rather than the exception. Agencies within the Nordic plus group are trying to go down this road by harmonising their evaluation programming cycles and trying to link it up to partner countries cycles.

10. Richard Manning (DAC Chair) presented his views concerning the challenges facing the evaluation community in view of the announced increases in aid flows over the next few years. There is scope for the Evaluation Network to examine issues such as the impact of aid and the way it is delivered, partner countries' development effectiveness and the joint effectiveness of development aid [DCD/DAC(2003)/24/Chap1].

11. A number of Members agreed on the relevance of these issues and commended the content of the paper. Some Members, including Denmark, Germany and the World Bank, while noting the relevance of these issues, also recognised the challenges of time lag, attribution and data-scarcity. Australia suggested that broader questions also need to be asked, for instance whether aid is the most effective way to achieve results in scenarios where security and trade policies might have a more rapid impact.

12. The evaluation community's potential contribution to provide part of the answers, in collaboration with partner countries and academic and policy communities, was recognised. The Network will be able to build on its experience in joint evaluation and collaboration. Denmark offered to explore the possibility of promoting a joint country/ sector evaluation starting with discussions within the Nordic plus group. It was also clear that in order to launch major evaluations at country and global/sector level, commitment and demand from senior management would be crucial.

13. Horst Breier (Germany) presented the joint proposal from Germany and Denmark for a review of experiences from joint evaluations (Room Document 8). Members strongly welcomed the proposal and some noted the importance of involvement of partner countries. Several members offered financial support as well as substantive experience from participating and leading joint evaluations. Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the UK and the Secretariat all expressed interest.

14. Niels Dabelstein (Denmark) noted the increasing demand for evaluations of multilateral agencies, and the seemingly clear need to re-establish trust in parts of the system (Room Document 8b). The Chair invited Members to inform Denmark of their interest in participating in this work and of possible suggestions on the paper.

Item 4: REVIEW OF WORK PROGRAMME TOPICS

i). Evaluation knowledge management (Room Document 9)

15. Rutger Engelhard (Consultant) presented the findings of an electronic survey examining the current state, challenges and Member's views on how to further improve knowledge management. This initiative, led by the Netherlands, was clearly welcomed. A central issue of the report concerned the need for a decision on either a decentralised or centralised approach to knowledge management. Several Members expressed concern over adopting a centralised approach since this could lead to similar problems as those already existing with the DAC Inventory. A main issue regarding a centralised approach is designing a knowledge management system that is standardised across the board and for Members to subsequently adhere to these standards.

16. Members noticed the importance of how and by whom the information being disseminated is used. It was agreed that, as a group, there was a need to develop an approach on how to promote

knowledge sharing and management both within the Network and to the broader public. A number of members indicated that a more decentralised approach would seem the most promising avenue after having tried a more centralised approach for a considerable number of years.

17. Australia, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, The Netherlands, Switzerland and The World Bank volunteered to act as a sounding board for the Secretariat so as to develop a way forward. Close consultation will be required with CIDA (manager of the Inventory) and the World Bank (leader of the aid effectiveness section of the Development Gateway).

ii). Strategic framework for peace building (Room Document 10)

18. Bjorg Leite (Norway) introduced the work of the Utstein group and the joint study on peace building. Following a presentation of the main conclusions and recommendations by the Consultant (Dan Smith), in which he drew attention to the "strategic deficit" between policy and project reality, a number of members indicated interest in pursuing exchange of information and to consider new joint work in this area. Interested countries included Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Japan, and US. Close collaboration with the DAC Network on Conflict, Peace and Development Co-operation and the Secretariat was also encouraged.

iii). Impact Assessment (Room Document 11)

19. Due to lack of time, this item was not discussed. The Chair suggested that this paper and the World Bank's planned contribution should be fed into the forthcoming work on total aid efforts and development effectiveness suggested by the DAC Chair.

iv). Elections

20. Elections were held for the position as Chair to succeed Rob D. van den Berg when his mandate expires during the summer of 2004, and for the two positions of Vice-chairs.

21. Eva Lithman (Sweden) was elected as incoming Chair.

22. Daniel Kamelgarn (France) and Niels Dabelstein (Denmark) were elected Vice-chairs.

Item 5: PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET [DAC/DCD/EV(2003)4]

23. Michael Roeskau (DCD Director) outlined the main parameters of the 2005 - 2006 DAC Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) and noted links with the Network's own PWB. He informed Members of expected further OECD-wide reductions in the Part I Budget, and the need for the Network to rely more heavily on voluntary contributions. It was made clear that this is in no way related to perceptions about the relevance of the Evaluation Network within "the house", which is very much seen as central.

24. The Chair noted that the Network has, in the past, always operated through voluntary contributions to support various work projects. Mr Lundgren (Secretariat) outlined the Draft Programme of Work and Budget and its aim to address both the challenges facing the evaluation community as well as the demands coming from the policy community and external stakeholders. The need for establishing more flexible modalities of finance, as other DAC subgroups have managed to do, was also emphasised.

25. Members generally expressed strong support for the substantive focus in the draft Work Programme. Some Members including Denmark, Sweden and The Netherlands agreed that opening up of the Network will impose heavier demands on the Secretariat and felt that Network Membership should be subject to a fee. Although the creation of a Network Fund was considered difficult to implement, Members

agreed on the need to find flexible ways to ensure the necessary funding requirements. Several Members offered financial and/or in kind contribution. The Secretariat was invited to review the Work Programme budget and present it in a project framework.

Item 6: OTHER BUSINESS

26. The Secretariat (Sean Conlin) presented the DCD Horizontal Project on Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) and the goals of the policy workshop to be held on 18 - 19 May 2004, which will address the issue of how to measure performance on PCD. Members were invited to inform the Secretariat of relevant findings contained in evaluation studies/reports which could inform the discussions (Room Document 12).

27. The Chair thanked Horst Breier (Germany) and Peter Ellis (Australia) for their many substantive contributions to the Network. He also thanked Colin Kirk, who recently left the position of Vice- chair, for his important contributions over the recent years.

28. Finally, Ms Lithman (Sweden) thanked the Chair for his professional chairmanship and his leadership role within the Network over the past years, noting that he would still continue in this role but that this would be the last Network meeting that he would chair.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Agenda Item	Document Title	Document Reference
Item 1	i Draft Annotated Agenda	DCD/DAC/EV/A(2004)1
	ii Summary record of the 37 th meeting	DCD/DAC/EV/M(2003)1/PROV
	iv DAC Working Party on Aid Effectiveness and Donor Practices: Overview of the Work Programme and the Bureau	Room Document 1
Item 2	i Review of the Quality of Evaluations	Room Document 2
	ii Joint Evaluation of General Budget Support – Update of Progress	Room Document 3
	Evaluations of Programme Aid - Sharing Lessons among Members of the DAC Network on Development Evaluation	Room Document 4
	iii Partners in Development Evaluation	Room Document 5
	The Third Tokyo Workshop on ODA Evaluation – Chairperson’s Summary	Room Document 6
Item 3	Evaluation Highlights	Room Document 7 and Room Document 7 Addendum
	Joint Evaluations: Recent Experiences, Lessons Learned and Options for the Future	Room Document 8
	Evaluation of Multilateral Organisations – Proposal for a new approach	Room Document 8b
	Development Co-operation 2003 Report – Overview by the DAC Chair	DCD/DAC(2003)/24/Chap1
Item 4	i Evaluation Knowledge Management	Room Document 9
	ii Strategic Frameworks for Peace-building	Room Document 10
	iii Results Evaluation and Impact Assessment	Room Document 11
Item 5	Draft Programme of Work and Budget 2004 - 2006	DCD/DAC/EV(2003)4
Item 6	Policy Coherence for Development	Room Document 12

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15 January 2004 - 16 January 2004

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