

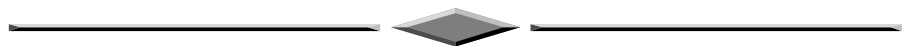


## **ROOM DOCUMENT 8**

**DAC Network on Development Evaluation**

### **WORKSHOP PROPOSAL: EVALUATION METHODOLOGY, QUALITY AND SYSTEMS**

This draft proposal was prepared by Denmark in collaboration with Australia and the Network Bureau for discussion at the meeting of the DAC Network on Development Evaluation, 9 – 10 November 2004.



**2<sup>nd</sup> meeting  
9 – 10 November 2004**

## **PROPOSAL FOR A WORKSHOP ON EVALUATION METHODOLOGY, QUALITY AND SYSTEMS**

### **Background**

The Network is currently engaged in several initiatives concerning evaluation methodology, quality and systems. Activities carried out by members individually or in smaller groups in these areas include:

- **Methodology and processes**
  - Impact evaluations (WB/OED + ?)
  - Study of experiences and lessons learned from joint Evaluations (Network/Secretariat)
  - Scope for joint / harmonised Evaluation Guidelines (Nordic+)
- **Quality**
  - Review of the quality of evaluation reports (Network/Australia)
  - Annual assessment of quality of evaluations (ALNAP)
  - defining quality standards for evaluations
- **Systems and structures**
  - Strengthening evaluation systems in member agencies (Network/Secretariat)
  - Assessing multilateral agencies evaluation systems (Network/Danida/UNDP pilot)

Whilst separate, these strands of activity are clearly interlinked, and the results of one study have implications for the others. On one hand, these linkages include the possibility of positive spill-over benefits of one initiative over the others. On the other, there is a need to ensure that the various intermediate and final outputs are coherent and reflect the collective understanding of the Network Members.

Network meetings clearly appear as an appropriate venue where to address these issues. In fact, while certain cross fertilisation is facilitated by some members of the Network participating in more than one of these initiatives; there is a need for better exchange, more coordination and more engagement of Network members. However, relying solely on Network meetings poses substantive and procedural considerations. The number and diversity of items dealt with at each meeting does not allow for in-depth discussion of more than one or two of the above issues each time. This affects the opportunities to bring the work forward in a coherent and collegial fashion, particularly given the time lag between meetings.

### **Purpose of the workshop**

It is therefore suggested to organise a 3 day workshop for members of the Network and selected non-members willing to contribute to the work. The workshop would be organised around the three “pillars”

Methodology/Processes; Quality; and Systems/Structures with sessions on each of the above initiatives – and other relevant initiatives. The final objective of the workshop will be to:

- Enhance cross fertilisation and optimise coordination among the initiatives
- Make substantive progress on each of the three topic areas items

Depending on the stage of the initiatives each sessions should result in either recommendations for submission to the following formal Network meeting or plans for further work within groups (task forces) of committed members.

### **Venue and timing of the workshop**

Australia has already kindly offered to host the workshop at an appropriate time during the first half of 2005.

### **Next steps**

It is suggested to establish a task force comprising the lead agencies for each of the above initiatives plus any other member (and possibly non-members) committed to contribute to organising the workshop.