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

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English - Or. English

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

**DCD/DAC/EV/M(2006)1
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DAC Network on Development Evaluation

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOURTH MEETING

30 - 31 March 2006

Hans.Lundgren@oecd.org; Tel: 01 45 24 90 59; Fax: 01 44 30 61 47
Sebastian.Ling@oecd.org; Tel: 01 45 24 15 04; Fax: 01 44 30 61 47

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Item I: OPENING

- i) The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. Following brief self-introductions by new members, the Chair encouraged all members to participate in moving forward the Network's evaluation agenda and to take an active role in joint work with the aim of improving the effectiveness and impact of evaluations and ultimately development aid, as a shared goal.
- ii) The Summary Record of the 3rd meeting [DCD/DAC/EV/M(2005)1/PROV] was approved.
- iii) The Draft Agenda [DCD/DAC/EV/A(2006)1] was adopted with some changes in the order of items for logistical reasons.

Item II: FINALISING WORK

- i) The UK presented a progress report [Room Document 1] on the joint evaluation of General Budget Support (GBS). The seven country reports have been completed and the synthesis report is being finalised. A dissemination conference will be held at the OECD on 9-10 May 2006. A number of countries expressed appreciation for the UK leadership of the evaluation. Netherlands proposed that a follow-up self-evaluation of the GBS process should be undertaken.
- ii) The Secretariat presented the note on "Evaluations Systems and Use: An Assessment Tool for DAC Peer Reviews and Evaluation Managers" [DCD/DAC/EV (2006)1]. The assessment tool is already being used for DAC Peer Reviews and provides a model for other DAC subsidiary bodies interested in providing support to Peer Reviews. Members expressed appreciation of the product and for the successful completion of this piece of work.

Action: Disseminate the document to partners and other development evaluation actors. In the medium term a stock taking exercise should be conducted of experiences of its use in peer reviews and other contexts.

- iii) The Secretariat presented the draft publication "Guidance for Managing Joint Evaluations" [DCD/DAC/EV(2006)3]. The guidance had been developed in response to a request from Network members and builds on the Working Paper "Joint Evaluations: Recent Experiences, Lessons Learnt and Options for the Future" (2005). Members expressed appreciation for the effective development of the publication and the final draft.

Action: Network members to submit final comments on the draft by 14 April 2006. The Guidance will be shared with the DAC for approval under written procedure and published in the DAC Evaluation Series.

- iv) Australia presented the draft Quality Standards [DCD/DAC/EV(2006)2]. Members supported the approach suggested (flexible and non-binding use) and thanked Australia and Denmark for having led this work. It was agreed that the Standards should be applied by members, on a voluntary basis, for a three year test period with mid-term and end-of-term reviews at meetings of the Evaluation Network.

Action: Application of the Standards by members (voluntary basis)

Item III: RESULTS OF THE SURVEY OF MEMBERS AND THE DAC WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2007-08

The Secretariat presented an overview of members' responses to the mini survey [Room Document 2]. The survey provides an interesting overview of current and planned evaluation developments in member agencies. It had also provided a useful input to the DAC prioritisation process. Some members noted an inconsistency between the number of members (20) who see joint evaluation as a priority for the Evaluation Network and the number of members (9) who see joint evaluations as a priority within their own departments.

The Secretariat outlined the ongoing prioritisation process within the DAC aimed at developing an overall DAC programme and work budget for the period 2007-08 [DCD/DAC(2006)14/REV2].

Action: Results of the DAC prioritisation exercise should be shared with members when final.

Item IV: EVALUATING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF AID

- i) David Booth (consultant) presented the draft Options Paper on Evaluation Network Follow-up to the Paris Declaration. The Secretariat outlined the background to the Options Paper and reported that it had been presented to the Joint Venture on Monitoring the Paris Declaration (JVM) on 23-24 March 2006. The Chair of the JVM had thanked the Evaluation Network for making strong efforts to coordinate with the JV-MPD and encouraged the Network to move forward. South Africa indicated interest in participating in the work and requested that meetings of any Evaluation Network task team be organised back-to-back with meetings of the JV-MPD or of its parent body the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness [WP-EFF] to facilitate participation of partner countries.

A large number of Evaluation Network members stated that they see this as a high-importance area of work and suggested that the Network commences substantive work in 2006 to ensure we have useful formative findings to contribute to the 2008 HLF. Eighteen members indicated in their responses to the mini-survey that this work should be a priority. Some members, however, expressed caution that the Network may be proposing to start work on evaluation too early in the overall Paris Declaration process. It was agreed that it will be important to continue to coordinate with the WP-EFF and the JVM, to involve partner countries in the task team and to carefully manage expectations about what kind of evaluative findings could be delivered by 2008 and how these will add value to the Medium Term Monitoring Plan which will be developed by the JVM.

Action: Members and partners to submit written comments on the draft Options Paper by 14 April 2006. The consultant will update the Options Paper to reflect the discussion and written comments from members of the Evaluation Network and of the JVM and to sharpen the focus on what can be delivered by 2008 and how this will add value to the monitoring. A meeting of the Evaluation Network task team (Ireland, France, Spain, UK, Japan, World Bank, UNEG, Secretariat + open to all other members) will be organised alongside or integrated with the next meeting of the WP-EFF to consult and agree the way forward and next steps.

- ii) Sweden presented progress made since the last meeting [Room Document 6]. Summing up the discussion, the Chair noted the interest of a number of members to continue working and try to find a suitable way to move forward with a total ODA evaluation at the country level. A number of participants stressed the importance of a pragmatic approach and to engage with potential partners in order to make this a partnership exercise. It was suggested that the

methodological approach would benefit from being broad based and inter-disciplinary. A group of interested members would be formed to take it forward and the Chair noted the interest of Belgium, EC, France, Germany, Spain, Sweden, US, AsDB and UNDP.

Action: Sweden and interested members to take work forward.

- iii) Norway presented a note [Room Document 7] outlining the next steps for Developing Guidance for Evaluating Conflict Prevention and Peace Building Activities. The presentation stressed the strong support for this work from the members of the DAC Network on Conflict, Peace and Development Cooperation (CPDC). An Approach Paper is being commissioned which will be discussed in draft at a workshop in Oslo. Draft guidance will then be agreed and a number of CPDC members have expressed interest in pilot testing the draft guidance in 2007-08.

Action: As soon as the approach paper is finalised, Norway to invite members to the Oslo workshop.

Item V: EVALUATION METHODS AND NORMS

- i) The World Bank presented a note [Room Document 5] prepared in collaboration with the DAC Secretariat which provided an overview of some of the current approaches to impact evaluation. The DAC Chair outlined the background and rationale for more attention to impact evaluation.

During the discussion, it was stressed that there should be a focus on the needs and questions to be answered at the policy level and that a balanced methodological approach is important. Greater involvement of partner country decision makers and evaluators in the ongoing discussions was encouraged. Several members indicated that there is more impact evaluation work ongoing than sometimes thought and that knowledge management is part of the issue.

A number of members expressed interest in further exchange and work on impact evaluation and wished to see an informal group (a “network of networks” i.e. the DAC Network, the ECG and UNEG) to collaborate and discuss ways forward. The World Bank agreed to be the focal point. France (Afd), Japan (JBIC), Netherlands, Norway, US, AsDB, IADB and the DAC Secretariat indicated their willingness to participate in this informal group which will be open to all interested parties.

Issues suggested for the informal group to address included: an inventory of existing and ongoing impact studies, a review of methodological issues, an exchange of experiences, and a consideration of institutional issues including the roles of partner countries, civil society, and donors. It was suggested that a workshop be organised to share experiences and discuss possible plans for future impact studies. It was noted that the Evaluation Network had a track record in facilitating and promoting joint evaluations which could also be extended to include joint impact evaluations.

Action: The informal group should consider the issues above and in which order they should be addressed.

- ii) Denmark presented an overview of the background and current status of the peer assessment work. The presentation provided the background and highlighted the main findings of the recently completed UNDP Peer Assessment and the response by the UNDP Administrator. The ongoing UNICEF Peer Assessment was also briefly outlined. In summing up the

discussion, the Chair noted the wide spectrum of issues that had been discussed related to peer assessments of evaluations systems (purpose, clients, contents, methods, criteria) and that the discussion had also brought up broad issues concerning assessments of multilateral organisations performance. It was clear that many members were interested in this work and that it would be useful to have a specific meeting to discuss these issues further and reflect on the lessons so far.

Action: Denmark will host this meeting on 28 June 2006.

- iii) The Secretariat made a brief presentation of the DAC Evaluation Resource Centre (DEReC) which was developed and launched in 2005, at the request of members. Members welcomed the considerable progress made so far and stressed the importance of continuous attention and updating.

Action: The Secretariat will continue to update and expand DEReC. Members who have not already done so should ensure that a person in their unit is responsible for communicating new evaluation publications and products to the Secretariat. This will ensure that members' evaluation output is included in DEReC which is now a major international evaluation database. It will also enable the Secretariat to properly highlight new important products in the evaluation news section of the site for further dissemination.

Item VI: PARTNERSHIPS AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- i) The Chair of UNEG reported on current workstreams in UNEG and summed up the main outcomes of the joint UNEG/DAC Evaluation Network meeting held on 29th March 2006. Concretely, it had been agreed that UNEG and the Network should collaborate on the multilateral peer assessments and on the evaluation follow up to the Paris Declaration. Also stronger information sharing and exchange should take place on standards, country level assessments, and capacity development. The Chair of UNEG also invited DAC members to provide input to the ongoing discussion in the UN system on the role and place of evaluation and its relation to oversight.
- ii) The Chair of the ECG provided an overview of ongoing work in the Evaluation Co-operation Group of the MDBs and it was agreed that the ECG and the Evaluation Network should continue to collaborate.
- iii) The Secretariat presented plans for the "Third International Roundtable on Managing for Development Results" to be held in February 2007. It was indicated that the key theme would be capacity to manage for results and Network members were invited to assist and to develop proposals for the roundtable.
- iv) The Chair of the African Evaluation Association outlined the plans for the next African Evaluation Conference which will take place in Niger on 15-21 January 2007. Members noted the importance of building partner country capacity and the Chair suggested that members individually consider providing support to the event.
- v) Japan presented highlights from the "5th Workshop on ODA Evaluation in Tokyo" held in January 2006. It was noted that a private initiative is in progress for establishing an Asian Evaluation Association.

Action: A small informal group (Japan, France, Denmark and the Secretariat + open to all members) was formed to work on evaluation capacity development of partner countries. The first

step will be to systematically map ongoing initiatives and recent experiences and Japan volunteered to take a lead on this in collaboration with the informal group members, the UNEG and the ECG.

Item VII: INFORMAL EXCHANGE

During the informal exchange, the Secretariat stressed the usefulness of the peer review client survey undertaken in 2002 and indicated the wish to see a similar exercise take place again during the 2007-08 work programme. It was also noted that the DAC itself was to be subject to an evaluation in 2008.

At the informal session, presentations were made by JBIC on “The role of infrastructure in poverty alleviation” which was a program level impact evaluation conducted in cooperation with the World Bank, and based on infrastructure development projects in India. The UK presented plans for a joint evaluation of voice and accountability and the World Bank presented “Global Partnership Programs: Addressing the challenge of evaluation”. Denmark provided an update on the Tsunami Evaluation Coalition.

Action: UK will invite interested members to a meeting to discuss further an evaluation of voice and accountability. The World Bank will provide a first draft of suggested approaches/standards for evaluating global programmes.

**DOCUMENTS FOR THE FOURTH MEETING
OF THE DAC NETWORK ON DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION¹**

30 – 31 MARCH 2006

Document Title	Reference
Draft agenda for the fourth meeting of the DAC Network on Development Evaluation	DCD/DAC/EV/A(2006)1
Summary Record of the third meeting	DCD/DAC/EV/M(2005)1/PROV
Joint evaluation of General Budget Support: Update on progress	Room Document 1
Evaluation systems and use	DCD/DAC/EV(2006)1
Guidance on managing joint evaluations	DCD/DAC/EV(2006)3
Working paper: Joint evaluations: Recent experiences, lessons learned and options for the future	
Guidance on joint evaluations: Dissemination strategy	
Evaluation quality standards	DCD/DAC/EV(2006)2
Responses to the mini-questionnaire	Room Document 2
Evaluation Network follow up to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness: An options paper	Room Document 3
Annex 4 to the options paper	DCD/DAC/EFF(2005)20
Review of literature for the options paper	Room Document 3bis
Peer review of UNDP evaluation office: Key issues and lessons identified	Room Document 4
Peer review of UNDP evaluation office: Summary	Room Document 4 bis
UNDP response to the DAC Peer Review	
Peer Review: UNDP Evaluation Office	
Impact evaluation: An overview and some issues for discussion	Room Document 5
An update on the progress of the Evaluation Gap initiative, Center for Global Development	
Evaluating Total ODA Effectiveness: Process Update and Amended Proposal	Room Document 6
Conflict prevention and peace building	Room Document 7
Third international roundtable on managing for development results	Room Document 8
Chair's summary of the 5th ODA evaluation workshop	Room Document 9
AfREA conference, Niger, January 2007	Room Document 10
PWB 2007-2008: Prioritisation process and ranking exercise	DCD/DAC(2006)14/REV2
PWB 2007-2008: Priority list of work proposals for ranking	DCD/DAC(2006)15/REV2

1. All listed documents are available on the website for members of the DAC Network on Development Evaluation.

Documents for the lunchtime discussion

DFID proposal for joint evaluation of citizens voice and accountability

The Role of Infrastructure in Alleviating Poverty (JBIC)

Strengthening the World Bank's Role in Global Programs and Partnerships

IEGWB Guidelines for Global Program Reviews (World Bank)

Powerpoint presentations

Evaluation Network follow-up to the Paris Declaration: An options paper (D. Booth, ODI)

Evaluation Cooperation Group (B. Murray, ECG Chair)

Evaluation total ODA impact (S. Molund)

Global Partnership Programs: Addressing the challenge of evaluation (C. Gerrard, World Bank)

The Tsunami Evaluation Coalition (N. Dabelstein, Denmark)

A Selection of TEC Findings and Recommendations Relevant to GHD Principles (N. Dabelstein, Denmark)

**PARTICIPANTS LIST FOR DAC NETWORK ON DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION/
LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS POUR RÉSEAU DU CAD SUR L'ÉVALUATION DU
DÉVELOPPEMENT**

30 March 2006 - 31 March 2006

Président/Chair: Ms. Eva Lithman (Suède/Sweden)

Allemagne / Germany

Ms. Michaela ZINTL

*Head of Evaluation Unit
Min. for Econ. Cooperation and Development
Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and
Development (BMZ)*

Dr. Fred BRANDL

*Head of Evaluation Department
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
(GTZ)*

Mr. Klaus KRÄMER

*Evaluation Manager
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and
Development (BMZ)*

Australie / Australia

Ms. Irene DAVIES

*Director
Program Evaluation Section
Australian Agency for International Development
(AusAID)*

Autriche / Austria

Ms. Barbara TORGGLER

*Evaluation Unit
Austrian Development Agency - ADA*

Belgique / Belgium

**Mr. Dominique DE CROMBRUGGHE DE
LOORINGHE**

*Evaluateur Spécial
Evaluation Spéciale Coopération au Développement
SPF Affaires Etrangères*

Mrs. Anne-Marie LAMBERT

*Expert Qualification Spéciale
Monitoring - Evaluation Interne
Direction Générale de la Coopération au Développement*

Canada / Canada

Mr. Goberdhan SINGH

*Director of Evaluation, Evaluation Division, Performance
and Knowledge Management Branch
Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)*

Danemark / Denmark

Mr. Niels DABELSTEIN

*Head, Evaluation Department
Danish International Development Assistance
Danida, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark*

M. Henrik A. NIELSEN

*Senior Technical Adviser, Danida
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark*

Espagne / Spain

Ms. Belen SANZ LUQUE

*Team Coordinator
Division for Evaluation of Development Policy
Direction General for Planning and Evaluation of
Development Policy
Secretary of State for Development Cooperation*

M. Adan RUIZ VILLALBA

*Division for Evaluation of Development Policy
Direction General for Planning and Evaluation of
Development Policy
Secretary of State for Development Cooperation*

Etats-Unis / United States

Ms. Janet KERLEY

*Team leader, Structure to revitalize evaluations
PPC/DEI/ESPA
U.S. Agency for International Development*

Finlande / Finland

Mme. Aira PÄIVÖKE

*Director
Unit for Evaluation and Internal Auditing
Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

France / France

M. Daniel KAMELGARN

*Responsable d'Unité Évaluation des activités de
développement
Ministère de l'Économie, des Finances et de l'Industrie,
DGTPE*

Mme Aude DE AMORIM

*Chef du Bureau de l'évaluation
DGCID
Ministère des Affaires étrangères*

M. Jean-David NAUDET

*Responsable de la Mission Evaluation & Capitalisation
Agence Française de Développement*

Mme Marie-Hélène BOUVARD

*Conseiller auprès du Directeur
DGTPE
Ministère de l'Économie, des Finances et de l'Industrie*

M. Michael RULETA

*Adjoint au chef de bureau
DGCID
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères*

M. Laurent DENIS

*Secrétaire technique
F3E*

Irlande / Ireland

Mr. Finbar O'BRIEN Vice Chair, DAC Evaluation Network
Head of Evaluation and Audit
Evaluation and Audit
Development Cooperation Ireland

Mr. Patrick EMPEY Foreign Affairs
Embassy of Ireland

Mrs. Ann-Marie CALLEN Deputy Permanent Representative
Permanent Delegation

Italie / Italy

Mr. Antimo CAMPANILE Head of the Evaluation Unit
Directorate General for Development Cooperation
Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Guglielmo RIVA Evaluation Officer, Directorate-General for Development
Co-operation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Technical Evaluation Unit

M. Fabrizio AGO Evaluation Officer
Directorate-General for Development Co-operation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Fabio CASSESE First Counsellor
Permanent Delegation to OECD

Japon / Japan

Mr. Yukio YOSHII Senior Deputy Director
Aid Planning Division, Economic Cooperation Bureau
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Satoko MIWA Vice Chair, DAC Evaluation Network
Director
Planning and Coordination Department, Office of
Evaluation
Jica

Ms. Naoko UEDA Deputy Director, Chief for ODA Evaluation Unit,
Aid Planning Division, Economic Cooperation Bureau
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan

Mr. Asahiko KARASHIMA Deputy Director
Project Development Department
Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)

Ms. Masayo TERAOKA Third Secretary
Permanent Delegation

M. Eigo AZUKIZAWA Representative in Paris
Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)

Norvège / Norway

Mr. Asbjorn EIDHAMMER

*Director
Evaluation Department
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères*

Ms. Agnete ERIKSEN

*Senior Advisor
Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation -
NORAD*

Ms. Beate BULL

*Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation -
NORAD*

Nouvelle-Zélande / New Zealand

Ms. Penny HAWKINS

*Head of Evaluation
Strategy, Advisory, Evaluation Group
New Zealand Agency for International Development*

Pays-Bas / Netherlands

Dr. Henri e.j. JORRITSMA

*Acting Director
Policy and Operations Evaluation Department
MINISTERE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES*

Mr. Ted KLIEST

*Policy & Operations Evaluation Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

Portugal / Portugal

Ms. Manuela AFONSO

*Head of Evaluation Division
Directorate of Financial Planning and Programming
Portuguese Development Co-operation Institute*

Royaume-Uni / United Kingdom

Mr. Nick YORK

*Head
Evaluation Department
Department for International Development (DFID)*

Mr. Robin RUSSELL

*Deputy Head
Evaluation Dept
DFID*

Dr. Julia COMPTON

*Evaluation Department
Department for International Development, DFID*

Suède / Sweden

Dr. Stefan MOLUND

*Deputy Director
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
(SIDA)*

Suisse / Switzerland

M. Gerhard SIEGFRIED

*Head Evaluation and Controlling SDC
Direction du Développement et de la Coopération,
Département fédéral des affaires étrangères*

CE / EC

M. Jean-Louis CHOMEL

*Head, Evaluation Unit (AIDCO/03)
European Commission*

Banque africaine de développement / African Development Bank

Mr. Mohamed MANAI

*Chief Evaluation Officer, Operations Evaluation
Department
African Development Bank*

Mr. Douglas BARNETT

*Acting Director
Operations Evaluation Department
African Development Bank*

Banque asiatique de développement (ADB) / Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Mr. Bruce MURRAY

*Director General
Operations Evaluations Department
Asian Development Bank (ADB)*

Mr. R. Keith LEONARD

*Director, Operations Evaluation Division 1
Asian Development Bank (ADB)*

**Banque européenne de reconstruction et de développement (BERD) /
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)**

Mr. Fredrik KORFKER

*Chief Evaluator
Evaluation Department
EBRD*

Mr. Wolfgang GRUBER

*Senior Evaluation Manager,
Evaluation Department
EBRD*

**Banque interaméricaine de développement (BID) / Inter-American
Development Bank (IADB)**

Mr. Stephen A. QUICK

*Director, Office of Evaluation and Oversight
Inter-American Development Bank*

Mr. Inder RUPRAH

*Principal Economist
Office of Evaluation and Oversight*

Banque mondiale / World Bank

Mr. Vinod THOMAS	<i>Director-General Evaluations Independent Evaluation Group The World Bank</i>
Mr. Patrick GRASSO	<i>Operations Advisor Independent Evaluation Group The World Bank</i>
Mr. Howard WHITE	<i>Sr. Evaluation Officer IEGSG The World Bank</i>
Mr. Christopher GERRARD	<i>Sr. Evaluation Officer Global Programs Coordinator, IEGSG The World Bank</i>
Ms. Shampa SINHA	<i>Research Analyst Independent Evaluation Group The World Bank</i>

Fonds monétaire international (FMI) / International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Mr. Thomas BERNES	<i>Executive Director International Monetary Fund</i>
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Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement / U.N. Development Programme (UNDP)

Ms. Saraswathi MENON	<i>Director, Evaluation Office UNDP</i>
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OCDE / OECD

Mr. Richard MANNING	<i>DAC Chairman OECD</i>
Mr. Michael ROESKAU	<i>Director, DCD DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE OECD</i>
Mr. Hunter MCGILL	<i>Head of Division, DCD/PEER DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE</i>
Mr. Hans LUNDGREN	<i>Head of Section, Evaluation DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE OECD</i>
Mr. Sebastian LING	<i>Administrator, Evaluation DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE OECD</i>
Ms. Michelle WESTON	<i>DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE OECD</i>
Mlle. Nathalie BIENVENU	<i>DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE OECD</i>

Autre / Other

Ms. Oumoul BA TALL

Chair, Afrea

Dr. David BOOTH

*Coordinator
Poverty and Public Policy Group
Overseas Development Institute*