



Room Document No.5

DAC NETWORK ON GENDER EQUALITY

Fifth Meeting, OECD Headquarters, Paris, 27-29 June 2007

**Progress report on the implementation of the Network's
work programme**

Progress report on the implementation of the Network's work programme, 2007-08

1 This note:

- Outlines the expected output results for 2007-08
- Reports on progress to June 2007, and
- Briefly comments on the completion of the remaining outputs from the 2005-06 biennium.

Background and introduction

2 The *Draft programme of work and budget 2007-2008* (DCD/DAC(2006)30/REV1) describes the Network's work programme as follows:

2007 and 2008

Expected output results in priority order

Policy and good practice for accelerating gender equality and women's empowerment

Intermediate outputs

4.1. Update the DAC guidelines for gender equality and women's empowerment in development co-operation, drawing on lessons learned from gender equality work in the contexts of changing aid modalities, the partnership commitments of the Paris Declaration and the experience of implementing gender mainstreaming.

4.2 Share good practice and lessons learned on "scaling up" harmonised approaches to gender equality work and women's empowerment.

4.3 Actively engage with other DAC subsidiary bodies (including Peer Reviews), the wider OECD, development partners and multilateral agencies on the integration of gender equality and women's empowerment into development co-operation programmes.

4.4 Host the joint biennial meeting with the UN's Interagency Network on Women and Gender Equality on an issue of interest and relevance to both Networks.

3 During the July 2006 GENDERNET meeting, the work programme was grouped into three clusters of activity (see *Summary record of the fourth meeting of the DAC Network on Gender Equality, 5-7 July 2006* (DCD/DAC/GEN/M(2006)1PROV)):

- aid effectiveness and gender equality,
- revision of the *DAC guidelines on gender equality and women's empowerment in development co-operation*, and
- improving donor practice in gender equality and women's empowerment (including collaboration with other DAC subsidiary bodies, the wider OECD and development partners).

4 Task teams were formed on aid effectiveness and for the work on new directions or the revision of the *DAC guidelines*.

5 Where there is no task team, individual Bureau members and the Secretariat are responsible for liaising with interested members and with other DAC subsidiary bodies, including on:

- the application and use of the gender equality policy marker, a collaborative activity with the DAC Working Party on Statistics and the Statistics Division of DCD
- the two task teams of the DAC Network on Poverty Reduction (POVNET) on employment and labour markets and on social protection and empowerment, and
- the work on security system reform, conflict and fragile states in collaboration with the DAC Network on Conflict, Peace and Development Co-operation and the Fragile States Group (FSG).

Progress to June 2007

6 *Aid effectiveness, gender equality and women's empowerment*

Aid effectiveness task team members: Belgium, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands (Chair) and United Kingdom.

The following outputs were identified at the 2006 GENDERNET meeting:

- ***Workshop on development effectiveness in practice – applying the Paris Declaration to advancing gender equality, environmental sustainability and human rights, Dublin, 26-27 April 2007.***

The Workshop on *Development effectiveness in practice*, hosted by Irish Aid brought together approximately 120 participants representing DAC members, partner countries, civil society and UN agencies. It was jointly organised by the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness (WP-EFF), the DAC Networks on Environment and Development Co-operation (ENVIRONET), on Governance (GOVNET) and on Gender Equality (GENDERNET), with funding provided by the Governments of Ireland, Denmark and other DAC members.

The workshop was primarily based on case studies focussing on human rights, environmental sustainability and gender equality which demonstrated emerging good practice in the implementation of the overarching principles of the *Paris Declaration* – ownership, alignment, harmonisation, managing for results and mutual accountability.

The WP-EFF and the other subsidiary bodies plan to continue their collaboration in the lead-up to the 2008 Accra High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness.

- ***An Issues Brief on Gender equality and the implementation of the Paris Declaration, prepared by Cathy Gaynor (Room document 4)***

Cathy Gaynor has been engaged to prepare a draft paper on *Gender equality and the implementation of the Paris Declaration* which is a “users’ guide” version of the paper presented to the 2006 meeting of the Network – *Paris Declaration commitments and implications for gender equality and women’s empowerment* (DCD/DAC./GEN(2006)1). This initial draft is available for members’ comments and feedback. Comments are **due by Monday 23 July**.

- **An Issues Brief on innovative approaches to donor funding and support for gender equality and women's empowerment organisations and movements**

The terms of reference will be prepared and consultant(s) engaged after the *Workshop on scaling up for women's empowerment and rights from a donor perspective* which is the centrepiece of the June 2007 GENDERNET meeting. The workshop is expected to provide valuable information on emerging membership practice.

- **Research on the impact of new aid modalities, such as budget support, in selected partner countries to identify lessons learned and good practice at country level**

In close collaboration with Network members, the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) has completed phase 1 of aid effectiveness evidence gathering from South East Asia on strengthening the poverty impact of the *Paris Declaration*. DFID is currently calling for contractors for phase 2. The overall purpose of the research is to generate an evidence base, provide practical recommendations and build support among aid effectiveness stakeholders for increasing the focus on gender, rights and social exclusion to strengthen the impact of the *Paris Declaration* on poor men and women. This project will offer donor agencies (individually and through the respective DAC Networks), partner country governments and civil society organisations valuable opportunities for collaboration in gathering and communicating lessons learned from practice.

At the same time Finland, on behalf of the Nordic plus group, has worked with interested members on gender equality, poverty reduction and budget support.

- **Collaboration with colleagues on the WP-EFF and its joint ventures**

Members have been liaising closely with their agency colleagues to ensure that gender equality dimensions are appropriately integrated into the work of the WP-EFF and its joint ventures, with varying degrees of success.

Task team members worked to assist the organisers of the Third Roundtable on Managing for Development Results (Hanoi, 5-8 February 2007) to deliver on their undertaking that "the gender dimension in MfDR [would be] given particular attention". Belgium, with assistance from UNIFEM, prepared a poster for the marketplace and a case study for the *Source book on emerging good practice* about Morocco's work on gender responsive budgets.

7 In the short to medium term, the work of the Aid Effectiveness Task Team will contribute to the work of the task team which has been reviewing the *DAC guidelines on gender equality*. Efforts have been made to align the work of the two task teams and they are likely to converge over the coming months.

8 *New directions in gender equality and women's empowerment in development co-operation (previously known as the Task team on the revision of the DAC Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development Co-operation)*

Task team members: Australia, Denmark (Chair), Finland, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States.

- Over the past few months the task team has been sharing its thinking on the key policy messages which it will be preparing for consideration at the 2008 DAC Senior Level Meeting and for endorsement by the 2009 High Level Meeting. Examples of draft text have been drafted. The task

team meeting on 26 and 27 June 2007 will review the work done to date; assess whether the team is going in the right direction; assess whether the structure, focus and content is right; identify gaps; and, clarify and sharpen up the thinking and approach.

- The findings of this year's *Workshop on scaling up for women's empowerment and rights from a donor perspective* (June 2007) are also likely to provide valuable information for the task team's work.
- One important input to the team's deliberations was the *Consultation on gender equality and women's empowerment policies in development co-operation: lessons learned and innovative approaches for the future* (29 November 2006), hosted by the GENDERNET in partnership with the World Bank's Gender and Development Group. The Network coordinated an *Informal survey of DAC members' changes to their policies and practices* as a Room Document for the meeting.

9 The task team will continue to use "critical friends" and external commentators and reviewers to provide feedback as the work develops.

10 ***Donor practice in development co-operation (including collaboration with other DAC subsidiary bodies, the wider OECD and development partners)***

- **The application and use of the gender equality policy marker, a collaborative activity with the DAC Working Party on Statistics and with DCD/STAT**

Interested members: Austria, Germany, Switzerland and the World Bank.

Members of both the GENDERNET and the Working Party on Statistics are interested in how to apply the gender equality policy marker to programmatic forms of aid. Some members are also interested in "good practice" in using the marker as a planning, monitoring, evaluation and accountability tool within agencies.

The Statistics Division of the Development Co-operation Directorate has worked with the GENDERNET Secretariat to generate *Aid in support of gender equality and women's empowerment – statistics based on DAC members' reporting on the Gender Equality Marker, 2004-2005*, which provides information about individual DAC members. To support this, the Statistics Division has also produced pie-charts illustrating sector-specific expenditure which is focused on gender equality.

- **The two task teams of the DAC Network on Poverty Reduction (POVNET) on employment and labour markets and on social protection and empowerment**

Interested members: The Chair is an ex-officio member of the POVNET. The Secretariat and Chair will liaise with interested members.

Wherever possible, the GENDERNET plays an active role in the POVNET. For the 2007-08 biennium the POVNET has formed two task teams – one on employment and labour markets and the other on social protection and empowerment. Some members of each team are keenly interested in ensuring that their work captures gender dimensions. So far during this biennium, the Secretariat has represented the GENDERNET at POVNET and its task team meetings. Denmark is leading the preparation of a possible good practice paper on *women and youth employment*. The two Networks plan to liaise closely with a view to bringing together our respective findings on *empowerment* as a topic for discussion at the 2009 DAC High Level Meeting where both Networks will be presenting outputs for HLM endorsement.

- **The work on security system reform, conflict and fragile states in collaboration with the DAC Network on Conflict, Peace and Development Co-operation and the Fragile States Group (FSG).**

Interested members: Netherlands and the United States.

In April 2007 the DAC HLM approved the *OECD/DAC handbook on security system reform - supporting security and justice*, prepared by CPDC. The GENDERNET hired a consultant to support the CPDC's efforts to ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment was appropriately integrated into the *Handbook*.

For the 2007-08 biennium the CPDC is developing operational guidance on armed violence reduction programming. CPDC would welcome a similar approach to this work as it develops.

- **Africa Partnership Forum (APF)**

Over the past six months the Secretariat of the GENDERNET, Germany and Denmark have been contributing to the work of the Africa Partnership Forum. The APF is serviced by a Division of the OECD. One of the key focus areas for the APF is “delivering for women and girls”.

- **UN Inter-agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE)**

Every two years the DAC GENDERNET and the UN's IANWGE hold a workshop on a topic of mutual interest and relevance. The last workshop – *Aid modalities and the promotion of gender equality* – was hosted by IANWGE in Nairobi in January 2006. The June 2007 GENDERNET meeting includes an opportunity for an initial discussion on possible topics for the next joint workshop.

- **Liaison with other agencies**

The Network continues to work closely with other agencies such as the World Bank, the United Nations' entities and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

11 Note on the completion of the remaining outputs from the 2005-06 work programme

- ***Gender equality and aid delivery – what has changed in development co-operation agencies since 1999?***

The report of the survey of DAC members which was undertaken in early 2006 has now been published. Copies are available to members.

- ***Women's empowerment and HIV prevention – donor experience***

An unedited draft report is available for members' consideration. This will professionally edited and published within the next few months.