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

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## **DAC Network on Development Evaluation**

### **DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIFTH MEETING**

**16 - 17 November 2006**

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**English - Or. English**

## **DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE DAC EVALUATION NETWORK**

### **Item I: OPENING SESSION**

- i) The Chair (Eva Lithman, Sweden) opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. A tour de table was made to give first-time participants an opportunity to introduce themselves.
- ii) The Summary Record of the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting [DCD/DAC/EV/M(2006)1] was approved.
- iii) The Draft Agenda [DCD/DAC/EV/A(2006)2] was adopted.
- iv) Finbar O'Brien (Ireland) was elected as Chair of the DAC Evaluation Network. Dominique de Crombrugghe (Belgium) and Belen Sanz Luque (Spain) were elected as Vice-Chairs. It was agreed that the new Bureau would take up responsibilities as from the end of the fifth meeting of the DAC Evaluation Network.

### **Item II: Presentation of the Draft Work Programme 2007/08**

1. The Secretariat presented the draft Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) for 2007-08. The draft PWB builds on the 2006 mini-survey of members' priorities and on the DAC prioritisation exercise, within which Joint Evaluations of Aid Effectiveness were identified as 6<sup>th</sup> highest priority for the DAC and Evaluation Standards and Norms as 14<sup>th</sup> highest priority. The overall shape and content of the draft work programme was agreed by members and it was also suggested that there should be a stronger focus on impact evaluations, especially in view of the joint World Bank and Evaluation Network workshop on this issue held on 15 November 2006.

2. The Secretariat also updated members on the DAC review of its subsidiary bodies. The DAC has recommended that the Network on Conflict, Peace and Development Cooperation and the Fragile States Group should enhance synergies from January 2007 and merge in January 2009. While no significant changes are envisaged with regards the position of the Evaluation Network, all subsidiary bodies will need to review and update their mandates by March 2007. The DAC Chair will also issue a letter outlining how the DAC perceives its relations with subsidiary bodies and suggesting new modalities to improve information sharing and synergies.

**Action:** The Chair (Eva Lithman) encouraged all members to keep their respective DAC delegates informed about the work of the Network.

### **Item III: (a) Joint Evaluations of Aid Effectiveness**

- i) Joint Evaluation Follow up to the Paris Declaration

3. Denmark updated on ongoing consultations with partner countries and on next steps for the evaluation follow up to the Paris Declaration (Room Document 1). Members expressed strong appreciation for the work undertaken so far and also support for the proposed next steps. A number of countries volunteered to provide funding and to participate in the Reference/Advisory Group, including the UK, Netherlands, Japan, Spain, Belgium, Finland, France, Sweden, Germany and UNEG. Members stressed the

importance of linking with ongoing evaluation processes such as the Harmonisation in Practice evaluation in Zambia, of members volunteering for donor evaluations and of ensuring that the process also looks beyond 2008 and leads to summative evaluations on the effects of the Declaration. The Chair of the Joint Venture on Monitoring the Paris Declaration (JV-MPD) updated on the strong support within the JV-MPD, especially among its partner country members, for the evaluation and encouraged a continued close collaboration to ensure synergies with the soon to be developed Medium Term Monitoring Plan.

4. Japan also expressed support for the evaluation process and updated members on the Asia Regional Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Manila, 2006) at which partner countries had expressed strong support for an evaluation of the Paris Declaration.

**Action:** A small group of invited experts will work on the evaluation framework in December and circulate a first draft to the Reference/Advisory Group. The Reference/Advisory Group will meet in early 2007. Network members and partner countries are encouraged to volunteer for evaluation studies.

ii) Joint Evaluation of Total ODA at the Country Level

5. Sweden presented progress made since the last meeting and also the outcomes of a task group meeting in Stockholm on 25 October 2006 [Room Document 2]. The current proposal is to move forward with two coordinated strands; a joint evaluation in Bangladesh connected to the JAS and undertaken by the ADB, World Bank, ADB and Japan and a parallel total ODA evaluation in an African country. Members stressed that the workstream should not consider initiating evaluation work in Zambia where a joint harmonisation evaluation is to commence shortly, that total ODA evaluations should replace and not duplicate donor's individual evaluations, and that partner country participation and ownership of the process will be essential to its success in the two countries.

**Action:** Sweden and the task team to take forward consultations with a partner country in Africa and the ADB to take forward consultations with Bangladesh.

iii) Follow up to the Joint Evaluation of general Budget Support

6. The UK presented a proposal for monitoring of follow-up to the Evaluation of General Budget Support [Room Document 3]. Members supported the approach suggested (monitoring of progress against members' Management Responses) and thanked the UK for leading this work.

**Action:** DAC Members management responses will be collated by DFID. A preliminary monitoring report will be prepared in 2007 and a follow-up report in 2008. The UK will also invite members to a workshop on the draft Note on Approaches and Methods.

### Item III: (b) Promoting and Coordinating Joint Evaluations

i) Harmonisation of Evaluation Practice

7. The Chair presented a discussion note on alignment, harmonisation and donor evaluation practice [Room Document 4]. Members stressed that it is important to acknowledge the progress that has been made to date on harmonising evaluation practice as well as the progress yet to be made.

**Action:** Sweden to consult with other interested members and to prepare an issues note, for consideration at the next Evaluation Network meeting, setting out next steps for increasing harmonisation and alignment of evaluation practice and exploring options for agreeing harmonisation targets.

- ii) Sharing evaluation work plans and facilitating upstream planning

8. The Secretariat presented a proposal [Room Document 12] on how to use the Network website to share evaluation plans and to coordinate ideas for joint evaluation ideas.

**Action:** Secretariat to develop the website as proposed. It was also suggested that, when developing new work programmes, agencies should send an early draft directly to all other members of the Network.

- iii) Evaluation Capacity Development

9. Japan presented the findings of the 2006 member survey on evaluation capacity development. Members expressed appreciation for the work undertaken on the survey and highlighted that evaluation capacity building should work on a demand-driven rather than a supply-driven basis.

**Action:** Members interested in joining the informal task team to contact the Secretariat by 29 December 2006. The task team should consider options for organising a workshop on evaluation capacity development in 2007-08.

#### **Item IV: Evaluation Standards and Norms**

- i) Developing Guidance on Evaluating Conflict Prevention and Peace Building (CPPB)

10. Norway presented progress on the workstream and plans for a workshop in Oslo on 30 November and 1 December. Members welcomed the progress made over recent months and ADB and the UK suggested Sri Lanka as a possible country for pilot testing of the Guidance.

**Action:** Members were encouraged to participate in the Oslo workshop which will determine the way forward and next steps for this workstream.

- ii) Evaluating Global and Regional Partnership Programmes (GRPPs)

11. The World Bank presented progress made towards developing Guidance for Evaluating GRPPs. Members welcomed progress and agreed the proposed next steps.

**Action:** The Secretariat will make the guidance document publicly available as a working document on the Network website. The World Bank will also develop a more concise and user-friendly version of the document which will highlight the specificities of evaluating GRPPs. In the longer-term, the World Bank will develop a report on evolving experiences and lessons learnt from evaluations undertaken of GRPPs.

- iii) Evaluation Quality Standards – follow up

12. The Secretariat introduced a discussion on the draft evaluation quality standards which had been approved at the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the DAC Evaluation Network for a test phase for three years. A number of members commented that they are already using the standards for joint evaluations, to guide consultants and to quality assure evaluation products and processes.

**Action:** A substantive review of the use of the standards will be undertaken as part of the 2007-08 DAC Evaluation Network programme of work.

## iv) Impact Evaluation

13. The World Bank provided a summary of the main outcomes of the impact evaluation workshop held on 15 November with the 'Network of Networks' (DAC Evaluation Network, ECG and UNEG). Members expressed their appreciation for the workshop and strongly endorsed further work. The suggestion by the Network of Networks' workshop to move forward with the formation of a task team facilitated by the World Bank was endorsed. It was noted that developing pragmatic guidance would be important. Consideration should also be given to explore joint impact studies and/or co-ordinated studies so as to maximise the learning potential. Contacts will also need to be made with other actors, including CGD, to promote complementarity between various initiatives. It was noted that the Network draft work programme should reflect the outcome of the recent workshop.

**Action:** World Bank to convene initial meeting of Network of Networks task team. Secretariat to update draft programme of work. The Chair, in collaboration with the chairs of UNEG and ECG, to contact CGD.

## v) Performance Assessment of Multilateral Institutions

14. The Secretariat briefed members on the current work within the framework of the OECD Global Forum on Development which is focusing on development finance and aid architecture. In this context, an informal expert's workshop will be hosted by Germany in January 2007 on the topic of "Performance and Coherence in Multilateral Development Finance". The workshop will include a session on multilateral performance - what to evaluate and how to do it. There are currently a number of assessment initiatives and frameworks (e.g. MOPAN, MEFF etc) and this would be one subject of discussion which evaluators may have views on. During the discussion it was noted that performance assessment of an agency was different from evaluation but that there was also a relation between these.

## vi) Multilateral Evaluation Systems

15. Denmark outlined the origin and background of the initiative and the UNEG task team representative underlined the importance of peer reviews among evaluators. The IADB (as Chair of ECG) informed members about the steps taken so far to develop a peer review mechanism among the MDBs.

16. Summing up the discussion, the Chair noted the useful role that previous peer reviews of evaluation functions has had for the UN organisations involved. The mechanism, however, did not address the development effectiveness question of the agencies. The importance of rigour of methodology was stressed as well as the need for early involvement of the Boards of the reviewed organisation. There was no agreement on the formation of a more formal and permanent task team but it was suggested that the joint UNEG-Evaluation Network informal task team should continue to work, with members' joining on a voluntary basis, on the methodology and act as a facilitator for future peer reviews. The informal task team should regularly inform and update the Evaluation Network.

**Item V. Evaluation Partnerships and Forthcoming Events**

## i) IDEAS Conference

17. The President of IDEAS presented the objectives and topics for the joint IDEAS-RELAC conference which will be held in Bogota, Colombia on 1-5 May 2007. The key objectives are to foster a global dialogue, to expand ownership in evaluation and to discuss innovate methods of evaluation especially to ensure usability.

**Action:** Members interested in supporting and helping fund the event should contact IDEAS.

ii) Third Roundtable on Results

18. The Secretariat drew members attention to the agenda of the forthcoming Roundtable contained in DCD/DAC(2006)57, which will be hosted by Vietnam on 5-8 February 2007. It was noted that the results of the work on evaluation capacity development by the Network would be relevant in this context.

**Action:** Members are encouraged to participate as part of their delegation going to the Roundtable.

iii) Workshop on Evaluating Development Communication

19. The Development Centre outlined plans for a forthcoming workshop on “Evaluating Public Awareness and Development Education” Berlin, March 2007.

**Action:** An invitation will be issued shortly by the Development Centre and members are encouraged to participate in the workshop.

**Item VI. Work modalities and Budget**

20. The Secretariat noted that the budget gap indicated in DCD/DAC(2006)38/REV1 would be largely filled by the financial contributions announced by members during the preceding discussions. The Secretariat thanked members for their willingness to financially support the Network.

21. On work modalities, it was noted that many members had active roles in various work streams and were clearly engaged in joint work while there seemed to be room for others to become more active. It was suggested that the new Bureau consider this issue and how to best involve work stream leaders in enlarged Bureau deliberations. It was further suggested that the reflection on possible expansion of participants should continue, including important new donors and foundations.

**Action:** Members to liaise with their respective DAC delegates to finalise their contributions to the DAC Programme of Work 2007-08, indicating the support allocated to the Evaluation Network, as soon as possible.

**Item VI. Other business**

22. Members expressed their strong appreciation for the important contributions to joint work made by Eva Lithman and Satoko Miwa as Chair and Vice-chair of the Network. Special thanks were also expressed to Niels Dabelstein as this was his last meeting as evaluation head of Danida.

23. The Secretariat informed members of the upcoming Afrea (African evaluation association) Conference which will take place in Niamey, Niger on 15-21 January 2007, in line with the plans presented by the Chair of Afrea at the Fourth Network meeting.

24. Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 27-28 June 2007.

**Item VIII. Informal discussion and exchange**

25. During the informal lunch discussion, presentations were made on: i) Harmonising Ex-Ante Poverty Impact Assessments, by the POVNET task team leader on impact assessments; ii) Evaluation highlights from the joint EC-France evaluation in Mali; iii) Report on the nexus between infrastructure and environment, by the Evaluation Co-operation Group; and iv) Evaluation lessons from the Tsunami evaluation by Denmark. Norway presented a draft paper on a proposed evaluation of innovative capacity development in low income African countries.

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