



ROOM DOCUMENT

Agenda Item VII, iv

BUDGET SUPPORT EVALUATION

This document has been prepared by the EC for information at the 9th meeting of the DAC Network on Development Evaluation, 15-16 June 2009.

9th meeting

15 - 16 June 2009

Budget Support Evaluation

In June 2008, a Steering Group was called and met to discuss the Issue Paper on the methodology for evaluating Budget Support (BS) proposed by the European Commission. The Steering Group set up a Core Group to discuss and improve the document.

The **Core Group** met several times between September 2008 and March 2009 and reported to the Steering Group on 21.4.2009 where they made proposals to the Steering Group as regards:

- *draft Terms of Reference (ToR)* (meant for BS evaluation in general and the specificities concerning the test will be included in the amendment to the ToR);
- *countries selected* for the test of BS evaluation;
- *institutional arrangements* for the test as well as for BS evaluation in general.

The Core Group has drafted and finalised background documents (in addition to the ToR) to give methodological guidelines and tools for the test of the BS evaluation in selected countries:

- *Issue Paper*;
- *Methodological details (which explain the Issue Paper)*;
- *Tools for step 2*.

The **Steering Group** agreed on:

- *the ToR* completed with the comments raised during the meeting;
- *selection of countries* where the test will take place:
 - *Zambia* where the lead will be taken by Netherlands and Germany and
 - *Mali* where the lead will be taken by EC

(During the meeting, the "Note to the partner country" which will be sent following the formal discussions with the partner country, was discussed and agreed on as well.);

- the lead donors (EC for Mali; Germany & Netherlands for Zambia) who are responsible for hiring consultants and launching the test in relevant partner countries;
- *concerning the institutional arrangements*, there were many ideas raised during the meeting based mainly on different previous experiences. The institutional set-up for the test is now clear but further discussions as regards institutional arrangements for BS evaluation in general will continue.