

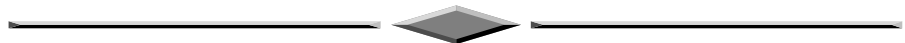


ROOM DOCUMENT 9

DAC Network on Development Evaluation

DAC Evaluation Quality Standards: Entering the Next Phase

This paper has been prepared by the Secretariat for consideration at the 6th meeting of the DAC Network on Development Evaluation, 27 – 28 June 2007.



6th meeting
27 – 28 June 2007

DAC Evaluation Quality Standards: Entering the Next Phase Discussion Paper for the Sixth Meeting of the DAC Evaluation Network

I. BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

The Evaluation Network has approved, for test use, “DAC Evaluation Quality Standards” (EQS) that identify the key pillars needed for a quality evaluation process and product. The Standards are a guide to good practice and aim to improve the quality of development intervention evaluations. They are intended to contribute to a more harmonised approach to evaluation in line with the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005).

The DAC Evaluation Quality Standards aim to:

- provide standards for the process (conduct) and products (outputs) of evaluations;
- facilitate the comparison of evaluations across countries (meta-evaluation);
- facilitate partnerships and collaboration on joint evaluations;
- better enable member countries to make use of each others’ evaluation findings and reports (including good practice and lessons learned); and
- streamline evaluation efforts.

Members of the Evaluation Network approved the Draft Evaluation Quality Standards in March 2006 for a test phase application of three years [Link to: [Trilingual Draft Standards](#)]. The Standards were submitted to the DAC for informational purposes [DCD/DAC(2006)29]. Members and the Secretariat have undertaken dissemination of the English and French versions, which are now in use. The Spanish Guidance recently became available and is also being distributed for testing. Further active dissemination for testing is needed.

Members and other interested parties’ experiences with the Draft Standards will need to be reviewed. Feedback will be incorporated into a revised, final version of DAC Evaluation Quality Standards.

II. DISCUSSION OBJECTIVES

The goals of the discussion are to reach agreement amongst Network members on key issues and activate first steps towards a systematic feedback process and finalization of the Standards. The primary outputs of this meeting will be further decisions on dissemination and use of the Draft Standards; generation of some initial feedback from Members; and clarity on next steps.

III. ISSUES & NEXT STEPS

The discussion should build agreement on questions including, but not limited to:

- **Initial Questionnaire:** A draft “Questionnaire for Initial Feedback” has been attached for member discussion. It is suggested that members complete the questionnaire by 12 July 2007. The results will be analysed and a synthesis report prepared. This feedback, together with the contributions of other interested parties, could feed into preparation for a workshop.

- **Workshop:** A workshop has been suggested to discuss preliminary findings and work towards improvement and finalisation of the Standards. Where / when would a workshop take place? What other issues need to be discussed?
- **Leadership:** The Secretariat will work with interested members to guide the review phase and finalisation of the EQS. Which members are interested in participating?
- **Partner / Stakeholder Involvement:** The Draft Standards may be used and tested in a variety of contexts both within and beyond the Evaluation Network. How can various partners be involved in the test phase and finalisation of the EQS? How will the Network ensure an effective system for feedback from diverse parties and production of Standards that will be useful to DAC members?