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DAC Network on Development Evaluation

Programme of Work 2007-2008 - Update

DAC Evaluation Network Meeting 27-28 June 2007

The attached document is submitted for information at the meeting of the DAC Network on Development Evaluation on 27-28 June 2007.

Hans Lundgren: Tel: +33 1 45 24 90 59; Fax: +33 1 44 30 61 47; Email: Hans.Lundgren@oecd.org

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DAC EVALUATION NETWORK

PROGRAMME OF WORK 2007-08 - UPDATE

I. Background

1. The Network on Development Evaluation is a subsidiary body of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC). Its purpose is to increase the effectiveness of international development programmes by supporting robust, informed and independent evaluation.
2. The programme of work is informed by the results of the DAC prioritisation exercise and by the findings of the 2005/06 Evaluation Network Mini Survey. The prioritisation exercise identified evaluation as a high priority for the DAC. Out of 38 proposed priority areas, work on Joint Evaluations of the Effectiveness of Aid was ranked 6th highest priority for the DAC and work on Evaluation Standards and Norms was ranked 16th highest priority [DAC/DAC(2006)30/REV1]. The Mini Survey consulted Evaluation Network members on collective needs, challenges and priorities and the findings were reported and discussed at the March 2006 network meeting [Room Document 2].
3. The draft programme of work of the Evaluation Network for 2007-08 was submitted for consideration at the fifth meeting of the Network held in November 2006. This is an update incorporating progress made so far.

II. Membership

4. The Network is a unique body, bringing together 30 bilateral donors and multilateral development agencies: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, UNDP, and the IMF.
5. The 'Bureau' of the Evaluation Network is structured with a Chair (Ireland) and two vice-chairs (Belgium and Spain) supported by the Secretariat. For this next biennium, it is proposed to encourage members leading individual workstreams to support the work of the Bureau by participating in the Bureau, as and when appropriate. It is also proposed to invite partner countries and civil society including private foundations to participate more actively in the work of the Evaluation Network as members of the Task Teams and Steering Groups for individual work streams.

III Work clusters

1. *Joint Evaluations of the Effectiveness of Aid*

1.1 *Follow-up to the Joint Evaluation of General Budget Support (GBS).* The Evaluation Network will collate members' management responses to the GBS evaluation and provide a report on progress against the recommendations and commitments by December 2008.

1.2 *Evaluation Follow-up to the Paris Declaration.* Alongside its strong focus on monitoring, the Paris Declaration also highlights the importance of exploring an independent cross-country evaluation process. The Declaration states that this process should provide a more comprehensive understanding of how increased aid effectiveness contributes to meeting development objectives and that it should be applied without imposing additional burdens on partners. The Evaluation Network has agreed with the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness to take this work forward. A Reference Group has been created to coordinate the evaluation and is composed of participating members and partner countries as well as civil society representatives. The first phase of the evaluation is focused on learning from the implementation of the Declaration and will report on results to the High Level Forum in Accra in September 2008 [See DAC Evaluation Website for further details].

1.3 *Evaluation of Total ODA at the Country Level.* The Evaluation Network will consult with partner countries on options for an evaluation of total ODA at the country level and move forward to implementation in one or two countries. Based on earlier methodological work, a proposal for a joint evaluation of country assistance to Bangladesh is being developed.

1.4 *Facilitating and Coordinating Joint Evaluations.* The Evaluation Network will continue to expand its website to share evaluation plans and to include an online facility for members to inform each other on upcoming plans for joint evaluations. All meetings of the Evaluation Network will include an agenda item during which members can propose and discuss suggested joint evaluations.

1.5 *Evaluation Capacity Development (ECD).* The capacity of partner countries to actively engage in joint work and to take forward the evaluation challenges inherent in the Paris Declaration underscores the need for more attention to ECD both collectively and individually. The Secretariat and interested members of the Network will build on the fact finding survey of members ECD activities and integrate practical experience from partner countries and evaluation associations in developing options for action and support.

2. *DAC Evaluation Standards and Norms*

2.1 *Test Phase of DAC Evaluation Standards.* The draft standards were approved by the members of the Evaluation Network in March 2006 for a test phase application of three years. Experience with the use of the standards by members and interested partners will inform a review in 2007-08 and the final agreement of the standards. In addition to English and French texts, a Spanish version was made available to the sixth meeting of the Network in June 2007.

2.2 *Evaluating Multilateral Agencies' Evaluation Systems.* A number of volunteer assessments of multilateral agencies' evaluation systems will be carried out, building on pilot reviews with UNDP and UNICEF in 2006. Close co-ordination with UNEG and ECG will be necessary. The professional peer reviews of evaluation functions of UN organisations will be co-ordinated by a task team led by a member of the DAC Evaluation Network and a member of the UNEG.

2.3 *Developing Guidance for Evaluating Conflict Prevention and Peace Building Activities.* The Network has agreed to collaborate with the DAC Network on Conflict, Peace and Development Co-operation (CPDC) to develop guidance for evaluating CPPB activities. Draft guidance will be agreed in 2007 and the approach paper for developing the guidance will be published in the autumn of 2007. Field

testing of the guidance will begin in 2007, coordinated by the task team led by Norway (from the Evaluation Network) and Switzerland (from the CPDC Network).

2.4 *Assessing Members' Evaluation Systems.* The working tool for assessing members' evaluation systems will be available for use in 10 DAC Peer Reviews during the biennium. It is also an instrument for use in internal and external reviews of evaluation functions.

2.5 *Methodologies for Impact Evaluations.* The Evaluation Network will work with UNEG and ECG in the NONIE (Networks of Networks Impact Evaluation task team) to review current methodologies, develop guidance for impact evaluations, create a platform for sharing experiences and develop a programme of joint impact evaluations. At the first meeting of NONIE held in May 2007, it was agreed that DFID will chair the NONIE and the World Bank will act as the task team manager.

2.6 *Developing guidance for evaluating global and regional partnership programmes.* Based on the outcome of the joint World Bank IEG/DAC Evaluation Network workshop held in September 2006, the IEG and the Network published in early 2007 the "Sourcebook for Evaluating Global and Regional Partnership Programs". Follow up work to acquire further insights from new evaluative work and from the use of the sourcebook will be undertaken, led by the World Bank.

2.7 *The DAC Evaluation Resource Centre (DEReC)* will be further expanded to make it a central platform for development evaluation knowledge.

IV. Suggestions for further joint work related to the mandate of the Network

6. Members have indicated their interest in using the Network and its meetings as a platform for sharing experiences and developing new joint initiatives that may be conducted by interested groups of members. It is important to provide a platform for exchange and joint new work while keeping in mind the need for implementing the agreed joint work programme which is closely related to DAC members' priorities as expressed in the work programme of the Network. To facilitate discussions on new joint initiatives, the Secretariat will compile Members' evaluation plans and make them available on the Network's website and for discussion at meetings.

V. Budget and VC needs

7. The work streams of the Network are financed by voluntary contributions by Members and by OECD Part 1 resources (which consists of one staff post, general administrative support, translation and interpretation, and conference facilities). The voluntary contribution needs (indicated in the overall budget of the DAC Programme of Work and Budget and in the draft work programme submitted to the fifth meeting DCD/DAC/EV(2006)4), have now been fully met in terms of pledges, although the funds for some pledges have not yet been made available. The following countries have pledged direct financial support to the Evaluation Network's work programme for 2007-08: Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

8. Members are invited to take an active part in the co-ordination process in capitals in following up on the pledges and in any further re-adjustments that may prove necessary as the work programme implementation evolves. The Secretariat will provide substantive and financial reporting to members in line with the agreements by the DAC on reporting on all voluntary contributions.