



ROOM DOCUMENT 1/B

**Applying the DAC Draft Guidance on Evaluating
Conflict Prevention and Peace Building Activities
- Joint Evaluation in the DRC -**

This report has been submitted by Belgium for information at the 7th meeting of the DAC Network on Development Evaluation, 20 – 21 February 2008.

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- Joint Evaluation in the DRC -

At their joint meeting in Bern on 21-22 January 2008, the DAC Network on Conflict, Peace and Development Co-operation and the DAC Network on Development Evaluation discussed the Guidance on Evaluating Conflict Prevention and Peace Building Activities.

The document presented is a working document which requires testing in the field. The participants agreed on the principle to test the guidance on forthcoming evaluations.

Conflict Prevention and Peace Building meet a growing interest of the donor community which begins to recognize the specificity of working in and on conflict. So far only limited evaluation work has been done in this area.

The DRC was mentioned as a possible host for an evaluation on CPPB and testing of the draft guidance.

The DRC slowly emerges from a total state collapse. An uninterrupted crisis or plain war situation in the East of the country since 1994, spreading all over the place at least in 1998 and 2002 created a vast human disaster at the cost of innumerable lives. Insecurity, very difficult communications, with some areas virtually cut off of the rest of the country makes living a hardship for many.

In reaction to such desperate situation, donors have opened all aid supply lines simultaneously: extensive international support to the transition towards democratic rule and the electoral process; debt cancellation under the HIPC-Initiative ; development aid through i.a. infrastructure works, institutional development, community support; humanitarian assistance and eventually conflict prevention and peace building initiatives. The latter include interventions notably in the field of prevention, governance, justice, democratization and children's rights, communication and conflict transformation processes.

Belgium offered to coordinate a joint evaluation on CPPB in the DRC, making use of the guidance. Apart from the thematic content, the evaluation would include an assessment of the usefulness of the guidance.

The evaluation process, including preliminary contacts with the Congolese authorities and interested donors, both bilateral and multilateral could start in the first half of 2008, aiming at yielding results by mid-2009.

At the meeting, the UK, Germany, the Netherlands expressed interest to be part to the exercise.

This communication is an invitation to other interested parties to join the evaluation as an active or a silent partner.