

DAC-EPOC MEETING AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL: OUTCOMES AND IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation is now underway of the decisions taken by Environment and Development Ministers at their joint meeting earlier this year. Ministers identified key issues at the interface of the Environment and Development Co-operation policy domains, and laid the basis for a strategic alliance between the two communities.

They endorsed a *Framework for Common Action Around Shared Goals*, presenting a “menu” of themes to be addressed by various actors such as Governments, Development Co-operation Agencies, the OECD Secretariat, the private sector and NGOs. Ministers also approved a *Declaration on Integrating Climate Change Adaptation into Development Co-operation*, calling upon the OECD to pursue analytical work to support the integration of climate change into development co-operation activities.

The next step is now to select the themes which should be pursued as a priority, and how. This includes first of all identifying members willing to take a leading role in member-led teams. Supported by the OECD Secretariat, these teams will answer to DAC/ENVIRONET and to the Working Party on Global Structural Policies (WPSGP) of the Environment Policy Committee. Based on comments received from OECD members to date, tentative focus for future work is in four areas:

1. The integration of development and environment at the level of developing countries’ policies and plans. This would address both local and global-level environmental issues.
2. Climate Change Adaptation.
3. Capacity Development for environmental policy and enforcement of legislation.
4. Strengthening financial planning for investment in water infrastructure.

A “Steering Group” will also be established to maintain overall co-ordination between the OECD member-led activities, comprising country representatives as well as the Chairs of ENVIRONET, WPGSP and other relevant OECD bodies.

The decisions taken at the Ministerial Meeting have already spurred a number of joint initiatives, including:

- A Workshop on Biodiversity and Development co-operation (organised by IUCN in September 2006).
- A Workshop on integrating environment into development strategies in Africa (to be organised by the World Bank and UNEP with support from the OECD in 2007) ,
- Workshops on Climate change adaptation to be organised by Denmark, the World Bank and the OECD and on Disaster Risk Management, to be organised by the World Bank, several bilateral Aid Agencies, the UNISDR and the OECD (respectively in September and October 2006).
- The next meeting of the Global Forum on Sustainable Development, in November 2006, which will review experience with private sector participation in the water sector.