



**DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE  
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE**

**Working Party on Aid Effectiveness and Donor Practices**

**DRAFT SUMMARY OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE JOINT VENTURE ON  
PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

**Held in Paris on 8-9 July 2004**

*This document is submitted FOR APPROVAL at the fourth meeting of the Joint Venture on Public Financial Management to be held in November 2004.*

*It is proposed that this document, once approved, be declassified and made available on the external website.*

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DAC WORKING PARTY ON AID EFFECTIVENESS AND DONOR PRACTICES

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JOINT VENTURE ON PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

**HELD IN PARIS ON 8-9 JULY 2004**

**I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA & SUMMARY RECORD**

1. The Chair (Paul Bermingham) welcomed participants to the third meeting of the Joint Venture on Public Financial Management (PFM). Members adopted the agenda of the current meeting and the summary of the last meeting.

**II. MONITORING COMMITMENTS MADE AT ROME**

2. The OECD Secretariat (Simon Mizrahi) updated members on progress made on the DAC Survey in Harmonisation & Alignment (Room Document 1). Members welcomed the Survey while noting the importance of it as far as possible providing meaningful analysis of the results (e.g. reasons for apparent low use of country systems).

**III. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS IN PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

3. PEFA (Nicola Smithers) presented an overview in progress in developing performance indicators in public financial management (Room Document 2). The OECD Secretariat (Peter Pease) complemented the presentation with an update on work currently being undertaken by the DAC Joint Venture on Procurement.

4. There was general recognition that PEFA had accomplished significant progress in addressing concerns members had expressed at the previous meeting of the Joint Venture. Members invited PEFA to give due consideration to the following issues:

- *Need for deeper consultation with partner countries* — it was suggested that there would be value if organising an event to consult partner countries on the framework of indicators.
- *Importance of streamlining diagnostic reviews* — concern was expressed that PEFA's performance indicators, rather than alleviating the burden, could create additional transaction costs for partner countries if the existing diagnostic reviews were not modified. Both the EC and the World Bank assured members that PEFA's framework is part of a new integrated, standard PFM diagnostic assessment that is under development.
- *Institutional performance and capacity development* — members underscored the importance of institutional performance and capacity development as a mechanism to strengthen PFM systems. In this regard, it was recognised that PEFA's framework would be useful in diagnosing weaknesses in PFM capacity.

5. It was agreed that any additional comments would be sent to Nicola Smithers by the end of August 2004.

#### **D. GOOD PRACTICE PAPER ON BUDGET SUPPORT**

6. The European Commission (Gilles Hervio) introduced the draft outline of the Good Practice Paper on Budget Support (Room Document 4) that was elaborated in close collaboration with the World Bank, IMF and DfID. He also noted that a draft of the document had been presented for discussion at the SPA workshop on budget support in Kigali. Members expressed broad support for the paper. In doing so, they invited the authors to give due consideration to the following issues:

- *Title of the paper* — it was suggested that the current title of the paper – *Good Practice Note on the Provision of Budget Support: A PFM prospective* — did not accurately reflect the new, broader, scope of the exercise. It was agreed that an alternative title for the paper would be suggested at the next meeting.
- *Definition of budget support* — it was felt that the current definition of budget support was misleading because it could be interpreted as including on-budget project support. It was agreed that a revised definition would be provided in the next version of the paper.
- *Conditionality & predictability* — it was recognised that both conditionality and predictability were two critical features of the good practice paper on budget support. It was agreed that both of these topics would be elaborated while avoiding overlaps with the good practice paper on predictability (next agenda item).
- *Link to Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS)* — It was agreed that budget support, and budget support conditionality, should be closely articulated, and consistent, with national PRSs.

#### **IV. GOOD PRACTICE PAPER ON PREDICTABILITY OF AID FLOWS**

7. DfID (Katherine Ford) introduced the draft outline of the Good Practice Paper on Predictability and Accountability of Aid Flows (Room Document 3). The Secretariat (Brian Hammond) complemented the presentation with a progress report on Aid Management Platform for Ethiopia (Room Document 8). Following the ensuing discussions, the Chair noted the following elements of agreement:

- *Format of the paper* — the general format, structure, terminology and layout of the paper would be broadly similar to the other good practice papers being elaborated by the Joint Venture. The chair suggested that this might require examining separately within the paper predictability and accountability (notification of aid flows).
- *Clarity on key concepts and definitions* — the paper should seek to provide clear and operational definitions of key concepts and definitions including: predictability, accountability (it was suggested that transparency might be a more accurate concept) and commitments. At the same time members felt that a lexicon, such as the one provided in Annex 2 of Room Document 3, might not be the right approach.
- *Examples of good practice* — examples of good practices would be drawn from Crown Agent's survey and other sources of information. It was suggested that the paper might include a reference to the Aid Management Platform (AMP) currently being developed in Ethiopia.
- *Inclusion of all forms of aid delivery* — it was agreed that the paper should provide good practice for all forms of aid delivery taking into consideration different planning horizons (e.g. in-year, 1-3-years etc.).

8. The Chair of the DAC Working Party on Aid Effectiveness (Michel Reveyard) put the paper in the broader context of the Paris High Level Forum (HLF) on Harmonisation and Alignment for Aid Effectiveness (March 2005). He reminded members that the main objective of the paper was to help donors' provide predictable funding in support of partner countries' medium-term development programmes. This, he suggested, would involve not only improving existing donor practices, but would also require some new, innovative practices.

9. In this connection, it was agreed that the paper, would cover two categories of good practices: (i) those that might be endorsed by the Joint Venture and (ii) those, more ambitious, that require high level political support and/or significant reforms to existing donor practices. Members would then decide at the next meeting of the Joint Venture which good practices would be submitted for endorsement at the Paris HLF.

#### **E. GOOD PRACTICE PAPER ON CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN PFM**

10. Germany (Matthias Witt) introduced the draft outline of the Good Practice Paper on Capacity Development in Public Financial Management (Room Document 5/Rev. 1). This was complemented by a presentation by the Secretariat (Peter Pease) on progress in developing the good practice paper on building capacity in the area of procurement. Members expressed broad support for the paper. The chair highlighted the following areas of agreement:

- *Strong linkage to PEFA's conceptual framework* — the conceptual framework developed by PEFA on strengthening performance in PFM should underpin the good practice paper. This would also allow the paper to address debt management issues that was noted as being an important dimension – debt management is one of the indicators in PEFA's framework. It was agreed there would be close cooperation between PEFA and the authors of the paper.
- *Broad definition* — A broad definition of capacity development, covering institutional, organisational and human development issues.
- *Examples of good practice and bad practice*— members were invited to provide the authors of the good practice paper with examples of good practice where these exist. This might include cases where, for example: (i) donors support country-led strategies and (ii) donors collaborate with each other. It was agreed there would also be value in providing examples of generic bad practice (e.g. pervasive use of project implementation units).
- *Voice of partner countries* – members noted the importance of reflecting partner country perspectives on capacity development.
- *Link to good practice paper on procurement* – close collaboration would be established with the Joint Venture on Procurement.

#### **E. ACCOUNTING STANDARD ON DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE**

11. Charles Coe, a consultant for the International Federation of Accountants' (IFAC) Public Sector Committee (PSC), presented the Draft 'Exposure Draft' of the accounting standard for development and humanitarian assistance (Room Document 7). He informed members that the final version of the exposure draft was expected to be officially issued in November 2004 and would allow for a formal round of consultations both with donors and the accounting bodies of a very broad range of partner countries.

**VI. NEXT STEPS**

12. The Secretariat (Stephanie Baile) briefed members on the process leading to the Paris High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness scheduled in March 2005 (Room Document 11). In concluding the meeting, the chair identified five activities closely related to the three good practices currently being developed by the Joint Venture:

- *PEFA work* — The work undertaken by PEFA underpins all three good practice papers. It was agreed that a stand-alone annex describing the approach developed by PEFA would underpin all three good practice paper.
- *Good Practice Paper on Sector Support being developed by the Task team on Harmonisation and Alignment.*
- *Work on Procurement by the Joint Venture on Procurement.*
- *Aid Management Platform*
- *IFAC-PSC standard on accounting for development assistance.*

13. It was agreed that a brief framework chapter (chapeau) would clarify the inter-linkages between these activities and the respective good practice papers. The chapeau and the next versions of the three good practice papers should be made available for the next meeting of the Joint Venture.

14. Finally, the Chair informed members that he had been assigned to a new post as the World Bank's country director in Ukraine. In this connection, he proposed that David Shand, the World Bank's director for financial management be designated to succeed him as the acting Chair of the Joint Venture.

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