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Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Économiques  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

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

## **DAC Network on Development Evaluation**

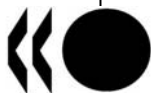
### **Summary Record of the Ninth Meeting of the DAC Evaluation Network**

**15 - 16 June 2009**

Hans Lundgren, Em: [hans.lundgren@oecd.org](mailto:hans.lundgren@oecd.org), Tel: +33(0)1 45 24 90 59  
Nathalie Bienvenu, Em: [nathalie.bienvenu@oecd.org](mailto:nathalie.bienvenu@oecd.org), Tel: +33(0)1 45 24 90 36

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**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE NINTH MEETING  
OF THE DAC NETWORK ON DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION**

**I. OPENING SESSION**

- i)* The Chair of the Network, Nick York, opened the meeting by welcoming members and a tour de table took place to provide first-time participants an opportunity to present themselves.
- ii)* The draft agenda [DCD/DAC/EV/A(2009)1] was adopted.
- iii)* The summary record of the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting [DCD/DAC/EV/M(2008)2] was approved.
- iv)* The Secretariat briefed members on the Programme of Work and Budget and the voluntary contribution situation, and thanked members for their support.
- v)* DCD Director Richard Carey spoke to the Network about the context of the economic crisis and the role for evaluation in contributing to inform policy and the public debate on aid effectiveness. The action plan adopted by the DAC HLM meeting and the reflection exercise status were highlighted.

**Action:** The Secretariat will keep members informed of evolving DAC matters, including the results of the reflection exercise and the forthcoming programme of work and budget process.

**II. PROGRAMMING AND CO-ORDINATING EVALUATION**

*i) Monitoring progress*

1. Benoit Chevalier (Vice-Chair) presented the matrix which is to be used for monitoring the follow up of the main recommendations of the study “Challenges, opportunities and approaches for increasing joint donor programming of evaluations” (2008). The matrix was broadly welcomed, but it was stressed that there is a need to be realistic about what can be achieved and what data can be collected. Not all evaluations can or should be joint and the targets of the matrix need to recognise this. A clear description of each indicator is needed for members to be able to provide the data and it was suggested to consider including qualitative comments. It was also suggested that the matrix should monitor relative progress and be seen as an evolving instrument.

**Action:** Members to send in any further comments on the matrix to Benoit Chevalier, who will further develop the matrix taking into account the comments made at the meeting, as well as any written comments received. The results of the first round of the monitoring exercise will be presented at the next meeting.

*ii) Sharing evaluation plans*

2. The Secretariat presented the inventory of evaluation plans and the progress made since last meeting. The discussion that followed clarified that the inventory is useful in facilitating collaborate work

and that the effort should continue in order to foster more joint work. Members generally welcomed the activist approach in trying to find inter-connections between the various plans of agencies. It was underlined that members need to more actively use the inventory, acknowledging that it takes time to change planning habits. It was also stressed that the usefulness of the inventory depends on members' willingness to update the information in a timely manner. Early inclusion of plans - and inclusion of non-firm plans - in the inventory is important as there is more scope for collaboration at an early stage. The inventory will continue to be available on the restricted members' site.

**Action:** Members should provide the Secretariat with their evaluation plans, including new ideas, as plans develop, to ensure an up to date inventory. Decentralised plans could be included when there is potential for joint work.

### *iii) Discussion of concrete joint evaluation suggestions and next steps*

3. The discussion focused on a possible online "joint evaluation platform", as a follow up to the recommendation on developing a "global marketplace" for joint evaluation ideas and suggestions proposed in the SADEV report. The Secretariat requested clarification of members' expectations and needs to be able to better respond to the recommendation. A number of members expressed support for the creation of a platform where the Network members can discuss ideas on joint evaluations, and related issues. It was agreed to develop a pilot platform and see how the experience evolve. If the pilot platform is found useful, a decision on whether to open it to a wider public will be taken at a later stage.

**Action:** The Secretariat to develop an interactive platform for joint evaluations to be tested by members.

## **III. PHASE II OF THE JOINT EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS DECLARATION**

4. The Secretariat for the evaluation of the implementation of the Paris Declaration reported back from the first reference group meeting of the second phase of the evaluation, which took place in Auckland 11-13 February 2009. Phase II of the evaluation will examine the influence of the Paris Declaration on development effectiveness by identifying outcomes and results. The evaluation will comprise country level evaluations, including a wider range of stakeholders than in phase I; donor headquarter studies which were not part of phase I; supplementary studies; and a synthesis report to be presented to the 4th HLF in 2011. An international reference group has been set up and is co-chaired by the Netherlands and Sri Lanka. It includes those members of the DAC Network on Development Evaluation who actively support the evaluation, partner countries who conduct country-level evaluations, multilaterals and CSOs. A management group has also been set up to manage the evaluation. National reference groups will serve as resources to country evaluation teams. Budget, contributions and an indicative time table were presented for the work leading up to the 4th HLF.

**Action:** Members were invited to participate in the evaluation, including contributing core funds. The draft report on untying of aid will be sent on 1 October to the international reference group for comments by 11 October. The second meeting of the international reference group will take place in Paris on 30 November – 1 December.

## **IV. SUPPORTING EVALUATION CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT**

### *i) Presentation from partner country*

5. Tamirat Yacob of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Ethiopia, described the mission and M&E capacity work of the African Community of Practice (AfCoP) on Managing for Development Results (MfDR). He also shared insights on evaluation capacity development in the public

sector in Ethiopia. He welcomed deeper collaboration between the AfCoP and the DAC Network and invited members to support their work and share experiences.

*ii) Update on World Bank regional centres initiative*

6. Arup Banerji from the World Bank provided an update on the regional Evaluation Capacity Development centres initiative and the next steps including the set-up of a governance structure and selection of host institutions/countries for the centres. He thanked members who have made commitments to contribute and invited other members to take part in the joint initiative.

*iii) Presentation of paper on emerging lessons and discussion on strategic way forward*

7. The Secretariat presented an overview of the Network's past work on capacity development, a background paper outlining a number of emerging key lessons and a proposal to focus on the capacity implications of members' own evaluation policy and practice. Members welcomed the review of experiences and expressed support for this work and for the idea of a practical tip-sheet for evaluation managers. There was general recognition of the need to continue to collaborate with other actors on capacity development and to focus more on the challenge of addressing the demand side of evaluation.

8. The Secretariat drew attention to the recent IDEAS Global Assembly, focusing on evaluation capacity building and development, held in Johannesburg in March 2009 and shared a conference summary.

**Action:** The Secretariat will further develop the paper on evaluation capacity development, drawing on new initiatives in the field and the evolution of members' work in this area. The Secretariat will also develop a practical tip-sheet for evaluation managers on working in ways that support capacity to be published in late 2009.

**V. MULTILATERAL AID EFFECTIVENESS**

*i) Presentation of approaches to assess multilateral effectiveness and global programmes.*

9. This session explored approaches to assessing multilateral effectiveness. MOPAN (the Multilateral Organisations Performance Assessment Network) briefed members on their work and indicated that they in the future will be testing their methodology also in the humanitarian sector. It was also pointed out that a document review will be added to the (mainly) perception based survey and that RBM analysis will be introduced.

10. The World Bank is elaborating guidance for evaluating global and regional programmes and a first draft will be available for circulation to the Network members shortly. The guidance will then be shared more broadly including in consultative workshops.

11. The ECG briefed members on the plans for an evaluation of the MDBs Common Performance Assessment (COMPAS) which is starting up. The issues to consider include data integrity, comparability and transparency.

12. Cida recently completed a multilateral review and presented some highlights and a new idea for a joint donor evaluation approach to assess multilateral effectiveness. The discussion revealed clear interest among many members for this work but yet no consensus on the approach to take it forward. Meeting participants discussed the reasons why the various assessment instruments of multilaterals are needed and it was concluded that a further meeting would be useful to explore the underlying questions and issues in more detail. Cida offered to host such a meeting in the autumn this year. The meeting would need to clarify

the rationale, possible interconnections with existing initiatives, and examine how the governing bodies of the multilateral organisations, as well as MOPAN, relate to this work. It will also be important to see how the follow up to the DAC reflection exercise will evolve as it might influence the DAC's approach and work in this area.

**Action:** Cida will organise an informal task team meeting in order to clarify and explore the issues in further depth and consider possible ways forward, including the interaction with existing mechanisms and governance structures.

*ii) Evaluation systems of multilateral agencies: updates on the UNEG/DAC and ECG professional peer reviews*

13. The Co-Chair of the UNEG/DAC Network informal task team reported back on professional peer reviews of evaluation systems, and from the February task team meeting, where questions such as how to institutionalise the peer reviews, and improve them so that the reviews can replace agencies' own assessments of multilaterals were discussed. The review of the GEF will be presented shortly. The IFAD report will be ready in July 2009 and the UNIDO review will begin in November 2009. UNEG has decided to set up a task force on the evaluation of the evaluation function which will collaborate on the subject and it is foreseen that UNEG will institutionalise a system for the reviews.

**Action:** The UNEG/DAC Network informal task team will continue to provide support for ongoing and new peer reviews and look into doing a stock-take.

## VI. "THE STATE OF EVALUATION"

14. The Secretariat presented a proposal for a study of Network member evaluation systems and resources. The study will draw on DAC Peer Reviews and other existing information sources to generate individual member profiles and an analysis of current trends and challenges in development evaluation. The Secretariat thanked Norway for being the pilot test case for the study.

15. Members welcomed the proposal and expressed strong support for a stock-take of evaluation systems. Recent studies of member systems, including work by the ECG, a review of foreign assistance evaluation by the US and a DFID study were mentioned and will be used as inputs.

16. During the discussion it was suggested that the member profiles be short and descriptive. It was agreed that the study would use the Network's normative evaluation framework, including the "DAC Principles for the Evaluation of Development Assistance," and the "Evaluation Systems and Use: A Working Tool for Peer Reviews and Assessments," as the basis for analysis.

17. The Secretariat informed members that this study would compliment agreed DAC Peer Review learning plans. It was suggested that a launch event for the study could be considered, possibly to be held before the next DAC Senior Level Meeting to help raise the profile of evaluation.

**Action:** The Secretariat will begin the review and develop a short questionnaire for members. Members should reply to the questionnaire and share other relevant information as needed to ensure complete and accurate information. A draft report will be circulated in October 2009.

## VII. DEVELOPING EVALUATION STANDARDS AND GUIDANCE

### *i) DAC Evaluation Quality Standards*

18. New Zealand updated the members on the DAC Quality Standards for Development Evaluation and the workshop in Auckland. Many Network members took part in the workshop together with a considerable number of partner country representatives. The Standards have been revised based on suggestions from the workshop, including changing the structure and format to more closely follow an evaluation process. It was also stressed at the workshop that the document should be kept brief to facilitate use. Members welcomed the changes made and were invited to provide more detailed suggestions in writing.

**Action:** Members to provide written comments and specific suggestions for amendments of the Standards to the Secretariat by 1 July for the English version and 8 July for the French version. New Zealand and the Secretariat will then revise the Standards as needed and circulate for approval under written procedure, ahead of submission for DAC approval.

### *ii) Impact evaluation*

19. Updates on the work and continuation of NONIE, as well as from the Afrea/NONIE/3ie conference on impact evaluation held in Cairo in March 2009, were provided by the World Bank. It was reported that NONIE will continue under a more informal structure anchored by meetings hosted by members of NONIE. The first meeting will be hosted by Germany in 2010. A website and informal discussion groups will be maintained. The impact guidance, which will be a 'living' document, is near finalisation. An update on 3ie was circulated as a room document. Karen Jorgensen (OECD/DCD PEER) is on the Board and is prepared to help channel members' input into the initiative.

**Action:** NONIE will send out notification when the final guidance is available. Germany will inform members of the dates of next NONIE meeting when decided.

### *iii) Guidance on Evaluating Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding – update on ongoing applications*

20. The team leaders of the respective evaluations provided brief reports on the four main ongoing applications of the draft Guidance on Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding (Sri Lanka, Haiti, the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan). The evaluations that took place in Sri Lanka and Haiti are near finalisation and those in DRC and South Sudan are under development. A workshop for interested members to discuss the guidance and its application will be hosted in Norway when sufficient experiences from the ongoing evaluations have been acquired, probably in late 2010. It was rightly pointed out that the guidance is also there to be tested in other evaluations than the specific four mentioned above and that feedback from a variety of applications would be useful.

21. DFID presented a short proposal for mapping and evaluating armed violence reduction programmes and invited interested members to participate in the joint effort which is being led by a group of interested DAC INCAF members and partners.

**Action:** Members using the guidance to report back experiences to the Secretariat, who will start compile and analyse the experiences. Members who are interested in joining an evaluation of armed violence reduction are to be in touch with DFID.

*iv) Evaluation methodology of budget support*

22. The European Commission briefed members on the outcome of the recent meetings. Tools and questions to develop budget support have been developed and pilot evaluations will take place to test the methodology; the EC will lead a joint evaluation in Mali and the Netherlands will lead one in Zambia. A third evaluation is planned in Tunisia by the EC. By the end of 2010 testing will be finalised and lessons will be drawn.

**Action:** The EC to share methodology and TORs with interested members and for posting on the restricted website of the Network.

### **VIII. PROGRESS ON THE DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION RESOURCE CENTRE (DEReC)**

23. Members welcomed the update from the Secretariat on several new developments on the DEReC website including the “DEReC News” periodic email announcement of new reports, the DEReC “Front Page” highlighting evaluation findings relevant to world events, and improvements to the sector categorisation and the search function. Concerns were raised regarding the levels of member participation and members agreed to consistently submit reports to ensure a complete and representative collection of reports. Members were also reminded of the utility of including key words.

**Action:** Members are encouraged to continue sending completed evaluations to DEReC as standard procedure in the dissemination of their reports and to include key words for each report. The Secretariat will continue to expand and develop DEReC.

### **IX. OTHER BUSINESS**

24. The Secretariat presented the OECD and DAC context and priorities for engaging new partners including accession countries (Chile, Estonia, Israel, the Russian Federation and Slovenia), enhanced engagement countries (Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, and South Africa) and Arab donors. Members were invited by the Chair to reflect on how to engage in a useful way with these countries and other partners, including foundations and civil society partners and to come back to the issue at the next meeting.

25. The next official meeting of the Evaluation Network is scheduled for 10-11 February 2010, with informal task team meetings to be held on a needs basis.

26. The Network was informed that Mr. Frode Neergard, DAC Delegate and Deputy Head of the Danish delegation to OECD, will be the new DAC Facilitator.

### **INFORMAL SESSION**

27. The informal session provided an opportunity to share experiences and discuss potential collaborations and joint work:

- A research paper on assessing policy coherence for development (OECD) was presented and members were invited to submit comments in writing to consultant Nick Bozeat.
- The US presented a short video introducing an online distance learning course, “Foreign Assistance Performance Monitoring and Evaluation” designed to be accessible to a general audience. The course will be available in July and members were welcomed to use or adapt it as interested. It will be available on the Network’s website.

- Ben Dickinson of the DAC Governance Network Secretariat presented a proposal from DFID for a joint evaluation of Public Sector Governance Reform and invited interested members to join the process. Members interested to join should contact DFID. He indicated interest from members of the Governance Network for synthesising ideas from the many evaluations recently completed or currently underway in the area of governance (anti-corruption, decentralisation, public financial management).
- The Netherlands presented a proposal for evaluating the effects of debt relief in Africa, possibly in Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, and invited interested members to join. Interested members should contact the Netherlands.
- France made a presentation about the 10th Anniversary of the French Evaluation Society.
- Denmark is planning a joint evaluation with GEF on climate change adaptation in least developed countries, in the lead up to the Copenhagen meeting.
- Norway gave a brief update on the anti-corruption evaluation which they are leading. Consultants are in the process of being selected and the final report should be available at the end of 2010.
- The World Bank informed members of several evaluations they are planning and indicated that collaboration with members on these evaluations could be a possibility.

**Action:** Members to contact agencies directly if interested in collaborating on topics mentioned above.

**Participants list for DAC Network on Development Evaluation/Liste des participants pour Réseau du CAD sur l'évaluation du développement**

**15/6/2009 - 16/6/2009**

**Austria/Autriche**

**Ms. Karin-Christine KOHLWEG**

*Head of the Evaluation Unit  
Austrian Development Agency - ADA*

**Belgium/Belgique**

**M. Geert DESERRANNO**

*Conseiller de la Coopération Internationale -  
Président du Groupe de travail du CAD sur les  
statistiques (GT-STAT)  
DELBEL Paris  
Délégation Permanente*

**Mr. Dominique DE CROMBRUGGHE DE  
LOORINGHE**

*Evaluateur Spécial  
Evaluation Spéciale Coopération au Développement  
SPF Affaires Etrangères*

**Ms. Jacqueline LIENARD**

*Head of Monitoring and Evaluation Unit  
Directorate for International Cooperation  
Federal Public Service of Foreign Affairs, Belgium*

**Canada/Canada**

**Mr. Goberdhan SINGH**

*Director of Evaluation, Evaluation Division,  
Strategic Policy and Performance Branch (SPPB)  
Canadian International Development Agency  
(CIDA)*

**Denmark/Danemark**

**Mr. Ole ANDERSEN**

*Head of the Evaluation Department  
Denmark's Development Assistance (DANIDA)  
DANIDA*

**Ms. Margrethe HOLM ANDERSEN**

*Deputy Head  
Evaluation Department  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

**Finland/Finlande**

**Ms. Nora HEINONEN**

*First Secretary  
Permanent Delegation*

**Mme Aira PAIVOKI**

*Director  
Development Evaluation,  
Office of the Under Secretary of State  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

**France/France**

**Mr. Benoit CHERVALIER**

*Head of Unit Evaluation  
Direction générale du Trésor et de la Politique  
économique (DGTPE)  
Ministère de l'Economie, de l'Industrie et de l'  
Emploi*

**Mme Marie CASTILLO**

*Adjointe au Chef de Bureau  
Direction générale du Trésor et de la Politique  
économique (DGTPE)  
Ministère de l'Economie, de l'Industrie et de l'  
Emploi*

**Mr. Pascal JAUPART**

*Program officer  
Unit of Evaluation  
Direction générale du Trésor et de la Politique  
économique (DGTPE)  
Ministère de l'Economie, de l'Industrie et de l'  
Emploi*

**Mr. Jean David NAUDET**

*Responsable de la Mission Evaluation &  
Capitalisation  
Agence Française de Développement (AFD)*

**Ms. Ewelina OBLACEWICZ**

*Program officer  
Unit of Evaluation  
Direction générale du Trésor et de la Politique  
économique (DGTPE)  
Ministère de l'Economie, de l'Industrie et de l'  
Emploi*

**Mr. Daniel VOIZOT**

*Chef du Pole de l'évaluation  
Direction Générale de la Mondialisation, du  
Développement et des Partenariats  
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et Européennes*

#### **Germany/Allemagne**

**Mrs. Karin ROGGENBUCK**

*German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and  
Development*

**Mrs. Martina VAHLHAUS**

*Dt. Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit  
(GTZ)*

**Ms. Michaela ZINTL**

*Head of Evaluation and Audit Division  
Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and  
Development (BMZ)*

#### **Ireland/Irlande**

**Mr. Fintan FARRELLY**

*Senior Development Specialist  
Evaluation and Audit Unit  
Development Cooperation Ireland*

**Mr. Donal MURRAY**

*Development Specialist  
Evaluation and Audit Unit, Development  
Cooperation Directorate  
Department of Foreign Affairs*

**Italy/Italie**

**Mr. Fabio CASSESE**

*First Counsellor  
Permanent Delegation*

**Mr. Giancarlo PALMA**

*Senior Development Expert  
General Directorate for Development Cooperation  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

**Japan/Japon**

**Ms. Masumi OWA**

*Advisor  
Development  
Permanent Delegation*

**Mme Wakana KANIKAWA**

*Official, ODA Evaluation Division  
International Cooperation Bureau  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

**Mme Chieko SHINDO**

*Project Officer  
JICA France*

**Mr. Hitoshi SHOJI**

*Senior Representative  
France Office  
Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA)*

**Ms. Naoko TSUBURAYA**

*Representative  
JICA*

**Korea/Corée**

**Mr. Jinkyu JEONG**

*Counsellor  
Permanent Delegation*

**Ms. Jihye WEON**

*Manager  
Korea International Cooperation Agency*

**Ms. Jae Yeong HAN**

*Trainee  
Permanent Delegation of Korea to the OECD*

**Netherlands/Pays-Bas**

**Mr. Ted KLIEST**

*Policy & Operations Evaluation Department  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

**Mr. Bram VAN OJIK**

*Director Policy and Operations Evaluation  
Department  
Policy and Operations Evaluation Department  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

**New Zealand/Nouvelle-Zélande**

**Ms. Penny HAWKINS**

*Head of Evaluation  
Strategy, Advisory, Evaluation Group  
New Zealand Agency for International Development*

**Norway/Norvège**

**Mr. Hans Peter MELBY**

*Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation  
Evluqtion Department*

**Portugal/Portugal**

**Ms. Maria João MAGALHÃES**

*Assesseur Principal  
Cabinet d'Evaluation et Audit Interne  
Institut Portugais d'Aide au Développement*

**Ms. Alda MEDEIROS FERNANDES**

*Counsellor  
Permanent Delegation*

**Spain/Espagne**

**Ms. Cecilia ROCHA DE LA FUENTE**

*Responsable de la División de Evaluación  
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et de la  
Coopération*

**Mr. Carlos RODRIGUEZ-ARIZA**

*Policy Analyst  
Directorate General of Development Policy  
Planning and Evaluation  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation*

**Sweden/Suède**

**Ms. Anette GROJER**

*Director of Evaluation,  
Swedish Agency for Development Evaluation  
SADEV*

**Mr. Joakim MOLANDER**

*Director  
Department for Evaluation and Internal Audit  
Swedish International Development Cooperation  
Agency (SIDA)*

**Mrs. Gunilla TORNQVIST**

*Director general  
Swedish Agency for Development Evaluation  
(SADEV)*

**Switzerland/Suisse**

**M. Gerhard SIEGFRIED**

*Head Evaluation and Controlling SDC  
Direction du Développement et de la Coopération,  
Département fédéral des affaires étrangères*

**Ms. Danielle MEUWLY MONTELEONE**

*Conseillère  
Permanent Delegation*

**United Kingdom/Royaume-Uni**

**Dr. Julia COMPTON**

*Deputy Head  
Evaluation Department  
Department for International Development, DFID*

**Mr. Iain MURRAY**

*Program Manager  
Evaluation Department  
DFID, UK*

**Mr. Nick YORK**

*Head  
Evaluation Department  
Department for International Development (DFID)*

**United States/États-Unis**

**Mr. Gerald BRITAN**

*Chief, Evaluation  
US Agency for International Development*

**Mr. Peter DAVIS**

*Coordinator, Planning and Performance  
Management  
Office of Director of US Foreign Assistance,  
Department of State*

**Dr. Franck WIEBE**

*Managing Director  
Economic Analysis - Department of Accountability  
for Millenium Challenge Corporation Millennium  
Challenge Corporation*

**EC/CE**

**Mr. Pedro ANDREO**

*Evaluation Officer  
DG Enlargement  
European Commission*

**Mr. Jean-Louis CHOMEL**

*Head, Evaluation Unit  
(AIDCO/03)  
European Commission*

**Ethiopia/Éthiopie**

**Mr. Tamirat YACOB**

*Development Planning and Research Expert  
Ministry of Finance and Economic Development*

**African Development Bank (ADB)/Banque africaine de développement (BAD)**

**Mr. Colin KIRK**

*Director  
Operations Evaluation Department  
African Development Bank*

**M. Mohamed MANAI**

*Division Manager Project and Program Division,  
Operations Evaluation Department  
Groupe de la Banque africaine de développement  
(GBAD)*

**European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)/Banque européenne de reconstruction et de développement (BERD)**

**Mr. Fredrik KORFKER**

*Chief Evaluator  
Evaluation Department  
EBRD*

**Mr. Wolfgang GRUBER**

*Senior Evaluator Manager  
Evaluation Department  
EBRD*

**International Monetary Fund (IMF)/Fonds monétaire international (FMI)**

**Mr. Thomas BERNES**

*Director  
Independent Evaluation Office  
International Monetary Fund*

**UN Development Programme (UNDP)/Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD)**

**Mr. Nurul ALAM**

*Deputy Director, Evaluation Office  
UNDP*

**UN Evaluation Group (UNEG)/Groupe d'Evaluation des Nations Unies (UNEG)**

**Ms. Saraswathi MENON**

*Director, Evaluation Office, UNDP  
Chair of UNEG*

**Mrs. Caroline HEIDER**

*Director  
Office of Evaluation  
World Food Programme (WFP)  
Vice Chair of UNEG*

**World Bank/Banque mondiale**

**Mr. Arup BANERJI**

*Senior Advisor  
Independent Evaluation Group of the World Bank  
The World Bank*

**Mr. Vinod THOMAS**

*Director-General Evaluations and Senior Vice  
President  
Independent Evaluation Group  
The World Bank*

**Paris Declaration Evaluation**

**Mr. Niels DABELSTEIN**

*Secretariat for the Evaluation of the Paris  
Declaration DIIS  
Paris Declaration Evaluation*

**MOPAN**

**Mr. Paul MULLARD**

*Economic Advisor,  
Aid Effectiveness Department  
MOPAN*

**Mr. Lars-Henrik WORSOE**

*Minister Counsellor  
Quality Assurance Department  
MFA Copenhagen  
MOPAN*

**Other/Autre**

**Mr. Michael RULETA**

*Consultant*

**Mr. Nick BOZEAT**

*Consultant*

**OECD/OCDE**

**Mr. Richard CAREY**

*Director  
DCD  
OECD*

**Mr. Steven GROFF**

*Executive Director  
DCD  
OECD*

**Ms. Anna HELLSTROM**

*Administrator  
DCD/PEER  
OECD*

**Ms. Karen JORGENSEN**

*Head of Division  
DCD/PEER  
OECD*

**Ms. Megan Grace KENNEDY**

*Consultant - Evaluation Network  
DCD/PEER  
OECD*

**Ms. Nathalie BIENVENU**

*Assistant to Division  
DCD/PEER  
OECD*

**Mr. Hans LUNDGREN**

*Head of Section  
DCD/PEER  
OECD*

**Ms. Patti O'NEILL**

*Senior Policy Analyst  
DCD/POL  
OECD*

**Mr. Jim HRADSKY**

*Senior Coordinator on Capacity Development  
DCD/POL  
OECD*

**Ms. Penny JACKSON**

*Policy Analyst  
DCD/PEER  
OECD*