



ROOM DOCUMENT 4

Peer Reviews of the Evaluation Function in Multilateral Organizations

This note has been prepared by the co-chairs of the task force for consideration at the 7th meeting of the DAC Network on Development Evaluation, 20 – 21 February 2008.

**7th meeting
20 – 21 February 2008**

Peer Reviews of the Evaluation Function in Multilateral Organizations A Joint Initiative of the DAC Evaluation Network and the UN Evaluation Group

The DAC/UNEG Joint Task Force on peer reviews

The DAC Evaluation Network and the UN Evaluation Group have joined forces to establish an internationally recognized form of peer review of the evaluation function of multilateral organizations. The joint Task Force on professional peer reviews has developed a framework for peer reviews based on previous experiences and internationally recognized standards. Peer reviews are conducted by an independent peer panel consisting of professional evaluators with the support of expert advisors. Lessons from earlier peer reviews will be continuously incorporated in the approach to be applied in the future.

Joint Task Force progress

The peer review approach was piloted in assessing the evaluation function of UNDP in 2005. Drawing and building on that experience a modified approach was used in a peer review of UNICEF's evaluation function completed in May 2006. Early 2007, a general framework for peer reviews was established on the basis of the experiences of UNDP and UNICEF. This framework can be adapted according to the context of the specific organization whose evaluation function will be reviewed. A third peer review was undertaken of WFP's evaluation function in the second half of 2007. Currently a peer review of the UN Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) is starting up, and other peer reviews are in various stages of planning.

February 19, 2008 Task Force meeting

A meeting of the joint Task Force will take place on Tuesday, February 19, 2008 in Paris at the World Bank Conference Center. The objective of the meeting is to discuss progress, plan upcoming peer reviews, and future directions in the peer review approach. The meeting will reflect on the experience of the recently completed WFP peer review in light of incorporating lessons in future peer reviews. Other issues on the agenda to be discussed include planning of upcoming peer reviews and the future of the peer review process.

The co-chairs of the joint Task Force will report on the discussion and decisions of the meeting to the DAC Evaluation Network meeting to be held on February 20-21, 2008 and separately to UNEG.

Available documentation

The general Framework for Professional Peer Reviews of the Evaluation Function of Multilateral Organisations (8 January 2007) and a Framework for "small" evaluation functions based on this general framework are available from the DAC/UNEG Task Force. The reports of the three completed peer reviews (UNDP, UNICEF, and WFP) are available on the UN Evaluation Group Web site at www.uneval.org (in the Evaluation Function section). The reports are also available on the DAC Evaluation Network website (under current work - www.oecd.org/dac/evaluationnetwork)