

Evaluation of the Paris Declaration Phase 2
Minutes of
1st Management Group Meeting
Friday 24 April 2009
09.00 – 17.00
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Den Haag, the Netherlands

Present: Twaibu Ali, Malawi; Ted Kliest, the Netherlands; Joachim Molander, Sweden; Peter Davis, USA; Niels Dabelstein, PD Evaluation Secretariat. In addition, consultants John Eriksson and Elliot Stern participated in the meeting.

Regrets: Juan Sebastian Estrada Escobar, Colombia; Velayuthan Sivagnanasothy, Sri Lanka.

1. Approval of Approach Paper including overall work plan.

The Management Group was satisfied that the comments received from the members of the International Reference Group (IRG) have been adequately addressed in the revised draft, and that comments/suggestions that could not be accommodated are adequately responded to in the “comments to comments” note. The two MG members not present had provided written comments and are in general agreement with the Approach Paper. It was agreed to edit paragraphs 42 – 47 to make the presentation clearer. The revised draft will be circulated within the MG for finalisation by 30 April and submission to the IRG on 1 May with a deadline of 15th May for approval.

2. Status of country and donor/agency participation

The Evaluation Secretariat informed that 15 partner countries have now confirmed their intent to conduct country-level evaluations and that three donors have confirmed to conduct a headquarters study (additional to those conducted in Phase 1). Sweden, becoming chair of the European Union in July will look into ways of engaging the European Commission in the evaluation. Sweden would also contact Kosovo in order to discuss this country’s engagement in the evaluation. The IEG of the World Bank is preparing an evaluation of the Bank’s role in harmonisation which could potentially contribute to the pool of donor/agency evaluations. It was agreed to explore the possibility of engaging more Caribbean, Central and South American Countries.

3. Status of budget and funding

The budget estimate stands at € 5,085,000 and funding has been pledged up to €4,537,000, with most of that amount actually committed. As there are still donors who have pledged unspecified support, the financial situation is considered satisfactory.

The draft Terms of Reference for Evaluation Core Team for Phase 2 was reviewed and a few amendments were suggested. The revised Tor will be circulated within the MG for finalisation by 30 April and submission to the IRG on 1 May with a deadline of 15th May for approval.

4. Tender Committee for selection of Evaluation Core Team :

The Tender Committee will comprise:

Niels Dabelstein

Ted Kliest

Peter Davis

Naomi Ngwira (Twaibu Ali)

+ either Juan Escobar or Velayuthan Sivagnanasothy (Evaluation Secretariat to canvas).

The Tender schedule was reviewed. Key dates are:

26 – 27 May: Tender Committee meet (to the extent possible by tlp/video) to pre-qualify five entities to submit bids.

28 or 29 May: Management Group Meeting by telephone conference to finalise selection. (1 June is a public holiday).

4-6 August: Tender Committee meeting (in Copenhagen) to evaluate bids and select the winner. Evaluation of the bids will include interviews with all five prospective team leaders. Following the outcome of the tender process a separate meeting will be held with the team leader of the winning contractor.

24 August: Signing of contract (Evaluation Secretariat only).

24 -25 September: Management Group meeting/workshop with Evaluation Core Team (venue to be decided when the Core Team has been identified).

5. Regional Workshops

The Regional Workshops to be held in October - November are extremely important events as they will shape the generic ToR for the country-level evaluations. Each participating partner country should be represented by its National Coordinator for the PD evaluation and the chair of the National Reference Group, as well as one donor representative from that country (to be identified by the National Coordinator).

The Management Group should be represented as follows:

Asia: V. Sivagnanasothy and N. Dabelstein (week 44)

Latin America: J. Escobar (possibly supported by J. Eriksson) (week 45)

Anglophone Africa: T. Ali and J. Molander (week 46)

Francophone Africa: T. Kliest (possibly supported by E. Stern) (week 47)

The Evaluation Secretariat will identify suitable venues and dates in consultation with relevant MG and IRG members.

6. Modalities and formats for communication with International Reference Group and OECD/DAC Working Party on Aid Effectiveness (WP-EFF)

At present all (also draft) documents of the evaluation are posted on the open DAC Evaluation Network's website. This enables all IRG members to access the information. The Evaluation Secretariat will explore options for a separate, more accessible design. A separate dedicated interactive website will be developed by the Evaluation Core Team to facilitate continuous communication and sharing of data and documentation among the country-level evaluation teams and the Evaluation Core Team.

Throughout the evaluation, the Evaluation Secretariat will produce bi-monthly briefing notes for the IRG with the purpose of communicating evaluation progress and intermediate results. Such information notes will also be available to the wider development community.

The Evaluation Secretariat will also assist donors and agencies participating in the evaluation in informing their field missions about the evaluation and the role they could play in the exercise.

The Evaluation Secretariat provides periodic updates on progress to the DAC Working Party on Aid Effectiveness (WP-EFF) and to its Cluster D on Assessing Progress on the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action.

7. Modalities and dates for future Management Group and International Reference Group meetings.

The next IRG meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held in Paris on 30 November and 1 December or **3 and 4 December** to discuss and agree on Generic ToR for country-level evaluations and the donor headquarters-level evaluations. This meeting will be back-to-back with the planned meeting of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness to reduce travel burden and costs. The Evaluation Secretariat will secure a venue for the meeting either at the OECD or at the French Ministry of Finance.

While the absent members of the Management Group had provided written input to the meeting, the members present were concerned about the lack of interaction on several important points and expressed the hope that all Management Group members would be able to attend the meeting/workshop with the Evaluation Core Team in September as well as the regional workshops and the IRG meeting in December. This latter meeting will be followed by a Management Group meeting to take stock of the results of the IRG meeting and decide on actions.

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