



ROOM DOCUMENT 6

DAC Network on Development Evaluation

A 'NEW APPROACH' TO EVALUATING MULTILATERAL ORGANISATIONS' EVALUATION PERFORMANCE

Item III: iii

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**3rd meeting
2-3 June 2005**

A 'NEW APPROACH' TO EVALUATING MULTILATERAL ORGANISATIONS' EVALUATION PERFORMANCE

Second Progress Report

1. In January 2004, Denmark presented a proposal for a 'New Approach' for evaluation of multilateral organisations to the DAC Evaluation Network. The basic principle of the proposal was that such evaluations should primarily be based on the evidence and documentation produced by the multilateral organisations' own monitoring and evaluation systems.

2. Based on the endorsement from DAC Evaluation Network Denmark commissioned three documents as background material for discussion of the next steps in developing the 'New Approach':

- A brief assessment of selected bilateral donors' requirements for performance information from multilateral organisations;
- Proposed approaches and methodologies for assessing multilateral agencies' capacity to deliver evaluations and regularly report on their performance;
- A pilot study documenting application of the proposed approaches and methodologies on the UNDP.

3. The work on donor requirements showed that bilateral donors are still in the process of defining their more specific needs. While it was useful in the process to look at both evaluation systems and performance reporting, it was decided that the work on performance reporting should be carried forward in a more relevant forum.

4. A workshop was held in November 2004 to discuss a first version of the proposed framework for undertaking assessments of multilateral organisations' evaluation performance. The work on approaches and methodologies and the concurrent testing with UNDP had clearly showed that a number of issues had no easy solution, such as mutually agreed norms and standards and how interaction with multilateral agency governance structures could be secured. The pilot exercise with UNDP was therefore not finalised, as this would require agreement on some of the fundamental principles. The workshop provided comments and input into the process and a number of principle agreements were reached. A revised version of the framework for the 'New Approach' was circulated in January 2005 to the DAC Evaluation Network. This marked the end of the first phase of the initiative. At the same time, interested parties were invited to come forward and participate actively in the second phase.

5. A meeting among nine interested donors took place on 8 April 2005, thus marking the start of phase two. Three other donors had expressed an interest in following and/or participating in the work, but they were not able to participate in the April meeting. It was agreed to create an informal and open-ended coordination group with the following tasks: i) coordination of the overall process; ii) creation of peer panels to undertake the next trials; and iii) continuous refinement of the framework. The Group should also interact with UNEG and ECG, as relevant. The Group agreed to apply the revised framework for the 'New Approach' with a number of minor changes and clarifications.

6. At the April meeting it was also agreed to explore the possibilities for finalising the pilot study with UNDP. It has subsequently been agreed with UNDP that this will be done. Canada, The Netherlands and the UK expressed a potential interest in joining Denmark in this exercise and the modalities for

finalising the pilot study are currently being explored among the interested parties. As preparation for this work a brief document has been prepared, dealing with the experience of the pilot experience so far, what data and information has already been collected in relation to the revised framework and what information would still have to be collected as well as the consequences in terms of effort and time.

7. The GEF, IaDB and UNICEF have volunteered to participate in the second phase, and there are indications that WFP and IFAD would be interested in an assessment of their evaluation system.

8. The second phase will probably run for a couple of years. It is envisaged to take stock of the situation then to assess progress of the 'New Approach' and to estimate the extent to which it has replaced traditional multiparty evaluations of multilateral organisations and/or been able to complement joint evaluations being more strategic in their approach.