

## DAC Network on Gender Equality

### Notes from the meeting of the Task team on Aid effectiveness

Tuesday 26 June, Paris

#### 1 Ongoing work of the task team

**The Chair** (Ineke van de Pol, Netherlands) outlined progress on the task team's current work:

- Issues brief: Gender equality and the implementation of the *Paris Declaration*. A draft document has been prepared by Cathy Gaynor.

Action: Participants were invited to provide comments to the Secretariat by 23 July 2007.

- Issues brief: *Innovative funding to support gender equality and women's empowerment*

This planned *issues brief* will focus on innovative approaches to donor funding and support for gender equality and women's empowerment organisations and movements. Terms of Reference for the consultant(s) are being developed.

- Collaboration with colleagues on the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness and its joint ventures

Task team members have been liaising closely with their agency colleagues to ensure that gender equality dimensions are appropriately integrated into the work of the WP-EFF and its joint ventures, with varying degrees of success. Members worked to assist the organisers of the Third Roundtable on Managing for Development Results (Hanoi, 5-8 February 2007) to deliver on their undertaking that "the gender dimension in MfDR [would be] given particular attention". Belgium, with assistance from UNIFEM, prepared a poster for the marketplace and a case study for the *Source book* on emerging good practice about Morocco's work on gender responsive budgets.

#### Actions:

- Members to continue liaising with agency colleagues on relevant issues
- Members to continue sharing information about agency activity on implementing the *Paris Declaration*
- Task team to finalise the planned products
- Task team to consider developing a PowerPoint pack presenting the Issues brief on *Gender equality and the implementation of the Paris Declaration*

#### 2 Workshop on development effectiveness in practice – applying the Paris Declaration to advancing gender equality, environmental sustainability and human rights (Dublin, April 2007)

**The Chair and Lina Neeb** (Belgium) outlined the scope and outcomes of the workshop, which was organised by the DAC Networks on Environment and Development, Governance, and Gender Equality and the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness. Drawing from country case studies, key messages from the workshop included that gender equality, human rights and environmental sustainability:

- are fundamental cornerstones for achieving good development results
- can be advanced through implementing the principles and partnership commitments of the Paris Declaration and

- must be harnessed to advance the implementation of the *Declaration*.

See DCD/DAC(2007)40 and [www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/inpractice](http://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/inpractice) for the meeting report and workshop presentations

*Reporting on agency-level follow-up to the workshop:*

**Irish Aid** (Carol Hannon) explained that they are funding a desk study to examine how effectively the areas of gender equality, HIV/AIDS, environmental sustainability and human rights are addressed in Joint Assistance Strategies.

Discussions are also underway with Mary Robinson on how to integrate these priority areas in the work on health as a tracer sector in preparation for the Accra High Level Forum in September 2008.

**Sida** (Eva Nauckhoff) noted a renewed interest within the agency in the intersection between gender equality, environmental sustainability and human rights in the context of programmatic aid. Sida would be interested in collaborating with other agencies on issues such as how gender equality and women's empowerment can be considered in Strategic Environmental Assessments.

**DFID** suggested organising a "Dublin plus 1" meeting, which would focus on gender equality and women's empowerment and fully bring partner countries into the process. Such a meeting could help identifying relevant case studies for the Accra High Level Forum. (See also item 3 below.)

Action:

- Task team and DFID to consider organising a "Dublin plus 1" meeting in the first or second quarter of 2008

*3 Strengthening the poverty impact of the Paris Declaration - presentation on DFID's aid effectiveness evidence gathering*

**Clare Castillejo and Gerard Howe (DFID)** presented DFID's aid effectiveness evidence gathering project on gender equality, human rights and social exclusion. A scoping exercise has already been conducted as a first step towards generating an evidence base, provide recommendations and build support among *Paris Declaration* stakeholders for strengthening the focus on key social issues for the High Level Forum in Accra and beyond. The objective is that gender equality, human rights and social exclusion be integrated into the implementation and review of the *Paris Declaration*, with a view to increasing the benefits for poor women and men.

**Osnat Lubrani (UNIFEM)** informed participants of UNIFEM's mapping of aid effectiveness and gender equality mechanisms at country level. Links will be established to the DFID project.

Action:

- Members working on aid effectiveness and key social issues to assist in identifying relevant case studies for DFID's project (contact: Clare Castillejo, [c-castillejo@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:c-castillejo@dfid.gov.uk))

4 *Relationship and linkages to the work of the task team on DAC “new directions” on gender equality and women’s empowerment*

**Dorthea Damkjaer (Chair of the “new directions” task team)** reported that the task team on “new directions” in gender equality and women’s empowerment has been sharing its thinking on the DAC document, which will be prepared for endorsement by the 2009 DAC High Level Meeting.

At the 26-27 June meeting of this task team, it was agreed that the DAC document would be a brief “statement of collective intent”, assisting donors to be accountable for their actions and complementing their own established gender equality guidelines and policies. It will set out how to deliver and manage aid while respecting internationally agreed commitments on gender equality and women’s empowerment, within the framework set out in the *Paris Declaration* and with the objective of making development effective. The work of the aid effectiveness task team will thus be directly relevant.

Action:

- Task team to liaise closely with the “new directions” task team

5 *Presentation on the lead up to the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Accra, September 2008)*

**Christian Lehembre (Head of the DCD’s Aid Effectiveness Division)** explained the process leading up to the Accra High Level Forum, which will aim to track and review progress in implementing the *Paris Declaration*. The Forum will be organised in three tiers with a *marketplace* allowing for case studies to be displayed, *roundtables/workshops* on various topics, and a *ministerial session*.

It had been suggested that one of the roundtables/workshops focus on development outcomes, which would create a space to discuss the effects of increased gender equality and women’s empowerment. Core groups, including partner country representatives, will be set up to plan each of the roundtables/workshops in detail.

The expected products of the HLF are a Ministerial-level communiqué and an action plan.

Actions:

The task team will continue its active interest in the Accra High Level Forum (September 2008), through:

- monitoring the drafting of the High Level Forum’s outcome documents including the proposed Ministerial communiqué and action plan
- identifying possible qualitative case studies for the suggested roundtable/workshop on development outcomes and for any other reports prepared for the HLF by the DAC Secretariat
- tracking the ongoing work on health as a tracer sector
- staying in touch with the WP-EFF dialogue with civil society, as well as the proposed regional consultative meetings which will be held before the High Level Forum

- continuing to support DFID's research and liaising with DFID on a possible "Dublin plus one"

Secretariat to distribute, once available, the summary record of the 29 June meeting of the High Level Forum Steering Committee to the task team

#### 6 *The evaluation of the implementation of the Paris Declaration*

**Niels Dabelstein** (Danish Institute for International Studies) presented the plans for evaluating the implementation of the *Paris Declaration* on behalf of the Evaluation Network. This exercise will complement the monitoring of the 12 indicators and provide an opportunity for in-depth analysis of both partner and donor behaviour. It will include country-level evaluations and donor evaluations at headquarter level, as well as thematic studies. An initial report on the practical lessons learned on implementation will be prepared for the Accra High Level Forum, while later work will address development outcomes.

Donors to be evaluated: Netherlands, Denmark, France, United Kingdom, Germany, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Australia, Finland, UNDP

Partner countries to be evaluated (supported by donor): Bangladesh (Japan), Bolivia (Spain), Mali (Belgium), Philippines (Japan), Senegal (Canada), South Africa (US), Sri Lanka (UNDP), Uganda (Austria), Viet Nam (Denmark and UK), Zambia (Netherlands and Ireland).

#### Actions:

- Members could engage in the evaluation(s) in which their respective agency is involved, with a view to ensuring a gender equality perspective is taken up
- Task team to monitor the evaluation process and provide input where needed

#### 7 *New task team members*

UNIFEM, Sweden and Norway volunteered to join the task team.