NOTES FROM THE SUPPORT GROUP MEETING HELD ON 1ST DECEMBER 2008

DAC Reflection Group Meeting, 10-11 December 2008, OECD Conference Centre

This document was prepared by the Facilitator, Mr. Paul Bermingham.

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1. The meeting was chaired by DAC Vice Chair, Ms. Nicole Gensnot. The Support Group members welcomed the opportunity to discuss progress of the strategic reflection exercise. The Facilitator, Mr. Paul Bermingham, gave an oral update of where things stood. This included status of responses to questionnaires distributed to all DAC members and observers (among others). Noting that the original deadline for submission was November 28, members undertook to follow up to ensure timely responses. The facilitator also undertook to prepare a report summarising the present status of consultation responses. The Support Group asked that the meeting summary be included in the documents for next week’s meeting of the Reflection Group.

2. The Support Group members were provided with the information to access the Reflection Exercise website (user name: DACREFLECTION, password: DACFUTURE). They were also informed that copies of submissions from the consultation process as well as summaries that would facilitate discussion at the Reflection Group meeting on 10-11 December will be made available on the site.

3. The meeting discussed the role of the Support Group in the reflection exercise. Members reconfirmed their support for the work of the Reflection Group, particularly where value could be added with their deep knowledge of OECD and DAC products and processes. It was agreed that this offer be communicated to the Reflection Group at its next meeting. While not exhaustive, the following is a selection of the items discussed during the meeting in which Support Group members offered to assist:

- the implications of expanding membership of the DAC, including but not limited to compliance with wider OECD institutional rules and norms, implications for financing and budget, and relationships with emerging economic powers and donors, such as the BRICs;
- the implications of the shifting of the primary focus of the international co-operation agenda from aid effectiveness to development effectiveness, especially on what are today seen as “core” DAC activities;
- the nature and definition of ODA, including a perception among non-DAC members that both may be excessively politicised;
- the practical implications of taking on more activities in aid architecture;
- the implications of increased attention to policy coherence for development in itself and in the broader context of the OECD’s work on sustainable development, including that which is done outside of the Development Cluster; and
- clarification of DAC activities as between strategic themes and tools for implementation.

4. A number of members suggested that it would be useful if the Support Group reviewed in advance documents to be submitted to the Reflection Group. It was agreed that this suggestion would be communicated to the Reflection Group. Furthermore, members observed the importance of ensuring that the recommendations that emerge from the reflection exercise be implementable. While respecting the independence of the Reflection Group, members felt that it would be useful for the Reflection Group to be aware of Support Group views in advance of finalising the report. The Secretariat will discuss with the Reflection Group at its next meeting how to find a suitable way to do this. The Support Group requested the Secretariat to prepare for the Reflection Group meeting a one-page note on the status of enlargement/engagement, and a one-page note on OECD rules of procedures for committees to engage with non-OECD members.
PARTICIPANTS LIST FOR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE - SUPPORT GROUP MEETING ON DAC REFLECTION EXERCISE

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS POUR COMITÉ D'AIDE AU DÉVELOPPEMENT - GROUPE DE SOUTIEN POUR L'EXERCICE DE RÉFLECTION SUR LE CAD

1/12/2008 - 1/12/2008

Belgium/Belgique

Mr. Martinus DESMET
Conseiller de la Coopération Internationale - Délégué au CAD
Permanent Delegation

Canada/Canada

Ms. Nicole GESNOT
Counsellor
Permanent Delegation

Czech Republic/République Tchèque

Mr. Roman HOLÝ
Third Secretary
Permanent Delegation

Denmark/Danemark

Mr. Frode NEERGAARD
Minister Counsellor
Permanent Delegation

Ms. Sisse Christina RUNGE
Trainee
Permanent Delegation of Denmark to OECD

Finland/Finlande

Ms. Nora HEINONEN
First Secretary
Permanent Delegation

France/France

Ms. Laurence DUBOIS DESTRIZAIS
Ministre - Conseillère pour les affaires économiques et déléguée CAD, Représentation permanente de la France auprès de l'OCDE
Délégation Permanente
Ireland/Irlande
Mr. Orla SHEEHY
Development Officer
Permanent Delegation

Italy/Italie
Mr. Fabio CASSESE
First Counsellor
Permanent Delegation

Japan/Japon
Mr. Yoshitaka HOSHINO
Counsellor
Permanent Delegation

Mexico/Mexique
Mr. Gerardo BRACHO
First Secretary / Mexican Delegate to the DAC
Permanent Delegation

Netherlands/Pays-Bas
Mr. Bert VAN GEEL
Deputy Permanent Representative
Permanent Delegation

Norway/Norvège
Ms. Kristin H. LANGSHOLT
Counsellor
Permanent Delegation

Portugal/Portugal
Ms. Madalena VASCONCELOS
Trainee
Permanent Delegation

Sweden/Suède
Ms. Madeleine SUNDSTRÖM
Trainee
Permanent Delegation of Sweden to the OECD

Switzerland/Suisse
Mr. Anton STADLER  
Conseiller  
Permanent Delegation  

United Kingdom/Royaume-Uni  

Mr. Roland FOX  
First Secretary (Development)  
Permanent Delegation  

World Bank/ Banque mondial  

Ms. Barbara GENEVEZ  
Senior External Affairs Counselor, The World Bank  

OECD/OCDE  

Mr. Stephen GROFF  
Deputy Director  

Ms. Kaori MIYAMOTO  
Counsellor to the Director's Office  

Other/Autre  

Mr. Paul BERMINGHAM  
Facilitator