REVIEW OF ODA REPORTING OF THE COSTS OF REFUGEES IN DONOR COUNTRIES

Note by the Secretariat

Members are invited to respond to the questions in paragraph 3 of this document by 17 November 2000. Responses should be directed to one of the two contact officers whose names appear below.

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1. The DAC meeting on 7 November had insufficient time to discuss DCD/DAC(2000)22, and the Chair suggested handling the matter under the written procedure.

2. The consultants’ report underlines once again the differences in the way Members choosing to report this item interpret the reporting directives and the problem this creates for comparability of Members’ ODA data.

3. To facilitate discussion of this item at the Senior Level Meeting, Members are requested to inform the Secretariat by Friday, 17 November 2000 of:

3.1 Any comments or corrections they have to the consultants’ report in the referenced document.

3.2 Their overall position on ODA reporting of refugees in donor countries, taking account of the information and suggestions in the consultants’ report.

3.3 Whether they would be prepared to accept the new reporting rules circulated as Room Document 9. These rules, which incorporate amendments proposed by Germany and the United States, are given below. Changes compared with the proposal in the consultants’ report are highlighted in bold.

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Line I.A.1.5 Emergency and distress relief (code 070)

of which: Aid to refugees, total (code 106)

of which: Refugees in donor countries (code 105)

4. A refugee is a person who is outside his home country because of a well-founded fear of persecution on account of his race, religion, nationality, social group or political opinion. An asylum-seeker is a person who is awaiting a decision from the procedure for dealing with requests for asylum and a recognised refugee is a person granted refugee status under the terms of the Geneva Convention (and thus a longer-term residence permit). Others to be included in assistance in donor countries are persons from a region experiencing civil war or severe unrest who have been granted "temporary protection" (temporary permit or temporary humanitarian permit) and asylum-seekers temporarily unable to be repatriated to their country of origin (for humanitarian or political reasons - de facto refugees).

5. All expenditure by donor countries related to the presence of all categories of refugees and asylum-seekers (including payments recorded as ODA) are reported as a memo in Item V.3 of the DAC tables.

6. The following expenditure by the official sector for the sustenance of refugees may be recorded as ODA:

   - In developing countries (included in code 106): payments for the transport, admission and upkeep of refugees and displaced persons, whether made to governments, multilateral organisations (in which case, if the recipient is not known, it should be classified as multilateral ODA instead of under code 106), international or national non-governmental organisations, or directly to the refugees themselves.

   - In developed countries (code 105): expenditure relating to the presence of refugees fleeing war or severe unrest who have been accorded temporary protection, and payments for asylum-seekers who have not been granted refugee status but who are temporarily unable to be repatriated to their countries for humanitarian or political reasons - de facto refugees; amounts spent on refugees recognised as such under the Geneva Convention excluding expenditures to integrate them in the economy of the donor country. The following payments for their upkeep may be included in ODA during the first twelve months of their stay: food, shelter, pocket money, medical costs, education and vocational training. Expenditure on frontier control or administrative procedures related to asylum may not be included in ODA.

7. Thus ODA reporting should exclude expenditures that do not represent direct welfare assistance or a service provided to the refugees themselves, and any assistance to recognised refugees accorded a long-term residence permit. Expenditure associated with the presence of asylum-seekers awaiting a decision shall not be included in ODA (but shall be included in Item V.3).

8. Repatriation and reintegration assistance, including transport costs, shall be included in code 105 in cases where such assistance is paid in the developed country, whereas sums paid for reintegration in the developing country shall be entered under code 106 when paid in that country. Resettlement in a country that is not an aid recipient shall not be recorded as ODA.