DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA OF THE 903rd DAC - POLICY DIRECTOR'S MEETING

to be held on 19 October 2009, starting at 10h00, in the OECD Conference Centre, Paris

This agenda is submitted for APPROVAL under Item 1 of the Draft Annotated DAC Agenda of the Policy Directors' Meeting [DCD/DAC/A(2009)13].

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DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA OF THE POLICY DIRECTOR’S MEETING

to be held in the OECD Conference Centre

Sunday 18 October

19:30 Optional and Informal Dinner for Policy Directors (Heads of Delegations only)
Restaurant Chalet des Iles, Bois de Boulogne, Porte de la Muette -
Lac Du Bois de Boulogne 75016 PARIS – Telephone : 01 42 88 04 69

Monday 19 October

10:00 1. Introduction by the Chair and Adoption of the Agenda

For information and approval

DCD/DAC/A(2009)13

10:05 2. The Whole of OECD’s work on Development

• Presentation by Ambassador Harald Neple of Norway,
Co-Chair of the informal Working Group on OECD
Development Goals

For information

DCD/DAC/RD(2009)13/RD1
DCD/DAC(2009)40

10:30 3. Follow-up to the Reflection Group Report: the Status of Task
Teams (TT) 1 and 2

• Presentation by the Chair of TT1 on Global Public
Goods and Policy Coherence for Development, Mr. Bert
van Geel
• Presentation by the Chair of TT2 on Development
Co-operation Governance and Aid Architecture, Ms.
Nicole Gesnot

For information

DCD/DAC/RD(2009)13/RD2
DCD/DAC(RD)13/RD3
DCD/DAC(2009)23/FINAL
DCD/DAC(2009)41


➢ Top three or four policy issues or challenges that will be
most relevant for development over the next 2-4 years
➢ Ways to address these issues or challenges

For discussion

13:00 5. Lunch for Policy Directors (Heads of Delegations only)

• Presentation by the Chair of TT3 on Organisation of
DAC Work, Mr. Roland Fox

For information

DCD/DAC(2009)13/RD4

14:30 6. Summary of Item 4

14:45 7. Priority Action Areas for DAC Work

➢ DAC’s priority action areas to address key policy issues
or challenges in the next 2-4 years based on its
comparative advantage in the international development
architecture

For discussion

16:45 Coffee Break
17:00 8. Summary of Item 7
17:30 Meeting Adjourns
Item 2. The Whole of OECD’s Work on Development

The OECD Council decided in May 2009 that, in order to enhance “whole-of-OECD and whole-of-government” approaches to development, the Organisation should set strategic development goals for the medium term by choosing a few priority areas on Policy Coherence for Development (PCD). The goals—to be adopted at the Ministerial Council Meeting in 2010—will also be part of the OECD’s 50th anniversary contributions in responding to global development challenges, five years before the target date for the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. Conclusions from this Policy Directors’ Meeting are in fact expected to contribute to the development of the OECD-wide goals. Ambassador Harald Neple of Norway, as a co-Chair of the informal Working Group to prepare the Strategic Development Goals for the OECD, will present this issue.

Item 3. Follow-up to the Reflection Exercise Report: the Status of Task Teams 1 and 2

In implementing the conclusions of the Reflection Exercise, three Task Teams (TT) have been created to work out the detailed plans. TT1 is addressing Global Public Goods (GPGs) and PCD while TT2 is addressing Development Co-operation Governance and Aid Architecture. The Chairs of the two TTs will provide feedback on the status of discussions in their respective groups as contributions to the Meeting.

Item 4. The World Ahead: Addressing Key Issues in Development

Two questions are tabled for this session - which is expected to be open and interactive - so as to reach a common ground to base DAC’s future work. The questions are the following:

- What are the top three or four policy issues or challenges that will be most relevant for development over the next 2-4 years?

The discussion could start from a broader perspective of Members’ work and institutions in promoting development without being constrained by the lens of current DAC activities. At the same time, this question aims to identify policy issues more concretely than as broad thematic areas like GPGs, PCD, or Aid Architecture, which are already stated in the Reflection Exercise report. In fact, the Reflection Exercise has identified a whole universe of challenges for development—climate change, conflict, insecurity, pandemics, migration, corruption, inadequate financial resources, vulnerable eco-system, demographic shifts, unbalanced trade, complex aid architecture, and so on. However, if the Committee is to focus more in its future work, greater definition of issues, selectivity and prioritisation would be essential.

- How can we address these issues or challenges?

After setting out the issues, it would be necessary to consider how to address them, which could include approaches, instruments and collective action. This question does not necessarily have to be addressed solely through the work of the DAC, but from a more international aid architecture perspective.

Item 5. Presentation on the Work of Task Team 3

TT3 addresses the Organisation of DAC Work, such as strengthening accountability, providing more voice to stakeholders, organisational restructuring, and streamlining operations. While this Policy Directors’ Meeting is not expected to discuss these process issues of the Committee, the direction towards which TT3 is heading, reported by the Chair of the group, will influence the substance of DAC’s future work.
Item 7. Priority Action Areas for DAC Work

This session aims to identify five to six priority action areas for the DAC to be focusing on in the coming Programme of Work and Budget 2011-12 and possibly beyond. The question posed here is:

- What are the priority action areas for the DAC to address key policy issues or challenges in the next 2-4 years based on its comparative advantage in the international development architecture?

Needless to say, the output areas would need to fit within the strategic priorities identified in the Reflection Exercise report, which are:

- Strengthen work on statistics, Peer Reviews, aid effectiveness, and policy guidance.
- Engage actively in the global governance reform for development co-operation.
- Deepen work on policy coherence for development.
- Integrate global public goods into development strategies.

These are wide ranging areas, and thus as noted above, greater definition of issues, selectivity and prioritisation would be essential. Furthermore, the Reflection Exercise recommends that the willingness of Members to adopt and implement policy in a way that can be explicitly monitored should be a test applied to proposals which involve new DAC guidelines.

In addition, there are areas of DAC work that are either considered to be continuous or already agreed as deliverables in the 2011-2012 biennium. They are:

- Statistical reporting
- Peer Reviews
- Monitoring of DAC Recommendation to Untie ODA to the Least Developed Countries
- Preparations for the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness
- Deliverables on climate change agreed at the Joint High-Level Meeting of the DAC and the Environment Policy Committee of May 2009
- Annual Multilateral Aid Report

Unless there are fundamental questions regarding the above activities, discussion on how important they are should be minimised so as to concentrate on other deliverables where the DAC should focus. In terms of the budget for the biennium, the assumption is that there will be no real increase on the current level of roughly Euro 30 million. Therefore, it is important to keep in mind that new areas of work or activities would need to be offset by phasing out of some existing workstreams.

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1 See Co-Chair’s Summary “The Road Ahead” http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/20/15/42890752.pdf