DAC Network on Environment and Development Co-operation

AFRICAN REGIONAL WORKSHOPS ON GREEN GROWTH AND AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK PARTNERSHIP: PROGRESS REPORT

Note by the Secretariat

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The attached document is submitted for INFORMATION and COMMENT under agenda item 6 iii) of the draft annotated agenda DCD/DAC/ENV/A(2012)2. It outlines collaboration between OECD and the African Development Bank on Green Growth and includes details of a joint workshop to be held in Zambia in January 2013.

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1. Background

1. The recent Rio+20 Conference recognised the relevance of green growth as a critical tool for achieving sustainable development. The basic premise of green growth is that environmental goals can be reconciled with economic growth objectives. Although this is an increasingly urgent objective, the concept is often treated cautiously - in particular doubts have been expressed about its potential to deliver growth and poverty reduction benefits to developing countries and there are concerns that the transition to a green growth path will exacerbate rather than limit social inequality. To clarify some of these issues and to help build support for Green Growth, the OECD and the African Development Bank (AfDB) agreed to work together at Rio +20.

2. This concept note outlines a joint workshop which will further collaboration between the two institutions and promote green growth in Africa based on consultations with Africans. It also provides details on the provisional arrangements for workshops in early 2013. It concludes with an update on recent meetings, first, with AfDB to strengthen the partnership between OECD and AfDB on green growth and second, a preparatory visit with the Zambian government on the first planned workshop to be held in Lusaka.

2. Workshop Objectives

3. The objectives of the workshops are to generate evidence on the application of green growth policy measures, to test the relevance and practicality of OECD and AfDB concepts and policy frameworks, and to inform the work of both institutions as they develop their approaches to green growth. The workshops should facilitate policy dialogue and knowledge sharing which will help guide policymakers in developing country governments, international organisations and development partner agencies.

4. While much work has been done on addressing the broad conceptual issues of green growth, its relevance and its challenges, these workshops will seek to move the dialogue on to practical implementation issues. Specifically the discussion will focus on thematic areas and assess lessons learned from current practices and where further support -- analytical, policy and financial -- is required. Key themes to be explored in the workshop are outlined below.

3. Thematic Focus of the Workshops

5. Given the specific challenges faced by African countries, there are several overarching and thematic issues which require specific attention. These include:

- provision of sustainable infrastructure, e.g. low cost, modern energy systems, sustainable cities and transport;
- effective management of renewable and non-renewable natural resources for sustained growth and higher welfare, e.g. integrated land and water resources management;
- building resilience of livelihoods and economic sectors, e.g. climate change adaptation and commodity risk management.
6. From an overall regional perspective, financing, social and governance issues are also critical if green growth is to contribute to economic, environmental and social sustainability. Without adequate financing mechanisms at both international and national levels, climate resilient infrastructure, clean technologies and green innovations will not emerge. The social and poverty reduction angle will also cut across the different sector themes to help understand how green growth policies can be designed and implemented to address distributional concerns and poverty. Similarly, appropriate governance mechanisms will be needed, for example to prevent elites from capturing full mineral extraction rents and limit corruption, and to provide equitable land tenure systems. Only with strong, good governance measures will green growth be inclusive and benefit the poor.

7. Countries in Africa face differing challenges and opportunities for green growth. For example, energy access is a key concern in Sub-Sahara Africa. Moreover, climate change adaptation and resilience is of critical importance to countries like Ethiopia and Rwanda. Energy production and use presents climate mitigation opportunities in South Africa and Kenya. In many West African countries – such as the Ivory Coast and the Democratic Republic of Congo – achieving sustainability goals will need to include sound forest resource management policies. Hence, the workshops will focus on thematic topics which are of relevance to specific groups of countries to further scrutinise their green growth potential. Specific questions for discussion will be developed with project partners to guide workshop contributions and discussions.

4. **Organisation, Participation and Logistics**

8. The workshops will provide an opportunity for both institutions to profile and discuss their substantive work on green growth. It is proposed to hold two events that will last 2 days each - one event for Anglophone African countries and another for Francophone countries. OECD and AfDB will both provide financing for the events and the OECD acknowledges the generous contribution of the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation to support the workshops.

9. The target audience is policymakers and other practitioners that are supporting policymakers to advance green growth policies and frameworks in national policy and planning processes. Subject to available funds and to ensure a robust discussion, the OECD and AfDB will fund roughly twenty experts or policymakers to contribute to each event. Care will be taken to ensure balanced participation from government officials, academics and representatives of civil society with the requisite expertise.

10. Members of ENVIRONET are encouraged to finance participation of relevant experts from their partner countries. They are also welcome to attend themselves or to nominate participants from their field operations in Africa.

5. **A First Workshop in Zambia**

11. A first workshop will take place in Lusaka, Zambia on 15-16 January 2013 (tbc). It will be held back-to-back with the DAC/ENVIRONET Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) Task Team workshop on Green Economy and SEA on 17-18 January 2013. While the two workshops are independent of each other, holding them together enables the OECD and AfDB as well as the Task Team to take advantage of synergies and investigate the links between SEA and Green Growth/Economy as well as to consolidate and make better use of the available funding for these events. The Zambian government has agreed to co-host both events.

12. The first day of the OECD/AfDB workshop will examine the global and African rationale for Green Growth while the second day will move from theory to practice. The experiences of several African countries will be profiled to examine the mainstreaming of green growth into development planning and
how to get the enabling conditions right for green growth. The second day will be concluded by thematic discussions on tools to: i) promote sustainable infrastructure, ii) build resilience of livelihoods and poverty reduction and iii) promote efficient management of natural resources. The session will begin with introductory presentations, which outline OECD and AfDB work on policy instruments for green growth. This will be followed by specific parallel sessions focused on themes relevant to particular countries, informed by briefing notes and illustrative questions for discussion. On the morning of the third day there will be a transition session, which will formally end the OECD/AfDB workshop and open the SEA and Green Economy workshop, which will also last for 2 days.

6. **Progress Report from Recent Meetings with AfDB and the Zambian Government**

13. In addition to the co-sponsorship of these two workshops, the OECD and AfDB have planned a meeting in mid-November in Tunis to discuss their partnership on green growth issues and possibilities for further collaboration. It will include a Seminar on Promoting Green Growth in Developing Countries. It will be co-hosted by the AfDB co-chairs of the Green Growth Team, Mr. Aly Abou Sabaa (CCCC) and Mrs. Hela Cheikhrouhou (ONEC). The OECD mission will be led by Serge Tomasi, Deputy Director of the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate and will be supported by William Hynes (OECD) and Katlego Moilwa (consultant to the OECD). As part of this ENVIRONET agenda item, the Secretariat will provide an oral report on the outcome of these meetings.

14. Also, a first preparatory mission to Zambia took place 22-26 October and was lead by Barry Dalal-Clayton (IIED and technical secretariat to the ENVIRONET Task Team on SEA). He was supported by Katlego Moilwa, consultant to the OECD. The mission succeeded in confirming interest of the Zambian government to host the events; it also identified relevant participants within the Zambian government for participation and advanced logistical planning for the event.

7. **Contact Details**

15. For more details on the workshops please contact:

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