This is the final summary record of the 16th meeting of ENVIRONET, which incorporates participants' comments.

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DAC NETWORK ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 16TH MEETING

21 February 2014

Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

1. The Chair of the 16th ENVIRONET meeting, Mr. John Carstensen (Department For International Development, United Kingdom), opened the meeting, welcomed participants, and ran through the meeting agenda. He also expressed his thanks to the Secretariat and participants for the success of the previous day’s OECD EVIRONET Expert Workshop on Green Growth, Development Planning and Policy.

Item 2. Adoption of the Agenda

2. The draft agenda DCD/DAC/ENV/A(2014)1/REV2 was adopted without comment.

Item 3. Approval of the Summary Record of the 15th ENVIRONET Meeting

3. The summary record of the 15th ENVIRONET Meeting was approved and is now available as DCD/DAC/ENV/M(2013)1/FINAL.

Item 4. Post-2015 Development Agenda: ENVIRONET Roundtable Discussion

4. Mr. Juan Casado-Asensio (OECD Secretariat) presented the paper “Global and local environmental sustainability, development and growth”, which is the fourth element of an 11-part OECD Reflection Series on the post-2015 development agenda. This Series is organised around the expected outcomes of the post-2015 agenda, and the tools that will be needed to support these outcomes. The OECD is well positioned to support its members and developing country partners to implement the set of goals that are agreed upon. The paper focuses on why it is important to have environmental sustainability in the post-2015 agenda, and argues that a healthy environment and availability of natural resources underpin human well-being and development. Failure to incorporate the environment into development policy and planning may exacerbate energy, food, water security and health problems, raising human insecurity risks and undermining all development progress to date. The paper also includes a brief review of existing progress on Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 7, and a snapshot of the evolution of “green” official development assistance (ODA) between 2006 and 2012 (including ODA for environmental, climate, biodiversity and desertification objectives). Mr. Casado-Asensio listed the four main areas in which the OECD can support environmental sustainability in the post-2015 agenda:

   i. Advancing coherent sustainable development policies through integrated policy and practice;

   ii. Championing a data revolution and harmonising “green” development finance statistics;

   iii. Supporting and monitoring OECD country progress in implementing post-2015 goals; and

   iv. Strengthening and leading strategic international partnerships to share knowledge, promote policy reforms and bring communities together.
5. Finally, Mr. Casado-Asensio highlighted some questions that arose from the OECD ENVIRONET Expert Workshop the previous day:

- How can the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the climate change agendas be brought together to be mutually reinforcing?
- How can development partners work together to enhance transparency and accountability of “green” development finance flows? Is it possible to validate DAC environmental statistics at the country level?
- How can ENVIRONET focus in on the quality and impact of “green” finance?

6. Ms. Constanza Martinez (International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)) gave an update on the SDG/post-2015 process from the perspective of the IUCN. The four key messages IUCN is contributing to the SDG/post-2015 process are:

i. Nature is and must be viewed as a part of the solution, instead of as a limiting factor in the development equation.

ii. Policy coherence is important, including between agreements at the international level. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets should be drawn upon to inform the development of the SDGs.

iii. Governance of nature and of natural resources must be improved; the problem is not nature itself, but how we organise ourselves to use and manage it.

iv. Goal and targets: IUCN is proposing the goal to “enhance the benefits for all from biodiversity and ecosystem services in a just world that values and conserves nature” to be incorporated into the SDGs. This would be accompanied by tentative targets related to ecosystems, land (e.g. zero net land degradation), governance (e.g. land tenure, treatment of women and of indigenous populations), energy and health.

7. Ms. Martinez discussed the ways in which IUCN’s messages are being fed into the SDG and post-2015 process. For example, IUCN is a part of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), and is building into the UNEP report “Embedding Environment into the SDGs”. IUCN held a side event at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2013, had a panellist at the 8th session of the Open Working Group (OWG), and has produced supporting documents on integrating the Aichi Targets and the Global Ocean into the SDGs. In January 2014, a consultative meeting was held between all IUCN members (countries, NGOs and UN agencies). There was consensus among members to push for a specific goal on biodiversity in the SDGs and to develop and prioritise associated targets, building upon commitments already made (the Aichi targets). There was also consensus on pushing for environmental sustainability to be integrated into all the SDGs. The next step will be to build and disseminate strong targets for an SDG on biodiversity.

8. Mr. Steve Bass (IIED) shared information on two partnerships that IIED is involved with that are working on the SDGs and the post-2015 agenda.

- The Independent Research Forum (IRF) (www.IRF2015.org). IRF is a collaboration of research institutes from across the globe that provides an independent source of critical thinking, awareness raising and integrated analysis on the SDGs and the post-2015 agenda. The IRF has observed that whilst the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the SDGs are the main
cross-issue, high-level, government-led conversation about sustainable and inclusive globalisation, they are on different tracks. While the MDGs are mainly about aid and poverty, the SDGs are more holistic, looking at national and global transformations to develop within planetary boundaries. Two key additional observations relate to the challenges of:

- **A comprehensive framework.** UN negotiators generally could better understand the complex linkages between poverty and the environment. However, the Eighth Open Working Group (OWG) meetings have been spent learning about these linkages, so there is potential for a more integrated approach between poverty and environment to be taken. One dilemma that has been identified is a divide between countries who want to play up “the whole goal set” and those who prefer to keep issues separate, thereby avoiding prioritisation and avoiding system-wide change.

- **Universality.** There are different interpretations of what a “universal goal” is, and as of yet there is no real system in place to manage global public goods and global risks. Negotiators need to be more informed about these issues.

- The IRF is trying to link the SDGs and the post-2015 agenda to national and local political realities, by informing UN processes and collecting local-level evidence on achieving environment and development goals. The aim is to create a harvest of ideas and to collect and store these online so that they can contribute to the current debate, and last as a reference beyond 2015.

- The LDC Independent Expert Group. Discussions coming out of this group have identified that LDCs have both the most to gain from a strong post-2015 framework, and the most to lose from a weak post-2015 agenda that is watered down, imprecise or not actionable. Key issues that the LDC Expert Group (LEG) have identified as essential for the post-2015 agenda are:
  - Multidimensional poverty reduction
  - Data revolution
  - Access to cheap, clean energy
  - Bringing the post-2015 and climate change agendas closer to be mutually reinforcing
  - Natural resource-based economic development – adding value and reinvigorating farming
  - Improving national and global governance capacity

9. **Members were invited to comment on the presentations.** A key point that emerged from the discussion concerned the importance of keeping the focus on the human development and poverty eradication as its ultimate goal. Discussion also centred on development and poverty reduction goals (represented by the MDG agenda and the post 2015 negotiations) and environmental goals (represented by current SDG process), goals which ideally will converge through a single process. Since a healthy environment and natural resources underpin all development goals, the two are inextricably linked and therefore must be considered together. This link is still not always well understood by non-environmental experts at the national and international policy levels, while human development and poverty eradication are not always an area of focus of environmental experts. The case needs to be made more strongly and reinforced with concrete examples and more precise details on financial flows to these areas. The question about whether finance flowing to the sub-national level (e.g. to cities) could be tracked was also raised. In response, it was emphasised that while this information can be extracted manually from the OECD-DAC Creditor Reporting System database, it is equally important to look at whether cities can access international finance in the first place, and if not, what the barriers are and how they can be overcome.
**Item 5. Update on ENVIRONET work**

*a) Green finance and climate change*

10. **Ms. Stephanie Ockenden (OECD Secretariat)** began with a brief introduction to DAC environmental statistics, outlining the “Rio markers” and the “environment marker”, which track official development finance targeting global and local environmental issues. It was highlighted how statistics are important to enable development finance to be allocated and channelled more effectively, and to hold countries to account on their international commitments. Ms. Ockenden gave a summary of recent Secretariat activities in this area, namely the production of statistical analysis and flyers on the Rio markers, the organisation of events (i.e. three joint ENVIRONET-WP-STAT workshops on tracking climate and development finance over 2013, and the OECD-CPI Consultation on Development and Climate Change side-event at the UNFCCC COP19 in Warsaw), and two submissions to the UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance (on development finance and climate change adaptation). Finally, Ms. Ockenden notified participants of the establishment of the ENVIRONET-WP-STAT Task Team, which aims to ensure that DAC methodologies and data remain a reference for the international community in tracking official development finance targeting environmental objectives. The first Experts’ Meeting of the Task Team will be held at the OECD Conference Centre on 20-21 March 2014.

11. **Ms. Alexis Robert (OECD Secretariat)** spoke about recent and upcoming events of the Partnership for Climate Finance and Development. These include the Global Forum on Using Country Systems to Manage Climate Change Finance, which the OECD Secretariat co-organised, held in Incheon, Korea 2-3 December 2013. In 2014, a focus session is planned at the High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, Mexico City, 15-16 April, Mexico, to synthesise key findings on countries’ experiences in managing climate finance, and to discuss climate finance and development processes in the post-2015 era. Regional dialogues on climate finance are also planned in Latin America and the Caribbean in August/September 2014 and in Africa in June 2014. Ms. Robert also gave an update on the OECD Secretariat’s work on climate change adaptation, specifically discussing the DAC-EPOC Task Team on Climate Change and Development Co-operation, which is currently undertaking in-depth work on monitoring and evaluation frameworks for climate change adaptation. Additionally, Ms. Robert drew attention to the OECD-CPI Consultation on Development and Climate Change at the UNFCCC COP19 in Warsaw, in which the OECD and CPI agreed to work together with the UNFCCC, its Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) and other key stakeholders to advance country-led adaptation policy and planning and good practice in development co-operation and finance for adaptation.

*b) Biodiversity and Development Co-Operation*

12. **Ms. Anna Drutschinin (OECD Secretariat) and Ms. Alice Ruhweza (UNDP)** presented an update on the scoping paper biodiversity and development co-operation, agreed at the 15th ENVIRONET meeting [DCD/DAC/ENV(2013)4/REV]. Ms. Ruhweza emphasised the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services for the poor, and that work on biodiversity and ecosystem services for poverty reduction is mandated both by the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) and by the DAC. Ms. Drutschinin then presented the annotated outline, agreed in November 2013 [DCD/DAC/ENV(2014)1], which sets out the four sections of the scoping paper: 1) Official Development Finance to biodiversity, 2) mainstreaming biodiversity into development planning and policy, 3) tools to address biodiversity-development trade-offs and to manage for results, and 4) donor practice in partner countries: alignment and harmonisation. The purpose of the scoping paper will be to support members at the Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the CBD (WGRI) meeting in June 2014 and at the CBD COP12 in October 2014, and to
act as a launch pad for joint work with the OECD Environment Directorate during the 2015-16 biennium. A first draft of the literature review and of the section on Official Development Finance for Biodiversity has been completed. The final deliverable for this section will be in June 2014, while the final scoping paper will be delivered in December 2014, with a preliminary draft planned for the CBD 12th Conference of the Parties (COP12). Ms. Drutschinin also shared feedback from the lunchtime session on biodiversity and development co-operation, held the previous day. During this session, members noted a need to focus on more accurately tracking biodiversity finance, and for concrete examples of mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into development co-operation and poverty reduction. Finally, Ms. Drutschinin called for examples of ODA being used to leverage other forms of biodiversity finance, to build capacity to assist domestic resource mobilisation for biodiversity in partner countries, and to create an institutional environment to attract and accommodate investment in biodiversity in partner countries.

c) Other OECD horizontal work related to green growth and development

13. Mr. Ziga Zarnic (OECD Secretariat) gave an overview of work on green growth across the OECD. He emphasised that green growth is about shifting policy signals away from “brown” activities and towards “green” activities. This includes pricing pollution to make it more costly than green alternatives, encouraging green innovation, facilitating better consumer choices, putting effective green regulations and standards in place, eliminating environmentally harmful subsidies, and valuing natural assets and ecosystem services. In addition to producing green growth-specific publications and case studies, such as Putting Green Growth at the Heart of Development (2013), green growth case studies on Cambodia and Ethiopia (2013), Green Growth in Cities (2013), Towards Green Growth in Emerging and Developing Asia (forthcoming 2014) and Urban Green Growth in Dynamic Asia: A Conceptual Framework (forthcoming 2014), green growth is also being integrated into work across the OECD. For example, since 2011, green growth chapters have appeared in the Environmental Performance Reviews (e.g. South Africa), Investment Policy Reviews (e.g. Costa Rica) and Economic Surveys (e.g. Indonesia). The OECD is also engaged in international co-operation on green growth, such as the Green Growth Knowledge Platform (with the Global Green Growth Institute, the World Bank, and UNEP), organising the annual Green Growth and Sustainable Development Forum, contributing to Rio+20, and co-operating with UNEP, UNSDN, UNIDO, the World Bank, the EU and the G20 on green growth issues.

14. Members were invited to comment on the presentations. UNEP, UNDP and WRI offered to provide case studies for the work on biodiversity and development co-operation. Members also encouraged the biodiversity work to draw upon lessons learned from tracking and leveraging climate finance. IIED suggested that the Africa Learning Group on Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Development review the biodiversity and development co-operation scoping paper, which was welcomed by the Secretariat.

Item 6. Preparing for PWB 2015-16

a) Introduction

15. Ms. Dorothea Groth (DAC Co-facilitator, Germany) shared information on DAC preparations of the PWB 2015-16. She highlighted that in particular, the DAC will be targeting the following areas in 2015-16:

i. modernising the development finance framework, including revisiting the definition of development finance and how it is measured;

ii. promoting effective development co-operation, including strengthening peer review mechanisms and the monitoring and evaluation of the development co-operation activities of Member states; and
iii. focusing on the post-2015 agenda.

16. Ms. Groth indicated that more flexibility will need to be built into the PWB 2015-16 than usual, as an evaluation of the DAC will be undertaken by the OECD in 2014 to discuss the continuation of its mandate. Ms. Groth reminded ENVIRONET of the letter Erik Solheim had addressed to the ENVIRONET Chair requesting concrete proposals for ENVIRONET’s work in 2015-16, which is focused on a limited number of policy areas that reflect the DAC’s comparative advantage. The DAC will be discussing the PWB 2015-16 on 13 May 2014, and the budget must be approved by 17 June 2014. Ms. Groth explained the composition of the budget and indicated that one-third will be met with core funding, meaning that two-thirds must come from voluntary contributions, and 60% of these voluntary contributions must not be earmarked. This high proportion of voluntary contributions in the budget means that proposals must have the solid support of Member capitals, which would be willing to fund work in the areas of these proposals.

b) Member and secretariat presentations of options and proposals

17. Ms. Jan Corfee-Morlot (OECD Secretariat) gave an overview of the PWB for the 2013-14 biennium, including work that was carried over from 2011-12. All work from the 2011-12 biennium has been completed, with the exception of a working paper on social protection, development and climate change (forthcoming). Other forthcoming work in this biennium includes green growth in emerging and developing Asia, biodiversity and development co-operation, contributions to peer reviews and DAC statistics, active support for the Partnership on Climate Finance and Development. ENVIRONET is overseen and supporting the work of two Task Teams on climate change and development co-operation policy (with a current focus on monitoring and evaluating adaptation), as well as on improving the DAC CRS, Rio marker data quality, coverage and communication to better track climate change (and other green) development finance.

18. Ms. Corfee-Morlot then presented a proposal for ENVIRONET work under the 2015-16 PWB [DCD/DAC/ENV/RD(2014)1/RD]. The overarching outcomes proposed were to:

- Advance international co-operation to achieve sustainable development in developing countries through development policies, planning and co-operation; and
- Contribute to the post-2015 development agenda, through dialogue, mutual learning, monitoring and review, and knowledge sharing to promote good practice in environment and development policy.

19. Potential outcomes and corresponding outputs could be in the following areas:

i. Official development finance for green growth, climate change and infrastructure,
   - Measuring and monitoring “green” official development finance (joint with WP-STAT)
   - Effective development co-operation to boost investment in clean, climate-resilient infrastructure (focus on energy, transport and water/sanitation sectors) (joint with AGID)

ii. Facilitating green and climate-resilient growth through effective development co-operation.
   - Biodiversity, development and development co-operation (joint with EPOC – WP-BWE)
   - Regional perspectives on green growth and climate-resilient development policy (possibly Africa or South-East Asia, joint with DEV)
Climate change, development planning and co-operation (joint with EPOC)

20. **Ms. Leslie Johnston (United States)** presented a proposal for the continuation of ENVIRONET-SEA work [DCD/DAC/ENV/RD(2014)1/RD3]. Possible work would be focused on:
   
   i. creating an effective SEA system;
   
   ii. monitoring and evaluating SEA impacts;
   
   iii. supporting the OECD ENVIRONET’s work on green growth;
   
   iv. highlighting best practices on how SEA can be applied;
   
   v. identifying how SEA can support climate policy by getting involved early in the process; and
   
   vi. examining how SEA can support OECD ENVIRONET work on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

21. **Ms. Yuka Greiler (Switzerland)** presented a proposal on DAC-EPOC work on climate change adaptation and development co-operation [DCD/DAC/ENV/RD(2014)1/RD4]. This would be divided into three parts:
   
   i. Examine alignment between development co-operation for adaptation and developing country plans, needs and processes;
   
   ii. Assess barriers and drivers to effective development co-operation for adaptation, including through country examples and targeted interviews;
   
   iii. Produce checklists for action to support developing country policy makers and providers of development co-operation to build adaptive capacity and enable climate-resilient infrastructure and climate-resilient development.

22. Other possible scoping projects could be on i) reducing, transferring and sharing climate risks; and ii) climate-resilient urban development.

23. **Mr. John Carstensen (ENVIRONET Chair, DFID, United Kingdom)** invited Members to comment on the proposals, reminding them that 2-3 high-level outcomes needed to be determined to be communicated to the OECD DAC Chair.

24. Members expressed the desire for SEA work to focus on practical implementation. An interest in a stocktaking exercise on who is currently doing what on SEA was also expressed. The OECD Secretariat emphasised that SEA will be integrated into all ENVIRONET work, rather than being its own stand-alone project.

25. **Mr. Matti Nummelin (Finland)** emphasised the importance of the OECD engaging with the LEG on adaptation and development.

26. Members also expressed the value of knowledge-sharing through ENVIRONET. The OECD Secretariat noted that while the Secretariat must continue to produce concrete outputs such as reports, policy guidance and policy recommendations, outputs can also be in the form of organising workshops and knowledge-sharing dialogues across a diverse range of partners.
27. Ms. Dorothea Groth (DAC co-facilitator, Germany) emphasised the DAC’s focus on increasing horizontal work, and that this should be integrated into the high-level outcomes to be sent on to the OECD DAC Chair.

28. Ms. Jan Corfee-Morlot (OECD Secretariat) was asked to speak on the anticipated budget needs for ENVIRONET’s PWB 2015-16. Ms. Corfee-Morlot noted that likely additional funding would be needed to fully respond to the rapidly changing policy discussions on environment and development, particularly given that the OECD is increasingly being encouraged to engage in horizontal work and organise more workshops and meetings with more diverse participation from non-member partner countries as well as civil society partners in development. New horizontal projects such as Biodiversity and Development Co-operation or the work of the ENVIRONET-WP-STAT Joint Task Team on the Rio Markers, will need more capacity and resources as they mature.

29. Following many discussions between Members, three high-level points to communicate to the OECD DAC Chair were agreed upon.1

Item 7. Other business

a) ENVIRONET Engagement, Ways of Working & Community Space

30. Ms. Stephanie Ockenden (OECD Secretariat) presented on improving ENVIRONET engagement, ways of working and community space. The OECD Secretariat has been making an effort to respond to desires expressed by members at the 15th ENVIRONET meeting, such as to work more like a network of practitioners, to work more closely with developing countries and with a wider range of stakeholders, and to collaborate more with other parts of the OECD. The OECD Secretariat’s responses to these requests include:

i. Organising more workshops and forums to facilitate discussion, bring the network together and engage with non-OECD countries and stakeholders;

ii. Increasing horizontal work through joint task teams; and

iii. Proposing to conduct a survey to collect information on how members are addressing environment and development issues, in order to scope and identify priorities for future activities.

31. Ms. Ockenden then presented on future ways of working. More teleconferences were proposed, such as among Bureau members and among the Biodiversity Friends’ Group. Additionally, Ms. Ockenden drew attention to the need for the ENVIRONET distribution list to be updated, and requested that members provide key contact points for this distribution list. Ms. Ockenden also drew attention to the updates that have been made on the public OECD Environment and Development website, which will be frequently updated. Finally, Ms. Ockenden presented Community Space, which is a collaborative resource space that can provide members with key documents and keep them updated on ENVIRONET’s activities, and asked members if they would like to use this tool to go forward.

32. Members supported the use of more teleconferences and of community space. The organisation of a workshop on biodiversity and development co-operation was also supported.

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1 These were superseded based on a follow up email exchange with participants and a call with the extended Bureau of the ENVIRONET (i.e. including Task Team co-facilitators Yuka Greiler and Gottfried von Gemmingen). The final outcome of this discussion is attached to this summary record as Annex 1.
b) The next ENVIRONET meeting

33. Ms. Jan Corfee-Morlot (OECD Secretariat) informed Members that the next ENVIRONET meeting had been tentatively set for 16-17 February 2015. In the interim, the secretariat will plan to communicate regularly with members. For example, as mentioned during the Workshop it would allow time for the secretariat to conduct a survey and prepare a report the main priorities and approaches of DAC members in the areas of environment, climate change, green growth and development. Mr. John Carstensen noted that this was possibly a better frequency at which to have ENVIRONET meetings, rather than every eight months.

c) Chair and Bureau members – call for interest for 2015-16

34. Mr. John Carstensen (ENVIRONET Chair, DFID, United Kingdom) noted that the next meeting would be his last ENVIRONET as Chair, and that a new Chair and Bureau members would be necessary for the 2015-16 biennium. Any interested parties should contact the ENVIRONET Secretariat.

Item 8. Summary, next steps and closure of meeting

35. Mr. John Carstensen (ENVIRONET Chair, DFID United Kingdom) thanked Members for their participation, and closed the 16th ENVIRONET meeting.
DAC Network on Environment and Development Co-operation
16th OECD ENVIRONET Meeting
Paris, 21 February 2014

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ANNEX 1: PROPOSAL FROM THE DAC NETWORK ON ENVIRONET AND DEVELOPMENT FOR THE 2015-16 PWB

John Carstensen. Chair, DAC ENVIRONET

Dear Mr. Solheim,

Proposal from the DAC Network on Environment and Development for the 2015-16 Programme of Work and Budget

Thank you for your letter of 18 February 2014 seeking input from the Network on Environment and Development Co-operation (ENVIRONET) to assist the DAC in formulating its 2015–16 Programme of Work and Budget. Following initial discussions with members at the ENVIRONET meeting in February 2014, and based on the documents that you have shared indicating the DAC’s future priorities, please find below our proposal.

Recent changes and foreseeable future trends in the policy environment

The 21st century is witnessing a profound shift in global dynamics, with the South developing at a pace unprecedented in human history and experiencing rapid urban growth. Hundreds of millions of people are being lifted out of poverty in developing nations, and billions more are poised to join a new global middle class. Yet the current pace and patterns of growth are testing the resilience of a wide range of environmental systems. In the 20th century, the world population grew 4 times, economic output 22 times and fossil fuel consumption 14 times. Challenges to 2050 will include meeting the energy, food and water needs of 9 billion people.

Action is required in both developed and developing countries to deliver global environmental sustainability goals. Developing countries are both being affected and contributing to increased stress on natural resources and the environment. They are sources of global economic growth, but also emissions and environmental degradation. They are vulnerable to environmental risk, including economic, social and ecological threats from climate change and extreme weather risks. Inclusive green growth can help to accelerate progress on sustainable development, through more sustainable management and use of natural resources; energy and resource efficiency; low-carbon, more resilient jobs, livelihoods and urban development; and conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Failure to address global and local environmental risks threatens to slow or reverse development gains achieved in recent decades, particularly in the poorest countries. Key findings from recent OECD work note: "The links between environmental performance, equity and poverty are more direct and significant in developing countries than in developed countries; and “environmental risks faced by developing countries today call for a radical shift in how we view growth and development". Sustaining and enhancing natural capital – the wealth of poorer countries -- is to achieve development objectives and address inequality.

2 OECD, 2013, Putting Green Growth at the Heart of Development, p.13
Environmental sustainability is expected to be an important part of the post-2015 sustainable development goals, where finance for development – from both public and private sources -- will be a key means of implementation. Climate change finance from developed to developing countries is set to increase to USD100 billion annually by 2020 and ambitious goals have also been set for mobilising finance for biodiversity and ecosystem services. It is critical that this finance support effective action in-country on climate mitigation and adaptation, and on biodiversity, while also advancing development and poverty reduction. Lessons from progress on aid and effective development co-operation are relevant, yet they are not always widely recognised and built upon. Existing funding mechanisms are often difficult to access, requiring special management arrangements and bypassing approaches that can ensure country ownership. Adaptation, critical for resilience and poverty reduction, is not yet integrated into national and local development plans. Partner country integration of global and local environmental priorities into development policy, planning and budgetary processes remains weak and development co-operation activities may not be fully responsive to country priorities in relevant areas.

The DAC has long-standing experience with development and environment partnerships, policy and finance. On finance, this includes use of Rio markers to measure and monitor relevant flows, and use of public and innovative finance mechanisms to leverage environmental action and green investment. Its experience with aid architecture, partnerships to strengthen in-country policy processes, institutions and coordination, as well as public financial management systems, can help promote learning across its members and partner countries to implement the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). DAC relationships and partnerships to enhance effective development co-operation can help increase the accessibility, development impact and reach of climate change, biodiversity and other environmental development finance. Greater synergies between public and private action can leverage more investment for development and boost environmental performance in important areas such as infrastructure. It will also improve affordability and funding of innovative technical and institutional solutions to address global and local environmental problems. In-country development policy and planning are the main entry points for action. The DAC, with its members’ experience on growth, poverty reduction and environment -- working with other OECD committees and bodies and through key international partnerships -- is well placed to strengthen the link between green growth, climate change, environment and development policies.

**Expected outcomes:**

- Contribution to effective implementation, measurement, monitoring and evaluation of the environmental dimensions of a post-2015 framework and of the Rio conventions, including green development finance, climate change adaptation, low-carbon development and biodiversity.

- Improved understanding of the potentially transformative role of green growth in ensuring poverty alleviation and equitable economic development, including mobilisation and use of private funds.

- Improved quality of effective development policy and co-operation practices related to climate-resilient urban development, green growth, strategic environmental assessment (SEA), climate adaptation and biodiversity, by effectively sharing knowledge and best practice amongst donors and other partners.

**Output results**

- Policy recommendations, good practice briefs and reports to support the practical implementation of country-led green growth, climate change and biodiversity policies as well as on approaches more broadly on to guide decision-making on environment and development.
Strengthened partnerships and a stronger evidence base linking environmental sustainability, climate change, biodiversity, green growth and development

Integration of environmental strategic considerations into DAC priority areas: peer reviews; analysis improved quality and coverage of financing for development statistics; and effective development co-operation.

The ENVIRONET is still in the process of consulting with partners where horizontal work is underway or proposed. In particular, the DAC-EPOC Task Team on Climate Change and Development Co-operation will meet 9-10 April 2014 and the first meeting of the ENVIRONET-WP-STAT Task Team will meet 20-21 March 2014. Following these meetings, the Network will begin the process of determining the specific outputs needed to support the DAC’s 2015-16 work programme in consultation with relevant subsidiary bodies of the DAC and other Committees of the OECD (e.g. EPOC).

Synergies with other DAC work streams and horizontal collaboration with other OECD policy communities

To support implementation of the ENVIRONET’s proposed key outcomes for 2015-16, we will continue our successful collaboration with other DAC subsidiary bodies and with other parts of the OECD – in particular, with the horizontal green growth project and in close collaboration and the Development Centre. We will also maintain and build on our strong partnerships with external stakeholders such as the UNEP, UNDP, the World Bank, the regional development banks, the UN system and civil society including environment and development non-governmental organisations.

Secretariat resources

We would envisage an equivalent level of secretariat resources in order to ensure that the Network is fully staffed and able to deliver on these proposed outcomes for 2015-16. However, if a higher profile is given to environmental sustainability issues and goals in the outcome of post-2015 SDGs negotiations and a need for additional support from DAC ENVIRONET is identified, the resources for the secretariat should be reconsidered. We recognize that effectively working with partners will require additional funding.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide inputs to this process and we remain available for future discussions about the DAC’s and the ENVIRONET’s programme of work and budget for 2015-16.

Yours sincerely,

John Carstensen
Chair, DAC Network on Environment and Development Co-operation

cc:
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