DAC Network on Governance

Renewal of DAC Subsidiary Body Mandates

Mandate of the DAC Network on Governance (GOVNET)

The mandate of the DAC Network on Governance (GOVNET) was approved under the written procedure by the Development Assistance Committee on 19 June 2007 pending comments by the World Bank and Canada. This final text incorporates these comments.

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Mandate of the Network on Governance (GOVNET)

The DAC Network on Governance (GOVNET) aims to improve the effectiveness of donor assistance in support of democratic governance\(^1\) in developing countries. It provides members with a forum to exchange experiences and lessons, identify and disseminate good practice, and develop policy and analytical tools relating to the reform of institutions, the dynamics of change and the interplay of checks and balances, and issues surrounding domestic accountability and respect for human rights. Consistent with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005), the GOVNET promotes partner country ownership, aligned and co-ordinated donor approaches, results and mutual accountability.

The GOVNET’s work on governance spans a range of issues, including human rights, transparency, accountability, participation and equality, anti-corruption and capacity development in support of these elements of democratic governance. The GOVNET is a resource for DAC member states, and the DAC and its subsidiary bodies, providing a perspective on the interface between states and societies and the challenges of state-building in developing countries.

Working practices

The membership of the GOVNET is composed of representatives from responsible Ministries of DAC members and observers\(^2\). Engagement and dialogue with partner countries are essential in undertaking the GOVNET’s work on governance and are encouraged at both GOVNET and task team level. The GOVNET may invite experts from developing countries, international organisations, academia and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to participate to enhance the implementation of the work programme.

The work of the GOVNET is steered by a Chair and a Bureau consisting of 2-3 interested members. Plenary meetings are usually held every nine months in Paris. Groups of interested members may be formed to ensure the implementation of individual work programme components, meeting as necessary either in Paris or other locations, or via other communication means. Linkages between these groups are encouraged, so as to promote intra-network learning.

To enhance policy coherence and synergies across the DAC and the wider OECD, the GOVNET seeks to interact and establish effective links with other DAC subsidiary bodies and OECD groups more widely regarding governance issues. Members are encouraged to liaise with other parts of their governments where this will enhance collaboration and coherence.

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\(^1\) Democratic governance is taken to encompass the broad principles of supporting human rights, transparency, accountability, legitimacy, participation and equality, without being narrowly prescriptive about formal or procedural forms of democratic government.

\(^2\) In its work on governance and anti-corruption, including interactions with other partners, the World Bank must act within the framework of its Articles of Agreement which include a limitation on interference in a member’s political affairs and prohibit decisions being influenced by members’ political character (see the IBRD Articles of Agreement, Article IV, Section 10).