A major component of POVNET's 2007-08 Work Programme on the theme of Scaling Up for Effective Pro-Poor Growth is the pro-active dissemination of its policy guidance for donors on promoting pro-poor growth (available at: www.oecd.org/dac/poverty). One means of doing this is the organisation of field-level workshops, involving donors, partner country representatives and other stakeholders, to discuss implementation and operational obstacles and exchange views on how to tackle these.

POVNET's first country workshop will take place in Accra, Ghana on 17 June 2007. Key messages from this meeting can be brought into the joint World Bank/POVNET Workshop on Accelerated Growth and Poverty Reduction (on 18 June 2007) as well as the Ghana Consultative Group meeting (on 19 June 2007).

This note reproduces the invitation from the POVNET Chair and the draft agenda.

Contact person: Michael Laird - Tel.: +33 (0)1 45 24 90 33 - E-mail: michael.laird@oecd.org
Dear Sir/Madam

DAC/POVNET Workshop on Promoting Pro-Poor Growth – Accra, 17 June 2007

The DAC’s Network on Poverty Reduction (POVNET) has developed policy guidance for donors on promoting pro-poor growth, i.e. on increasing the impact of economic growth on poverty reduction. These messages, covering the broader policy perspective as well as their application at sectoral levels (private sector development, agriculture and infrastructure), are available at: www.oecd.org/dac/poverty. As background, I attach the policy statement that was welcomed and endorsed by Ministers and Heads of Agency at the DAC High-Level Meeting in April 2006.

Now, we not only need to share these messages with a wider range of stakeholders in developing countries, but we also need to see if they stand the test of reality – if they really help development practitioners in the field to promote economic growth and increase its impact on poverty reduction.

We are thus organising a workshop in Accra, Ghana on Sunday 17 June as a pilot event to test these messages and to help us develop a broader programme in DAC/POVNET to field test the policy guidance in a range of developing countries and regions. The meeting has to be held that Sunday to exploit the synergies with the World Bank/POVNET Growth-Poverty workshop on Monday 18 June and the Consultative Group meeting on Tuesday 19 June.

A draft agenda for the POVNET workshop is attached. The venue is the “Bugum” Conference room at La Palm Royal Beach Hotel; participants will be directed to the room from the main reception of the hotel.

Participants at the meeting will include development agencies, both from headquarters as well as their representatives in Ghana, as well as representatives from the Ghanaian government, private sector, think tanks and civil society.

We very much hope you will take part in this important event. The aim is to provide us with feedback to help develop policy guidance in DAC/POVNET that better meets the operational needs of aid agencies and partner countries. That, in turn, will help developing countries to achieve the economic growth and poverty reduction that is essential for their sustainable development and to meet the MDGs.

Please confirm your attendance to the OECD Secretariat (michael.laird@oecd.org and susan.hodgson@oecd.org) as soon as possible and no later than 8 June, who will also be able to respond to any questions you may have concerning the workshop.

Yours faithfully

Pierre Jacquet
DAC/POVNET Workshop to Test Pro-Poor Growth Policy Messages: Tackling implementation challenges in Ghana

Sunday 17 June 2007, La Palm Royal Beach Hotel, Accra, Ghana

“Bugum” Conference Room

Draft agenda

10:00 Welcome and introductory remarks
- Pierre Jacquet, POVNET Chair
- Minister of Finance (tbc)

Key policy messages on promoting pro-poor growth – Bill Nicol, OECD

10:20 Rebalancing accelerated growth and pro-poor growth
- Ghanaian perspective: Prof. Osei, Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research, University of Ghana
- Donor perspective: Dr Spatz, Germany

Issues for discussion: What does “rebalancing” mean in practice?
- Geographic dimensions and spatial inequalities
- What are the perceived trade offs and how to better manage them
- Political economy issues and how to tackle them
- Bringing civil society and other stakeholders into the dialogue
- Policy implications

12:30 – 14:00 Buffet lunch

14:30 Making private sector-led growth more pro-poor
- Private sector perspective: Marc Genot, Managing Director, Ghana Rubber Estates Ltd
- Donor perspective: Catherine Martin, United Kingdom

Issues for discussion: What does this mean for government and what does it mean for business?
- Practical implications, e.g. for infrastructure
- Sustainable growth and natural resources
- Getting the private sector buy-in: incentives, challenges, and constraints.
- Policy implications

16:30 Final session and concluding remarks
- Lessons of experience
- Key messages for the Growth–Poverty Workshop on 18 June