DAC Network on Poverty Reduction

SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE MEETINGS OF THE POVNET TASK TEAMS ON SOCIAL PROTECTION AND EMPOWERMENT AND ON EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR MARKETS

24 September 2008, OECD, Paris

This document contains the summary records three meetings:

SECTION A: POVNET Task Team on Social Protection and Empowerment (SPE)

SECTION B: POVNET Task Team on Employment and Labour Markets (ELM)

SECTION C: Joint Meeting of the SPE and ELM Task Teams

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SECTION A:

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE POVNET TASK TEAM ON
SOCIAL PROTECTION AND EMPOWERMENT

24 SEPTEMBER 2008

I. Adoption of the draft agenda [DCD/DAC/POVNET/A(2008)9].

1. The agenda was adopted.

II. Finalising the Good Practice Notes

a) Affordability of Social Protection Measures in Poor Developing Countries

2. Earan O’Cleirigh (Ireland) presented the first draft of this paper which draws attention to the affordability of social protection measures and suggests ways in which low-income countries can analyse and assess the impact of social protection investments. The paper also accentuates the importance of reviewing social protection programmes and affordability based on inclusive and long-term analyses of economic growth. The presentation concluded that social protection, if executed correctly, can be both affordable and supportive of parallel growth initiatives.

3. The paper was welcomed by the task team. It was suggested that the paper could be improved by including more quantitative data and stronger economic analysis. Recommendations included greater focus on political contexts of social protection programmes, on including non-economic as well as economic benefits, on what is needed beyond availability to influence policy choice and guidance on whether social protection should be promoted in its own right or as a beneficial “add on” to other programmes.

4. The author agreed to include comments from the task team, circulate a new draft by 15 October and submit a final draft to the Secretariat by the end of October 2008.

b) Climate Change Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction and Social Protection

5. Mark Davis (IDS) presented a further draft of the paper “Climate Change Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction and Social Protection” which highlights the multifaceted concerns that climate change poses to social protection. The paper outlines how impacts of climate change do not affect people as a homogenous group, and therefore calls for analyses which take geographic and demographic information into consideration. Although the paper states that there is much work left to be done on the relations between social protection and climate change, it also emphasises the importance of disaster risk reduction interventions.

6. The Task Team complimented the presentation for drawing attention to the increasing problem that climate change causes to social development. The Task Team also considered the rising public awareness of climate change as a potential way of drawing more attention to key social protection mechanisms. It was suggested that the paper could be strengthened by bringing in more data and analysis
of the relation between human development and disaster risk reduction programmes. The paper should be less academic and made more useful to practitioners by bringing in more practical and implementation material. The paper was seen by some as more of a background paper than a good practice note.

7. The author agreed to include comments from the task team, circulate a new draft by 15 October and submit a final draft to the Secretariat by the end of October 2008. ENVIRONET agreed to review the revised version to ensure that climate change related language and concepts in the note are consistent with the Draft Guidance on Integrating Climate Change Adaptation into Development Co-operation.

c) Gender and Social Protection

8. Catherine Arnold (United Kingdom) presented the paper “Gender and Social Protection” which calls for intensified efforts to target gender relations between poor women and men in social protection programmes. The paper argues that social protection outputs will benefit from a two-track approach through which programmes are i) gender mainstreamed, and ii) take gender specific actions. Finally, the paper also elucidated ways in which gender-focused programming can lead to pro-poor growth by focusing on important economic micro-level determinants (labour market participation, education, and health).

9. The task team welcomed the paper’s focus on women in the pro-poor growth agenda and the importance paid to women’s inclusion in social protection. The paper could be made more useful by being less academic and by promoting practical tools and suggestions as to how to design and implement social protection programmes that increase women’s participation. Finally, it was also agreed the paper should make more explicit connections the decent work agenda.

10. The author agreed to include comments from the task team, circulate a new draft by 15 October, and submit a final draft to the Secretariat by the end of October 2008.

d) Overview of the SPE Good Practice Notes

11. All authors are requested to revise/edit their paper and to include the three main messages from their paper at the beginning of the document. The deadline for submitting all papers is end of October 2008 (see Table 1). The Secretariat will then proceed with a final electronic consultation.

III. Draft Policy Guidance Note on Social Protection and Empowerment

12. The task team chair gave a brief update and introduction of the draft Policy Guidance Note to ensure new participants’ understanding of the consultative process that the document has been through to date. The Chair also reminded task team members that the document is now in its final stage and that comments are invited based on general sentiments and not the wording of the actual text. The task team agreed to include a number of emerging issues in social protection to add weight to the current draft. These included rising food prices, climate change and making clear references to the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action. Furthermore, it was agreed to sharpen the importance of social protection on page one to ensure the documents’ immediate appeal to policy makers. The chair urged the task team to send final comments to Michael Samson no later than 29 September 2008.

IV. Draft Policy Statement

13. The task team discussed this issue in the joint meeting only (see Section III, paragraph 2)
Table 1: Social Protection and Empowerment Task Team: Policy Guidance Note and Good Practice Papers to be finalised during the 2007-08 Programme of Work and Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Lead agency</th>
<th>Supporting agency</th>
<th>State of Play</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy Statement (SPE and ELM combined)</td>
<td>Drafting Committee</td>
<td>Secretariat</td>
<td>Final draft for POVNET meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE Policy Guidance Note</td>
<td>EPRI</td>
<td>Task Team</td>
<td>Final draft for POVNET meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate Change and Social Protection</td>
<td>DFID</td>
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<td>Authors to update final draft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender and Social Protection</td>
<td>Commonwealth Secretariat</td>
<td>DFID</td>
<td>Authors to update final draft</td>
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<tr>
<td>Can low-income countries afford basic social security?</td>
<td>ILO</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Authors to update final draft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Transfers and Growth in Poor Countries</td>
<td>DFID</td>
<td></td>
<td>Final draft with the Secretariat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Protection and Vulnerability Across the Life-Cycle</td>
<td>HelpAge International</td>
<td>GTZ and DFID</td>
<td>Final draft with the Secretariat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social protection and empowerment in the context of HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>DFID, HelpAge International</td>
<td>Authors to update final draft</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health and social protection</td>
<td>GTZ</td>
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<td>Final draft with the Secretariat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social cash transfers</td>
<td>EPRI</td>
<td>Task Team</td>
<td>Authors to update final draft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The informal economy, social protection and empowerment</td>
<td>SIDA</td>
<td></td>
<td>Authors to update final draft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social protection in fragile states</td>
<td>DFID</td>
<td>NORAD</td>
<td>Final draft with the Secretariat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Participants list for the POVNET Task Team Meetings on Social Protection and Empowerment

24/9/2008

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Chairperson/Président(e)

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**Other/Autre**

Mr. Mark DAVIES  
*IDS*
SECTION B:

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE POVNET TASK TEAM ON EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR MARKETS

24 SEPTEMBER 2008

I. Adoption of the agenda [DCD/DAC/POVNET/A(2008)9]

1. The draft agenda was adopted.

II. Finalising the Hot Topic Papers

a) Youth and Employment

2. Christoph Ernst (ILO) presented the update of this hot topic paper, underlining that the evidence on this topic is still scarce and still needs to be built up. The update included an increase in youth specificity and includes new references to entrepreneurship, violence and youth (including child labour and child soldiers), but also the important point about youth participating in PRSP and other policy formulation processes.

3. The paper was well received by the task team, which mainly discussed issues around clearly separating the supply and demand side of employment in the paper. It was recommended to strengthen the part on participation of youth and entrepreneurship and to include in the introduction statistics projecting the youth population in the future. In the concluding section, the author was advised to formulate the key policy messages to address donors directly, giving them guidance on what is important to address from their perspective. Also, three key messages from the paper need to be added at the beginning. The deadline for submission of the final version to the Secretariat is the end of September 2008.

b) Overview of ELM Hot Topic Papers

4. POVNET has decided to produce a publication on Employment and Labour Markets (subject to DAC approval), consisting of the Policy Guidance Note and the compiled Hot Topic papers. In order that the Hot Topic papers can be published, a good edited version of each paper is required. Authors were thus encouraged to make the best use of their internal editing facilities. Authors were also asked to include the three main messages from their paper at the beginning of each document. The deadline for submitting all the papers is 20 October 2008 (see Table 2). The Secretariat will then organise a final round of electronic consultations. An electronic consultation of the Hot Topic paper “Employment and labour market issues in fragile states” is already on-going and interested members were asked to send their comments by 10 October 2008.

III. Policy Guidance Note on Employment and Labour Markets

5. Based on the outcome of the stakeholder consultation on the previous day, the Chair highlighted the following main points that need to be addressed in finalising the Policy Guidance Note:

- Strong emphasis on entrepreneurship and youth as creator of jobs.
- Add a more attractive “appetiser” to show the importance of the topic. Also better show the potential of youth and women in participating in growth.
• (Institutional) capacity development and country ownership as a central theme in the implementation of the Paris Declaration and follow-up to the Accra Agenda for Action.
• Emphasise inclusive policy development processes, but also participation of all stakeholders, including in the implementation and accountability aspects of policies and enforcement of labour laws.
• Underline the need for evidence through research, statistics and M&E, including their ownership by country governments.
• Be more specific on vulnerable groups.
• Recognise the cultural context and country specificities.

6. The discussion of the document itself raised several precise recommendations and amendments to be included in the final draft. Recommendations also included a better balance between the “supply and demand” side of employment, shortening the title and stressing the quality and not only volume of employment. The chair underlined that the task team had agreed to use the expression “productive and decent employment” throughout. He also advised bringing in better the IMF/WTO context and agreed to bring the present Section 8 earlier in the document. Any further comments should be made by Monday 29 October, after which the Secretariat will produce a final draft that will be submitted for the POVNET meeting on 20-21 October.

IV. Draft Policy Statement

7. The Task Team addressed page 3 (the ELM specific page) and recommended to revise the bolded main statements, making them sharper. Other comments included mentioning the importance of conducive framework conditions to create formal jobs and to better adapt the language according to the outcome of the Accra Agenda for Action (i.e. on ownership, national priorities and capacity development). Similar comments also applied to the first page. The policy statement will be revised accordingly. (See also Section III, paragraph 2 of the Joint meeting).

VI. Other business and next steps

8. It was agreed that this was the last meeting of the task team and that further work will be pursued electronically. Participants thanked the Chair’s for his excellent guidance of the task team.
### Table 2. Status of papers of the Employment and Labour Market Task Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sequence</th>
<th>Topics of the good practice papers</th>
<th>Lead agency</th>
<th>Supporting agencies</th>
<th>State of Play</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Policy Statement (SPE and ELM combined)</td>
<td>Drafting committee</td>
<td>Secretariat</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>ELM Policy Guidance Note</td>
<td>Secretariat</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Update final draft for POVNET</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The role of employment and labour markets in the fight against poverty: A conceptual framework</td>
<td>ILO</td>
<td></td>
<td>Authors to update final draft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Understanding the relationship between economic growth, employment and poverty reduction</td>
<td>DANIDA</td>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Final draft with the Secretariat</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Informality</td>
<td>SIDA</td>
<td>AfD, OECD DC, WB</td>
<td>Authors to update final draft</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Youth employment</td>
<td>ILO</td>
<td></td>
<td>Authors to update final draft</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Migration and Employment</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>OECD-DC, WB</td>
<td>Authors to update final draft</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Promoting Employment for Women</td>
<td>DANIDA</td>
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<td>Authors to update final draft</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Vocational training</td>
<td>AfD</td>
<td></td>
<td>Authors to update final draft</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Employment and labour market issues in fragile states</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Norway</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Social cash transfers and employment</td>
<td>EPRI</td>
<td></td>
<td>Authors to update final draft</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Review of donor’s policies and practices related to employment and labour markets.</td>
<td>Secretariat</td>
<td></td>
<td>Final draft with the Secretariat</td>
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</tbody>
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**Other papers:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lead agency</th>
<th>Supporting agencies</th>
<th>State of Play</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Globalisation and social protection – the potential of donor engagement in corporate social responsibility</td>
<td>DANIDA</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Not included in Compendium. Final draft made available electronically.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Participants list for the POVNET Task Team Meeting on Employment and Labour Markets
24/9/2008

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SECTION C:

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE JOINT SESSION OF THE POVNET TASK TEAMS ON
SOCIAL PROTECTION AND EMPOWERMENT AND ON
EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR MARKETS

24 SEPTEMBER 2008

I. Adoption of the agenda [DCD/DAC/POVNET/A(2008)9]

1. The draft agenda was adopted.

II. Draft Policy Statement

2. The updated draft Policy Statement was discussed against the background of the stakeholder consultation held the previous day. Participants underlined the importance of linking the policy statement to the global development context including the results of the Review of the implementation of the Paris Declaration, especially in regards to capacity development and country ownership, and the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development. It was also recommended to make the first paragraph more attractive, introducing ‘appetizers’ that are politically appealing to ministers. This should appear in a general ‘chapeau’ outlining the relevance of Social Protection and Employment and Labour Markets for making economic growth more pro-poor. It was agreed that the first page should be shortened to the main messages and that pages 2 and 3 will take up these main messages and spell them out (following the model of the 2006 policy statement on Promoting Pro-Poor Growth). Participants were invited to submit their written inputs to the Secretariat by 29 September. The Secretariat will then produce a final draft that will be submitted to POVNET for its meeting on 20-21 October. Written comments on the revised draft will be compiled as an input for the POVNET discussion.

III. Conclusion of the meeting

3. While the Task Team on Employment and Labour Markets had already decided that it had had its last meeting, the Social Protection and Empowerment Task Team kept an option open to have another meeting in early November, if circumstances warranted this.
Participants list for the joint meeting of the Task Teams Employment and Labour Markets, and Social Protection and Empowerment

24/9/2008

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