REPORT ON RECENT MEETINGS

Room Document 1

DAC Meeting, 3rd November 2009

This note is for INFORMATION under Item 5 of the Draft Annotated DAC Agenda [DCD/DAC/A(2009)14/REV1].

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REPORT ON RECENT MEETINGS

1. Joint DAC-EPOC Task Team on Governance and Capacity Development for Natural Resources and Environmental Management (24-25 September)

The Joint Development-Environment Task Team held its first meeting since the Joint DAC-EPOC High Level Meeting and focussed its discussion on how to follow up on the requests made at that meeting. It was agreed to develop comprehensive guidance on capacity development for environment as well as a related Policy Statement. This work will be undertaken in the context of DAC-wide work on capacity development and in line with the Accra Agenda for Action. It was agreed that final outputs should be available in time for the Fourth Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Seoul in 2011. The Task Team also agreed to maximize inputs from Developing Country experts in its work at all stages.

2. WP-EFF Executive Committee Meeting (2nd October)

At its third meeting, the WP-EFF Executive Committee reviewed work in progress, financial resources, implementation of the Paris Declaration (PD) and AAA commitments, lessons learning exercises, and the vision and communication strategy for HLF-4 (Seoul 2011). Following an update by Cluster co-ordinators, the Secretariat was asked to produce a cross-cutting overview of cluster activities to enable WP-EFF to assess synergies and potential financing gaps at its next meeting on 2-3 December. In order to encourage PD and AAA implementation at country level, the Co-Chairs suggested identifying 5 to 10 volunteer countries to be "showcased" against application of a select number of commitments. Prior to the meeting, 10 country Action Plans had been submitted in response to the Co-Chairs letter (May 2009) and further responses are expected. On this basis, the Secretariat will provide a summary analysis of Action Plans looking in particular at country needs, problems and links to cluster activities.

4. Members welcomed the draft HLF-3 Lessons Learning report submitted for further written comments. Consultations are ongoing on the 2008 Survey lessons learning process. The Executive Committee discussed the objectives and vision for HLF-4. It was agreed to hold an interactive session at the next WP-EFF meeting on this issue. OECD is leading on the communication strategy for HLF-4. The priority is to ensure a lively event with user-friendly documents and a good website. It was felt that better communication is essential, not only in conjunction with Seoul but around the entire aid effectiveness agenda. An electronic platform should be established to provide a centre of knowledge accessible to the general public. Next steps will include a series of cluster meetings and workshops scheduled around the next WP-EFF plenary meeting in the week of 30 November. Colombia confirmed that the High Level Event on South-South Cooperation and Capacity Development will take place in Bogota on 24-26 March 2010. The full summary of the Executive Committee meeting is available on the WP-EFF portal (www.wpeff.net).

3. POVNET Plenary (21-22 (am) October)

5. POVNET meet on 21-22 October. For the first time, a number of developing country experts participated in the meeting who made several salient comments and ensured that discussions took account of realities in developing countries.
6. Presentations by the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the ILO provided an up-date on the impact of the financial crisis on poor people. Although the impact varies across countries, regions and sectors, the World Bank estimates that, by the end of 2010, an additional 89 million more people will be living in extreme poverty than otherwise would have been the case. Signs of rebound are now starting to occur in some developing countries, however past experience shows that a recovery in employment may lag as much as 5 years behind the recovery in GDP. In Asia, even though some countries were more resilient to the crises than expected, long-term growth will still be driven by increasing global demand. Arguably, the crisis has exacerbated many existing development challenges but presents a new opportunity to address these. A clear lesson is that public policy needs to pay greater attention to promoting productive employment and development in rural areas. Where they exist, social protections schemes can be used as a mitigating measure during crises but, importantly, social protection is also an investment in the productivity and employability of poor people and thus promotes more successful labour market outcomes.

7. POVNET agreed to pursue its implementation work through the formation of three dedicated sub-groups on i) promoting a POVNET input for the MDG review conference in 2010, ii) increasing the coverage of pro-poor growth issues in the DAC peer reviews and iii) developing country-level delivery mechanisms including a proposal to the Train4Dev Network to develop a new series of learning events on social protection. POVNET took note of the progress made by the Task Team on Empowerment and endorsed its plans for preparing a set of products consisting of i) stories on empowerment, ii) good practice notes and iii) a policy guidance note. POVNET further agreed that the Empowerment Task Team will take up the proposal made by GOVNET to prepare a joint seminar exploring some of the operational entry points for integrating human rights and pro-poor growth approaches.

8. During a joint session with GENDERNET members, participants were up-dated on the outcomes and follow up to the DAC Reflexion Exercise and the DAC Policy Directors’ meeting. POVNET members subsequently discussed possible focus areas for the 2011-12 work programme and agreed that this work should be pursued with others. Three areas for future work were agreed: i) food security, ii) social policy and iii) green pro-poor growth.

9. Pierre Jacquet (France) was elected POVNET Chair for 2010. Earnan O’Cleirigh (Ireland) and Timo Voipio (Finland) were elected Vice-Chairs for 2010.