REPORT ON RECENT MEETING

Room Document 1

DAC Meeting, 19 October 2010

This Room Document is for INFORMATION under Item 5 of the Draft Annotated DAC Agenda [DCD/DAC/A(2010)16].

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1. Joint GENDERNET/INCAF Workshop, 15 (pm) October 2010

To mark the 10th anniversary of the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, members of the two Networks held a half-day workshop to share information, promote mutual learning and identify opportunities for joint work. The workshop focused on peacebuilding, statebuilding, the practical implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions on women, peace and security and para. 21(b) of the Accra Agenda for Action, and findings from the newly published Creditor Reporting System report on aid focused on gender equality in fragile and conflict affected states. The workshop had a practical focus: what do we know, and what needs to change? It brought together development practitioners and researchers working on conflict/fragility and gender equality, and a representative from a grassroots organisation in Colombia.

2. Key messages from participants and presenters included:

- It’s time for more evidence-based policy-making and programming.
- Excluding women is costly. Addressing gender inequalities in fragile settings can produce positive results, including sustainable peace and accountable, legitimate states which are responsive to needs.
- Many DAC members are neglecting gender equality in fragile settings. The role of women in statebuilding processes, and the integration of gender equality dimensions in work on security and justice in fragile states remain limited.
- Gender-based violence is both a cause and manifestation of fragility and can undermine peace. Addressing gender-based violence is central to building more resilient states and societies.
- Women’s exclusion is about power relations and resources. Donors need to identify and reach out beyond the most powerful actors to ensure that women’s voices are heard. Supporting formal structures is not enough.
- International development partners need to increase the gender-sensitivity of their diplomatic and military engagement in fragile states.

3. Members of the two Networks agreed to liaise closely within their agencies, resolved to coordinate more closely, and to develop joint products in the lead up to the Fourth High Level Forum (Busan, 2011).

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1 “At country level, donors and developing countries will work and agree on a set of realistic peace- and state- building objectives that address the root causes of conflict and fragility and help ensure the protection and participation of women [...].”