REPORT ON RECENT MEETINGS

Room Document 1

DAC Meeting, 2nd October 2012

This Room Document is submitted for INFORMATION to the 2nd October DAC Meeting [DCD/DAC/A(2012)11].

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Joint DAC and Working Party of the Trade Committee meeting on Aid for Trade, 10-11 September 2012, OECD, Paris, France

1. The meeting discussed progress with the implementation of the 2011-2012 joint DAC-TC programme of work on aid for trade. Japan presented the mainly positive results of the independent evaluation of their aid for trade programmes. Delegates welcomed the analysis of the aid for trade flows which continued to increase in 2010. They discussed an overview of India’s trade-related South-south cooperation, planned work on the regional perspectives on aid for trade, an issues paper on how aid for trade could help reducing the thickness of borders to allow local producers to connect to value chains, the focus on value chains for the 2013 monitoring exercise, the draft agenda of the OECD Policy Dialogue on aid for trade which is scheduled for 16 – 17 January 2013, and the 2013 – 2014 joint DAC-TC PWB on aid for trade.

2. Delegates were informed about the progress with the country case studies on how to manage aid for trade and development results in Bangladesh, Colombia, Ghana, Rwanda, Vietnam and the Solomon Islands. Representatives from the case study countries welcomed their participation in the project and provided comments on the preliminary findings of the local consultants. In addition, delegates discussed an analysis of trade-related targets and indicators to measure results of aid for trade programmes. This analysis will be turned into a tool for partner countries and donors to incorporate MfDR approaches in their aid for trade programmes. During a special session delegates commented on the draft paper, estimating the binding constraints to developing countries agricultural trade. This paper will also be tabled at the January 2013 Policy Dialogue on aid for trade.

Brainstorming Meeting on Triangular Co-operation, 13-14 September, Lisbon, Portugal

3. The brainstorming meeting brought together 24 technical experts with in-depth knowledge and practical experience of triangular co-operation to share views and experiences on this type of development co-operation. Some of the key players on triangular co-operation were represented at this informal meeting, with a balanced representation from bilateral donors (5), middle-income countries (5), and low-income countries (4). The United Nations also attended.

4. Drawing from a set of case studies presented at the meeting, participants discussed the characteristics and the key elements that make for “good” triangular co-operation. This seems to be a modality of development partnership focused on capacity development that complements and builds on bilateral co-operation. Good triangular co-operation relies on active involvement of all partners, with beneficiary countries strongly in the lead. Since there are more partners involved in it in comparison to bilateral co-operation, good communication among partners and strong political support are key to ensure results. Successful triangular co-operation should have not only a development impact but also have a multiplier effect, which will ultimately lead to a more sustainable development impact. Participants mentioned several messages that could be brought to policy-makers, including:

- High level political commitment to triangular co-operation should be translated in practice; implementation agencies should be mandated and supported to participate in triangular co-operation.

- Monitoring and evaluation should improve; this will help understanding and demonstrating the impact of triangular co-operation.

- There should be more efforts to identify and advertise expertise and innovations from developing countries that can be shared with others through triangular co-operation.
5. The conclusions of this technical meeting, together with a literature review and a survey on triangular co-operation, will inform a summary report, aiming to map the current state of play and help to build a common understanding on what is “good” triangular co-operation. The conclusions of this report will be brought to the attention of the DAC Ministerial Meeting. The summary report will be presented and discussed at a global policy dialogue early next year and, after completion, it will be forwarded to the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation.