REPORT ON RECENT MEETINGS

Room Document 1

DAC Meeting, 7 March 2012

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REPORT ON RECENT MEETINGS

13th Meeting of the DAC Network on Development Evaluation – 8-9 February 2012, Paris, France

1. The DAC Network on Development Evaluation welcomed a presentation by DAC Chair Mr. Brian Atwood and discussed the implications of Busan outcomes for evaluation. The meeting also featured a substantive discussion on food security, based on a systematic review of evaluation evidence on interventions targeting increased agricultural production, market reform, land tenure and value chain development. Member discussions focused on how such reviews can be used to inform decision making in relevant policy areas and the challenges of synthesising findings where underlying evaluations and results data are weak or lacking. The results of the systematic review were summarised in the latest “Evaluation Insights #5 Supporting Food Security.” Further reviews on topics of policy needs are being considered.

2. Other highlights from the meeting include:

- **Improving the evidence base in key policy areas:** In smaller break-out groups, members looked at progress made on evaluating in situations of conflict and fragility and discussed options for further joint work in fragile settings, including support to implementation of the New Deal. Another group looked at evaluating support to the private sector and the contribution of the private sector to development results, increasingly a priority area for many development actors.

- **Engagement:** The Network reaffirmed its commitment to engage on evaluation with partner countries and non-member providers of development support, in line with the DAC Global Relations Strategy [DCD/DAC(2011)36/FINAL]. Members confirmed interest in further joint work on topics of mutual concern and suggested collaborations on evaluation can be used as a forum for mutual learning and as an entry point for engagement. The Network will intensify work to support evaluation capacity development, including with the group of partner countries involved in the evaluation of the Paris Declaration.

- **Sharing experience:** The United States, Australia, Germany and the U.K. shared recent developments in their countries and discussed the political context for development evaluation and mounting accountability pressures on evaluation departments to provide evidence on results. The presentations and discussion revealed that major changes are taking place in evaluation systems and functions across DAC members.

- **Ongoing work:** Written updates were provided on ongoing work on budget support, communicating the results of evaluation (with DEVCOM), governance, multilateral effectiveness (UNEG-DAC peer reviews, task team on multilateral effectiveness and MOPAN), impact evaluation, evaluation in Haiti and the use of social media to disseminate DAC work and evaluation lessons [Room Document VI.]. In response to a request from the DAC bureau, members were asked to submit any information on evaluating triangular co-operation to the Secretariat; there are appear to be few evaluations in this area.

- **Elections:** Mr. Martyn Pennington of the European Commission was elected as Network Chair. Vice Chairs William Carlos (Ireland) and Henri Jorritsma (the Netherlands) were renewed in their current positions.
China-DAC Study Group - 17 February 2012, Beijing, China

3. The China-DAC Study Group met at the offices of our Chinese partners, the International Poverty Reduction Centre in China (IPRCC). The meeting showed the interest and usefulness in maintaining this low-key engagement with the Chinese, including as the more formal Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation starts to take shape.

4. Highlights from the meeting include:

- **Dissemination:** The main lessons drawn from the Study Group’s first phase of work will continue to be disseminated in 2012. These lessons, which were presented and discussed at a Policy Symposium in Beijing on 8 June 2011, have now been published in a two-volume report: "Economic Transformation and Poverty Reduction. How it happened in China, helping it happen in Africa". The Chinese translation of the report should be published in March 2012. IPRCC will organise a presentation in Beijing for a Chinese audience once the Chinese version is available.

- **Knowledge and experience sharing:** Chinese officials will participate in two evaluations conducted by DAC members. This will generate inputs for a Roundtable on evaluation in Beijing in October involving both policy makers and evaluators to discuss the need for and use of evaluations. In addition, last October's joint study visit to Tanzania, which looked at Chinese and DAC support for agricultural development, should be followed up with a second similar visit. A Roundtable to discuss the findings will subsequently be organised in Beijing.

- **Future work:** There was agreement that the Study Group should continue into 2013-14 with possible topics being planning for and evaluating results, triangular co-operation or learning from China's development co-operation 'beyond aid'.

Global Forum on Development – 28-29 February

5. The OECD Global Forum on Development brought together more than 350 high level experts from a wide range of stakeholder groups, including OECD and non-member governments, think tanks, civil society organisations and the private sector. It was organised jointly by the Development Co-operation Directorate, the Development Centre and the Governance and Territorial Development Directorate. It provided an opportunity to consult on the new OECD Strategy on Development and highlight priorities for the OECD’s future work on development. Participants identified a number of challenges emerging from the evolving global landscape and outlined how the OECD may help to address them, including taking into account the OECD’s comparative advantages such as its convening power, comparative data analysis, and the ability to provide in-depth and long-term analysis.

6. The Global Forum’s specific focus on public expenditure and the linkages between more domestic resources to better spending allowed participants to reflect on ways to enhance the efficiency of public spending, governance practices and procedures, and public sector institutions. In doing so, participants highlighted priorities for future action, including as they relate to the implementation of commitments in Busan (for example relating to the New Consensus on Effective Institutions and to domestic resource mobilisation).

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1. The report is available on the Internet at: [www.iprcc.org](http://www.iprcc.org) or [www.oecd.org/dac/cdsg](http://www.oecd.org/dac/cdsg)
ENVIRONET Plenary - 29 February -1 March

7. The 13th ENVIRONET meeting featured green growth, climate change financing, the Rio+20 Summit and the future PWB of the ENVIRONET. The plenary began with a presentation by DAC Chair, Brian Atwood, on the implications of a reformed DAC architecture, the Busan HLF-4, the OECD Development Strategy, and the preparation process for the DAC’s PWB 2013-14. He highlighted that environment plays a critical role in meeting development objectives and reassured members that it has already been reflected in the priority setting of the PWB process. Some key conclusions from the plenary include:

- **Green Growth** – participants welcomed the work on Green Growth. They endorsed the importance of the 4 areas of focus for the Task Team on Green Growth and Poverty Reduction – innovation, governance, policy coherence for development, and increasing the value and welfare benefits from natural capital. The members reiterated that greater emphasis should be placed on the social dimension of green growth, ensuring complementarity with other initiatives, actively engaging partner countries, and the need for OECD countries to adjust domestic policies to create an enabling environment for global green growth.

- **Climate Change Finance** – the Secretariat, UNDP and Honduras, presented the implementation plan of the Busan Building Block on climate change finance and their views on how to bring it forward. There was broad support for the building block, but some members stressed the importance of avoiding a proliferation of co-ordinating bodies, and suggested a mapping exercise of the existing relevant initiatives. The Secretariat invited members to provide written comments by 8th March.

- **Rio+20 Summit** - participants welcomed the Secretariat’s proposal on developing a Policy Statement on Green Growth and Development Co-operation and agreed that the Task Team on Green Growth and Poverty Reduction would develop a draft. It was suggested that the statement should be short and consist of a problem or issue statement, a series of actions or approaches which DAC members will agree to and a statement on how progress will be measured. The statement should build on previous DAC statements on climate change and biodiversity. It should identify key issues such as ecosystem services, natural resources that are over exploited and under priced, distributional issues, public revenues, PCD and the role of the private sector. It should recognise the importance of the discussions in Rio on these issues, without being prescriptive, and the importance of those discussions for the post 2015 framework. Further discussion on this Policy Statement will be held at the 7th March DAC and potentially at the SLM. The Chair suggested that members write to the Secretariat to signal whether they can collaborate with the OECD to host a side-event at Rio+20.

- **ENVIRONET PWB and mission statement** – Members were encouraged to communicate ENVIRONET’s priorities with colleagues involved in the SLM in April, where the PWB priorities will be agreed. Based on the PWB discussion outcomes, the ENVIRONET bureau members will draft a mission statement and will seek comments from members. A final mission statement proposal will be sent to the Chair of the DAC in September.

- **Newly elected ENVIRONET Chair and Bureau Member** – Mr. John Carstensen (DFID, UK) has been elected as the new ENVIRONET Chair. Ms. Alice Ruhweza (UNDP) was elected as the new ENVIRONET Bureau member to replace Mr. Erwin Kuenzi from Austria, who had to resign. Messrs. Tomonori Sudo (Japan) and Matti Nummelin (Finland) were renewed as Bureau members.