REPORT ON RECENT MEETINGS

Room Document 1

DAC Meeting, 12 July 2012

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WP STAT Plenary Meeting (5-7 June)

1. Detailed Action Points from this meeting were distributed to DAC delegates by e-mail on 8 June. The meeting made progress on a number of issues. It accepted in principle new converged reporting directives, which will be slightly revised before being reissued for approval under the written procedure. The meeting also revised the list of organisations contributions to which are reportable as ODA, and agreed to release information on members’ methodologies for calculating in-donor refugee costs. It made progress on the channel of delivery classification and a new policy marker to track spending on maternal, newborn and child health. As regards improving statistics on non-ODA flows, members agreed to examine the feasibility of using new data on export credits to be collected by the Trade and Agriculture Directorate, instead of continuing separate collection in DAC statistics. The Secretariat presented a progress report on other components of the non-ODA workstream and the next steps which included elaboration of proposals of improved classification of non-ODA flows in DAC statistics and a survey on guarantee schemes. The meeting also agreed in principle to a proposal by Canada to exclude in-donor refugee costs from tying status reporting (so that the convention already applied to administrative costs would also apply to in-donor refugee costs). This proposal will come before the DAC if WP-STAT members confirm it under the written procedure.

2. A joint IATI/WP-STAT workshop held on 5 June agreed on a basis for a publication standard for aid information as mandated by Busan. The publication standard would consist of the CRS, the DAC’s Forward Spending Survey, and IATI. In implementation schedules to be submitted by the end of 2012, donors can specify the feasibility of reporting on the individual components of this standard.

10th GENDERNET Meeting (13-15 June)

3. The full and frank exchange of information on the global political landscape, along with an assessment and identification of opportunities to influence global processes, dominated the first day of the GENDERNET meeting. Discussions focussed primarily on the post-2015 framework and the proposed 5th World Conference on Women (Beijing+20), also scheduled for 2015. Members recognised the risks of gender equality and women’s rights becoming subsumed within the emerging discussions on both inequalities and human rights. The GENDERNET provides a unique forum for members to work together on a shared vision for integrating gender equality and women’s empowerment into the post-2015 framework. Members agreed to maximise opportunities to exchange information and informally strategise across their regional negotiating boundaries over the coming eighteen months.

4. A day-long skills building and mutual learning workshop was held on gender equality, green growth, climate change and Rio+20. The objective of the workshop was to introduce members to key concepts and issues, so that they are better equipped to advise on the gender equality/women’s empowerment dimensions of their agency’s approaches, including to climate change financing. The workshop was a mix of presentations, case study examples and breakout groups, with speakers from the OECD, civil society, governments and research institutions. Norway and Finland funded participants from Kenya and Ethiopia.

5. Implementing the gender equality commitments (para. 20) of the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation is a central pillar of the Network’s current and future work programmes. Information was shared on the Global Partnership, the proposed global monitoring framework and a number of the relevant voluntary agreements.
6. As approximately one third of the 100+ participants were new to the Network, the DAC and the OECD, a special effort was made to introduce DAC priorities and processes. Sessions were held on Programme of Work and Budget, the OECD Strategy for Development and the OECD-wide gender equality initiative. DAC Chair Mr. Brian Atwood, DCD Director Mr. Jon Lomoy and Deputy Director Mr. Serge Tomasi joined the meeting for key agenda items.

7. GENDERNET members also participated in the DAC Development Debate on *New poverty patterns: where will the poor live?*

8. Discussions at the meeting confirmed the directions for the 2013-14 work programme, which will continue to focus on core priorities of the DAC, collaborative efforts to influence key global processes (such as the post-2015 framework and Busan implementation) and emerging topics. Ms. Aine Doody (Ireland) and Ms. Melissa Stutsel (Australia) were elected as Network Co-Chairs. Ms. Saskia Ravesloot (Belgium) and Ms. Pauline Chabbert (France) will continue as Bureau members. Special thanks are extended to Mr. Martinus Desmet (outgoing DAC Delegate of Belgium), who has been a tireless DAC facilitator and champion of the Network.

**Working Party on Aid Effectiveness Plenary Meeting (28-29 June)**

9. The final meeting of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness was hosted by UNDP and the UN Development Group on 28-29 June at UNESCO Headquarters. Participants endorsed the proposals prepared by the Post-Busan Interim Group on the working arrangements of the Global Partnership – including a system of ministerial co-chairmanship and a steering committee - and a global monitoring framework consisting of a set of 10 indicators and targets.

10. The meeting confirmed the appointment by the DAC of Mr. Andrew Mitchell, UK Secretary of State for International Development, as one of the three co-chairs, while consultations are ongoing among other constituencies to identify ministerial co-chairs from countries that are recipients of development co-operation and from “south-south” co-operation partners. Countries have been invited to confirm nomination of their co-chairs and members of the Steering Committee by the end of July to the OECD/UNDP joint team. In order to bring remaining work on monitoring to a close by the end of the year, the joint OECD/UNDP support team has been tasked to work in a transparent way to operationalise the agreed indicators of progress, drawing on the expertise of interested stakeholders.

11. The expression of interest and engagement of a wide range of stakeholders to support the work of the Global Partnership reflected the spirit of Busan and successfully laid the foundation for the Global Partnership. The meeting also provided an opportunity for various countries, organisations and actors to showcase preliminary progress in implementing Busan commitments. In this context, the meeting endorsed a new common standard for transparency in development co-operation, drawing on a proposal prepared jointly by the DAC Working Party on Development Finance Statistics and the International Aid Transparency Initiative. Key summary points and other documents are available on the WP-EFF community space.