REPORT ON RECENT MEETINGS

Room Document 1

DAC Meeting, 5 December 2014

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Advisory Group on Investment and Development meeting (AGID), 16 October 2014

1. At its second bi-annual meeting, AGID discussed the following issues:

- **Policy Framework for Investment (PFI) update.** The update of the PFI is expected to be finalised for the 2015 Ministerial Council Meeting. Delegates welcomed the presentations of the draft chapters on Investment Policy, Responsible Business Conduct, Investment Framework for Green Growth, Investment Promotion and Facilitation and Infrastructure Investment.

- **Case study on donor support to a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in infrastructure.** The Secretariat presented the following findings on the donors’ role in mobilising private investment for infrastructure from the Dakar-Diamniadio Toll Highway project in Senegal: (1) it is necessary to ensure that the host government clearly prioritises the project and demonstrates commitment by allocating its own resources, (2) limited amount of private investment was mobilised, and (3) there are challenges in attributing the mobilising effect to specific donors.

- **Revisiting Private Sector Development: An Issues Paper.** This paper aimed to initiate a discussion on how donors could better support the contribution of the private sector for inclusive growth in the context of a changing trade, investment and development landscape. It will be revised in light of delegates’ comments.

- **World Economic Forum (WEF)-OECD Development Finance Initiative.** The WEF and the Secretariat presented the initiative which seeks to analyse catalytic finance and technical assistance from official and private sources to fund development. The results will be presented at the Davos meeting in January 2015 and the UN Financing for Development Conference in July 2015.

- **Program of Work and Mandate 2015-16.** Discussions highlighted the need to: (a) engage more with the OECD regional investment programmes, development agencies from capitals, partner countries, the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation and other stakeholders; (b) clarify involvement in the Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chain of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High Risk Areas; (c) develop more lessons learned on the role of the private sector in achieving the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals; and (d) include concrete outputs on support to small and medium enterprises.

Effective Institutions Platform Plenary, 27-29 October 2014

2. The Effective Institutions Platform (EIP) held its annual meeting from 28-29 October 2014 in Paris. Members presented progress in the current workstreams of the EIP in the areas of use of country systems, indicators of reform, domestic resource mobilisation, and accountable and inclusive institutions. They agreed to pilot and implement Learning Alliances on Public Sector Reform as an alternative to more classical approaches in support of reform efforts and develop a practical methodology for peer learning in this area. The first learning alliance workshop on the theme of Supreme audit institutions (SAIs) and citizen engagement was held in the sidelines of the EIP annual meeting with SAIs from Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, South Africa, Zambia and the Philippines sharing innovative practices in this area. Members also discussed practical ways of engaging with the Global Partnership and the post-2015 processes. For more information, please go to: [http://www.effectiveinstitutions.org](http://www.effectiveinstitutions.org)
iChallenge workshop (Effective Institutions Platform), 29-30 October 2014

3. The iChallenge workshop was attended by members of the ISPMS (Indicators of the Strength of Public Management Systems) Steering Group, Effective Institutions Platform members and winners of the iChallenge and several academics. Participants discussed issues around the measurement of state capacity using ISPMS and the future direction for the initiative. It was agreed that the ISPMS project had successfully reached the end of its first phase with the collection of around 100 ISPMS-compliant indicators. Participants noted that efforts should be made to disseminate the data set and to promote its use by partner governments, practitioners and researchers. It was also agreed that a second phase should explore the use of “data clubs” and surveys of public servants to develop a deeper understanding of state capacity and the strength of public management systems and use citizen’s perspectives where feasible.

INCAF Directors Level Meeting, 3-4 November 2014

4. The DAC International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) held its 7th meeting in Paris on November 3-4, followed by a joint workshop with GovNET and GENDERNET on November 5th (see below). The overall objectives of the meeting were to take stock of how far policy and practice has advanced in the area of conflict and fragility, and identify clear priorities to focus donor efforts over the next two years. Members identified two strategic priorities: continuing to drive reform in donor policies and practice to deliver on New Deal and related reform commitments; and advancing the broader knowledge and policy agenda on conflict and fragility, particularly in light of a proposed goal on “peaceful and inclusive societies” in the post-2015 framework. Members also engaged in a discussion on the Ebola crisis and the threat it poses to peacebuilding progress in West Africa, and heard an update on emerging findings from the 2015 “States of Fragility” report. Members agreed on the need to strengthen political engagement on these issues within donor agencies, and endorsed a set of messages to be delivered to the DAC High Level Meeting in December. Finally, members endorsed plans for an independent review of the New Deal and International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, to inform renewal of the New Deal mandate after the end of its pilot period in 2015.

GovNet Plenary Meeting, 4-6 November 2014

5. The DAC network on Governance (GovNet) held its 19th meeting in Paris during the first week of November. On the 4th, a workshop was organised to review recent trends and future challenges on accountability at the service delivery, including panels with experts and case discussions. On the 5th, debates were organised on politics and development, the post-2015 process and innovation and use of results-based approaches on the governance sector. Finally a half-day reflection exercise was held on the 6th, reserved for members from DAC development agencies and multilateral organisations. The meeting was well attended and participants were updated and provided feedback on the main current activities of the networks: the study on Results Based Approaches on governance, the study on innovation in public sector reform in the governance area and the publication of an alternative guidance for governance reform.

6. Prior to GovNet, the Anti-Corruption Task Team (ACTT) convened its annual meeting. The ACTT is a sub body within GovNet. The first half of the meeting on 3 December was devoted to updates from members and the secretariat about the current status of the work on anti-corruption and illicit financial flows. The second half of the day was a seminar on corruption, organised crime, and development co-operation.
Joint Workshop on Gender and Statebuilding, 5 November 2014

This workshop took place in Paris on 5 November 2014 and brought together members of the DAC networks on gender equality (GENDERNET), conflict and fragility (INCAF), and governance (GOVNET), as well as researchers and representatives from UN agencies and civil society. It was the first time that the three networks had joined forces to discuss an issue of mutual interest: how to more effectively integrate gender equality and women’s rights into donor interventions in fragile and conflict-affected states. The meeting focused on:

- Reviewing the knowledge base on gender-responsive statebuilding;
- Exchanging experiences of key challenges, lessons learned, and good practices;
- Identifying practical recommendations and opportunities for further collaboration.

The workshop provided an opportunity to share good practices and lessons about ‘what works’, with a focus on security and justice reform programmes, and stressed the importance of integrating gender equality in political economy analysis to improve the effectiveness of donor support. Members left the meeting with concrete recommendations and practical tools to conduct gender-sensitive power analysis and to better integrate gender equality into statebuilding programmes. There was a strong interest from the three constituencies to further co-operate on gender and statebuilding issues, including by sharing knowledge and good practices and joining forces for global advocacy and action in support of the women, peace and security agenda.

Meeting of the China-DAC Study Group, Beijing, 13 November 2014

The China–DAC Study Group met at the office of the International Poverty Reduction Centre in China (IPRCC). Highlights from the meeting included:

- There is a lot of interest in the topic of how development co-operation can support the private sector to work for sustainable development. Following up on the Symposium on 14 November 2014, the Study Group could organise further exchanges, in Beijing or in Africa, drawing on existing or emerging work.

- The Study Group has agreed to pursue an activity on strengthening evaluation capacity, as a follow up to the Roundtable held in June 2014. Several bilateral initiatives are already in the pipeline. The main findings and lessons from these could usefully be brought together at a Symposium that could take place in Beijing in June 2015.

- There remains an interest in the Study Group to work on the topic of co-operating with non-governmental organisations in developing countries. The Study Group could mobilise contributions from its members to complement the work already being pursued on this topic by some institutions in Beijing.

The Study Group discussed a draft work programme for 2015-16 (that builds on and updates the Study Group’s work programme for 2013-14). It was agreed that the draft should be revised, to reflect the decisions made during the meeting, and then circulated to Study Group members for approval on a “no objections” basis. It was further agreed that, once finalised, the OECD will share the work programme with DAC members and IPRCC will share it with key ministries in China. This will be an opportunity to encourage renewed membership in the Study Group (including from DAC members/observers that were previously involved).

11. The Symposium brought together around 80 people from government, the private sector, academia and civil society from DAC members and observers, China and several other developing countries. The DAC Chair spoke during the opening ceremony. Participants concurred that the private sector is a powerful force for promoting growth and reducing poverty. China’s recent development illustrates this. The question is how to maximise the positive impact of private sector activities, including through more and better jobs, while minimising negative aspects, notably environmental degradation. China and Chinese firms can learn from international experience in promoting ethical business, including how development agencies and the private sector can join forces to promote development that is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable. At the same time, international partners need to understand the Chinese context.

17th DAC Evaluation Network Meeting, 19-20 November 2014

12. The meeting was chaired by the new EvalNet Chair Penny Hawkins, Head of Evaluation, DFID. Dereck Rooken-Smith, Assistant Director General, Office of Development Effectiveness, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia, was elected Vice-chair. The meeting was very well attended from capitals with over 70 participants including many from non-European OECD members.

13. Members reviewed progress in key work areas, including:

- Budget support: a synthesis based on a series of evaluations is now available and will be widely disseminated. Seven further evaluations are currently ongoing or planned.

- Evaluating trust funds and global partnership: a draft note with seven guiding principles for evaluating global and regional partnership programmes was presented.

- Collaborative evaluations: 18 partner countries who have volunteered are preparing studies and four thematic papers are also under preparation. A workshop involving partners will be held in Manila on 2-4 December.

- Peer reviews of evaluation functions of UN organisations: this collaborative work with the UN Evaluation Group (UNEG) is in demand and several UN organisations have expressed interest in being reviewed during 2015-16.

- Future evaluations: the inventory of planned evaluations was presented by the Secretariat who is managing this open, easily accessible web tool which contains 664 planned evaluations. The inventory contributes to increased transparency and knowledge about what is in the pipeline of key actors and enables members to identify opportunities for collaborative work.

14. A thematic session focused on recent evaluations of climate change and development. This is an area which is likely to see a large increase in evaluation activity over the coming years and where members are keen to exchange approaches and lessons. Members engaged in a panel discussion on working with consultants for successful evaluation which led to a lively exchange as these issues are the daily bread and butter of evaluation managers in DAC member capitals involving use of different approaches. Members shared experiences on what makes evaluation influential and on impact evaluations including examples of where solid evaluation findings had led to evidence-based decisions to scale up programmes. The UNEG chair reported on the UN resolution on “Building capacity for the evaluation of development activities at the country level “which now has been approved by the second committee of the UN General Assembly.
As 2015 has been designated the International Year of Evaluation by UNEG and other relevant actors, a number of global and regional evaluation events are planned for next year. A Global Forum of Parliamentarians will be held in November 2015 in Nepal.

15. In view of many recent developments and varied approaches now in place, members expressed interest in a new analytical study of evaluation systems in development agencies. It would go beyond updating an earlier study undertaken in 2010 and involve more in-depth analysis to capture collective experience and promote learning.

Launch Event and Panel Discussion on “Engaging with the Public: 12 Lessons from DAC Peer Reviews and the Network of DAC Development Communicators (DevCom)”, 24 November 2014

16. Participants in the 2014 annual meeting of the Network of DAC Development Communicators (DevCom) joined OECD staff and delegates for the launch of this collaborative DCD-DevCom publication. The launch event was well-attended and after presentations by Brenda Killen (Deputy Director, DCD) and Mario Pezzini (Director, DEV) the panel – constituted by James Deane, Director of Policy and Learning, BBC Media Action (moderator); Andrew Darnton, author of Finding Frames: New ways to engage the UK public in global poverty; Charlotte Henriksen, Head of Communication Section, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Trygve Ofarnes, Head of Advocacy and Communication, UNDP Nordic Representation Office – engaged in lively discussion on the topics covered by the 12 Lessons:

**WHY SHOULD POLICY MAKERS CARE ABOUT PUBLIC SUPPORT?**
1. Public engagement builds public support and makes development co-operation policies more effective.
2. Improving communication increases transparency.

**KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE**
3. Understand your audience.
4. Have a clear, strategic vision.
5. Develop and deliver a coherent narrative.

**PUT THE RIGHT TOOLS INTO ACTION**
6. Communicate results: good and bad.
7. Leverage partnerships to achieve objectives.
8. Make room for creativity and innovation.
9. Ensure branding is appropriate.

**ENABLE SUCCESS**
10. Promote communication and co-ordination institutionally.
11. Match resources and expertise with ambition.
12. Evaluate and learn from experience.

17. The booklet highlights key lessons learned on engaging with the public based on DAC members’ practices as documented in peer reviews, DevCom’s reports and publications and wider work from across the OECD. It includes examples from DAC members’ experiences and sketches out challenges they continue to face as they move toward more strategic, effective and innovative engagement with citizens and taxpayers on development co-operation.

18. Approved by the DAC through written procedure on 14 November, the publication is the latest in the series of 12 Lessons from DAC Peer Reviews.