DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE

SELECTION OF THE CHAIR OF THE WORKING PARTY ON AID EFFECTIVENESS:
FOLLOW-UP

[Contact: Brenda. Killen, e-mail: brenda.killen@oecd.org; Richard Carey, e-mail:
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Dear DAC Delegate
Dear WP-EFF Member,

Selection of the Chair of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness

Following on from the meeting of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness on 25-26 November 2008, I am writing once again to ask for your help in identifying candidates for the chair of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness.

After my letter of 6 October 2008 extending the nomination period for this position, I was pleased to inform you that we had received a total of three nominations, and that a consensual arrangement should be presented at the following Working Party meeting, on 25-29 November.

At that meeting, participants acknowledged the quality of the received candidacies, but deemed they were not in a position to select a chair, nor co-chairs. They requested the search to be extended, to identify a broader group of candidates, who can both on a technical and political level take the aid effectiveness agenda at its fullest implementation.

Mr. Jan Cedergren, who was to resign as Chair of the Working Party after this meeting, in line with the indication he had given when elected to the position in July 2006, kindly accepted to keep the position until a consensus is reached, before the next meeting (31 March 2009).

I therefore would like to invite you again to express your government’s interest in a strong candidacy to chair the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness. I want to stress the importance of that position, the Working Party being a unique and internationally-recognized international partnership on aid effectiveness.

In accordance with OECD rules of procedure, the incoming Chair would be elected for 2009. Our experience is that we gain valuable continuity from chairs who are ready to serve for at least two years, and it would be preferable if candidates could commit to this position for the full period up to the fourth High Level Forum in 2011, which will assess the results achieved against the targets set for 2010 in the Paris Declaration.
Candidates may come from any of DAC and developing countries who are members of the Working Party. Candidates from other countries may also be considered if their country is clearly committed to become a member.

The names of candidates should be sent, with a short resumé, to Brenda Killen, Head of the Aid Effectiveness Division of the Development Cooperation Directorate, by 31st of January 2009. Ms Killen will inform the Working Party of the nominations received and of the process for reaching a consensus.

Let me remind you that the commitment required of a Chair involves working with the Secretariat to prepare meetings of the Working Party, chairing those meetings (every 9-12 month), and staying abreast of work on aid effectiveness in the sub-bodies of the Working Party and work on aid effectiveness in other fora. In the context of the reorganization of the WP-EFF, the Chair will also chair the WP-EFF steering or executive committee set up to coordinate the WP-EFF work in a more manageable way.

This is not a full-time job, but it does require availability for the above tasks and for frequent communications with the Secretariat, as well as a sufficient degree of experience and authority. The demands on the chair during the lead-up to the Accra HLF-3 have been quite heavy, and it is likely that the new chair would need to be able to devote significant time to preparations for HLF-4 in 2010/11.

The position is normally financed by the chair’s government, but in this case, as nominations are open to partner countries, DAC members may wish to consider financing a candidate from a partner country.

Clearly, it is of paramount importance that the leadership and steering roles for the Working Party fall into place in a way that generates support among all members. The Secretariat is committed to fulfilling its responsibilities to facilitate this process. Please do not hesitate to make contact with me or with Brenda Killen should you wish over the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Carey