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GUIDANCE FOR DAC MID-TERM REVIEWS

Lessons from the 2009 mid-term review pilot and next steps (DCD/DAC)2010/17) were discussed at the DAC peer review methodology meeting on 30 March 2010. A revised guidance taking into account comments made by DAC members at the meeting has then been submitted for approval through a written procedure. This guidance has been adjusted in light of comments received. It replaces the former guidance (DCD/DAC(2008)18/FINAL).

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GUIDANCE FOR DAC MID-TERM REVIEWS

1. Background

1. Mid-term reviews have been conducted at the request of DAC members since 2003. At the peer review methodology meeting of 24 January 2008, the DAC decided to initiate a more systematic use of mid-course follow-up of recommendations from peer reviews. Guidance for this process was approved at the peer review methodology meeting of 16 October 2008, to be applied to pilot mid-term reviews in 2009 for the DAC members reviewed in 2007 on a voluntary basis.

2. Purpose of mid-term reviews

2. At its meeting on 30 March 2010, the DAC discussed the lessons from the 2009 pilot (DCD/DAC(2010)17) and concluded that mid-term reviews: i) help DAC members to take stock of, and bring momentum to their efforts to implement the recommendations of the previous peer review; and ii) help to maintain the dialogue between the secretariat and each DAC member, which facilitates the next peer review. The DAC therefore decided to include mid-term reviews as part of the peer review cycle. The mid-term reviews will be conducted on a voluntary basis. This guidance note replaces the previous guidance (DCD/DAC(2008)18/FINAL).

3. Guidance for mid-term reviews

3. The mid-term review takes place two to three years after the peer review in the form of a one day visit to the capital. The Secretariat plans the calendar for these mid-term reviews with the respective countries. To do so, the Secretariat will contact each DAC member approximately 18 months after its peer review to seek approval to initiate the mid-term review process and, if agreed by the reviewed country, to suggest an indicative calendar.

4. The mid-term review process is kept simple to avoid any unnecessary administrative burden for the reviewed member and the Secretariat. Related secretariat costs are covered in the core budget. The process comprises three steps:

- **Preparation:** The reviewed country prepares a matrix (maximum ten pages), summarizing the actions implemented or planned, and actual (or expected) impact against each recommendation of the preceding peer review, as well as a 4-5 page narrative to comment on any new developments affecting the development co-operation context, policy and system, and outline new perspectives as appropriate. These are sent to the Secretariat two weeks before the visit. They are regarded as working papers and are not shared with the DAC.
- **The mid-term review:** The review team can be composed of the DAC Chair or his representative, for example a member of the Bureau, accompanied by the Secretariat, or - where appropriate - the Secretariat only. The agenda of the one-day visit includes a three-hour session focusing on the recommendations. Organisation of other meetings (including meetings outside the Ministry/Agency) is agreed between the member and the Secretariat taking into account each specific context.
- **Follow-up:** The mid-term review report is sent to the reviewed member for comments before it is shared with all DAC members in the form of a three page letter from the DAC Chair or the DCD Director. The report may also be posted on the OECD website subject to an agreement between the reviewed country and the secretariat. The reviewed member can then make use of the report as it deems appropriate in its own context. The Secretariat will draw a synthesis report from these mid-term reviews on a regular basis.