



Unclassified

Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Économiques
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

DCD/DAC/GEN/M(2015)1/PROV

25 June 2015

English - Or. English

DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

DAC Network on Gender Equality

Summary Record: 13TH MEETING OF THE DAC NETWORK ON GENDER EQUALITY

4-6 May 2015

OECD Conference Centre (Room CC2), Paris, France

Contact(s):

Emily ESPLÉN, Policy Analyst, Gender Equality and Women's Rights, Emily.ESPLEN@oecd.org, +(33-1)
45 24 86 64

JT03379420

Complete document available on OLIS in its original format.

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

DCD/DAC/GEN/M(2015)1/PROV
Unclassified

English - Or. English

SUMMARY RECORD: 13TH MEETING OF THE DAC NETWORK ON GENDER EQUALITY

4-6 May 2015

OECD Conference Centre (Room CC2), Paris, France

Item 1. Opening Session

1. The Chair of the DAC Network on Gender Equality, **Carolina Wennerholm** (Sweden), welcomed participants. The summary record of the twelfth meeting of the Network (19-21 May 2014) [DCD/DAC/GEN/M(2014)1/PROV] was approved, and the draft annotated agenda of the thirteenth meeting [DCD/DAC/GEN/A(2015)1/REV1] adopted.

Item 2. Election of Bureau members

2. **Patti O'Neill** (Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD) announced that **Unni Rambøll** (Norway) would be standing down as Bureau member with immediate effect due to professional reasons and that **Saskia Ravesloot** (Belgium) would stand down at the end of 2015. She thanked them for their vital contribution and support as Bureau members.

3. **Ursula Keller** (Switzerland) and **Magdalene Lagu** (United Kingdom) were elected as Bureau members. **Carolina Wennerholm** (Sweden) and **Sally Moyle** (Australia) will remain respectively as Chair and Bureau member. The new Bureau members will take up their roles immediately.

Item 3. Fifteen years after the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325: How to close the implementation gap?

4. **Lucie Faucherre** (GENDERNET Secretariat) shared the findings of a new OECD brief on *Financing the implementation of UN Security Council 1325: Aid to gender equality in fragile contexts*, which analyses DAC donor financing for gender equality in fragile contexts. It reveals a sharp increase in aid to gender equality in fragile states, which has quadrupled over the MDGs to a current high of USD 10.3 billion in 2012-13. However, only a small proportion of this aid targets gender equality as a principal objective. Aid to gender equality in fragile states is also unevenly distributed: more than 50% is concentrated in 8 fragile countries. Much goes to traditional social sectors, such as education and health. While DAC donors invest large amounts in the economic and productive sector in fragile states, only 2% of this targets gender equality as a principal objective. Similarly, just 2% of aid to the peace and security sector in fragile states targets gender equality as a principal objective. Stepping up progress in implementation of women, peace and security commitments will require that new and ambitious financial resources are put behind this agenda.

5. **Nahla Valji** (UN Women) updated participants on the three UN reviews on peace and security (Resolution 1325, peace operations, and peacebuilding architecture) and on the Global Study on the implementation of Resolution 1325 which will be presented to the Security Council in October 2015 to inform the High-Level Review. The first draft of the Global Study will be circulated in June 2015, with the final version in July 2015. A resolution is expected to be passed at the Security Council in October to inform a forward-looking agenda on women, peace and security.

6. The three review panels have been working closely together to develop common recommendations. A central message is that women's full participation and inclusion in peace processes is core to operational effectiveness. For example, there is increasing evidence of a clear correlation between: women's participation in peacekeeping forces and the effectiveness of peacekeeping efforts; gender equality and countering violent extremism; and women's

participation and the conclusion of peace talks, the effectiveness of the outcomes, and the sustainability of peace processes. Continuing to build the evidence base will be critical to making the case for the accelerated implementation of the women, peace and security agenda.

7. UN Women is encouraging Member States to make concrete commitments at the High-Level Review in October, and in particular to:

- Adopt the UN target of 15% of all peacebuilding funds targeting gender equality, and
- Finance the new Global Acceleration Instrument managed by UN Women to support implementation of National Action Plans in crisis contexts and channel funding to women's organisations on the ground.

8. **Sofia Dohmen** (Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency) highlighted the importance of not only "adding women" to military and peacekeeping operations, but also paying greater attention to gender equality when addressing the root causes of conflict. Sweden has tripled its support to women's organisations in fragile contexts over the past five years and is working to ensure that this funding reaches sub-national and local levels. To strengthen implementation of the women, peace and security agenda it will be important to: move away from narrow definitions of security and put human security at the centre; support positive masculinities that contribute to promoting peace; and improve the linkages between the women, peace and security agenda and the humanitarian sector. Sweden's new National Action Plan on women, peace and security is being drafted in consultation with women's organisations in conflict-affected countries and is expected to be launched by the end of 2015.

9. **Bjørg Skotnes** (Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs) presented Norway's new National Action Plan on women, peace and security (2015-18). Four factors will be particularly important for the implementation of this roadmap: (i) strong political will, including leadership at the ministerial level; (ii) co-ordination across ministries involved in implementation; (iii) creating structures that allow for regular and effective collaboration with civil society; and (iv) a robust results framework.

10. In the ensuing discussion, **Niall Morris** (Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) shared insights from the review of Ireland's first National Action Plan on women, peace and security (2011-14). This identified successes with regards to the protection pillar of Resolution 1325, but more limited progress on women's participation, especially in moving *beyond numbers*. High-quality evidence will be needed to maintain political momentum behind the women, peace and security agenda moving forward.

11. What does it mean to "engender" national security agendas? **Andrew Morrison** (Inter-American Development Bank) proposed four essential elements:

- Take seriously issues that are important for women, such as gender-based violence;
- Increase women's presence in the security sector;
- Support women's voice and influence on the security sector policies and practice; and
- Train the security sector to respond appropriately to violence against women.

Taken together, these elements create a new paradigm of public security, more focused on prevention. An effective approach adopted by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is to ensure that every citizen security team that designs a loan with a partner government includes a violence against women expert. This has resulted in citizen security loans that pay serious attention to addressing violence against women and girls.

12. **Diana Koester** (INCAF Secretariat) updated participants on the ongoing co-operation between the GENDERNET and the DAC International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) in the area of gender and statebuilding. The forthcoming independent review of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States and the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding will provide a further opportunity to support the integration of gender equality into the work of the INCAF.

13. In conclusion, the following elements were identified as key to close the implementation gap:

- Continuing to build the case for women's participation in peace and security;
- Stepping up support for civil society;
- Working across government agencies; and
- Learning from the first National Action Plans.

Item 4. Towards the adoption of an ambitious post-2015 sustainable development agenda

14. **Ambassador David Donoghue** (Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations and Co-Facilitator for the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda), **Susan Eckey** (Minister Counsellor, Economic and Social Affairs, Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations), and **Ambassador Staffan Tillander** (Special Envoy for Financing for Development, Sweden) gave an insider's view on how the negotiations on post-2015 and Financing for Development (FfD) are playing out in New York.

15. The Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa is an important opportunity to build momentum for effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Speakers emphasised the need to identify a set of deliverables or concrete actions to operationalise the SDG commitments on gender equality, and a proposal was made for a **Gender Equality Action Plan** to support implementation. Strong partnerships bringing together multiple stakeholders will be crucial.

16. No decision has yet been taken on the proposed **revision of 21 targets** made by the post-2015 Co-Facilitators to: (i) align the targets with existing international agreements; (ii) replace the "Xs" currently included in the Open Working Group (OWG) proposal with text or values. Some countries are opposed to this on the grounds that it would amount to a re-opening of the substance of the OWG proposal.

17. The **SDG indicators** will not be negotiated as part of the intergovernmental process. The elaboration of a global indicator framework has been entrusted to the UN Statistical Commission in collaboration with an Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs). While this technical process is expected to extend to March 2016, the post-2015 outcome document will contain a reference to the work in progress.

18. With regards to **follow-up and review** arrangements, it is clear that there will be a role for the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in tracking progress towards the SDGs at the global level, although follow-up and review will be anchored at the national level. Other issues still to be resolved include **means of implementation** – and whether Addis should be the last word on this – as well as technology transfer. There is a concern that resuming negotiations on MoI after Addis could lead to a loss of ambition and a weak outcome in July.

19. Strategies to maintain the high level of ambition for gender equality and women's rights include:

- Pushing for a roundtable in Addis on gender equality;
- Ensuring that gender equality and women's rights is fully integrated throughout the post-2015 outcome document;
- Remaining alert to the use of national qualifiers in the SDG targets;
- Engaging with statistical experts to ensure the adoption of strong gender equality indicators;
- Using Addis as a platform to prepare the implementation phase, including by developing an Action Plan and establishing a partnership or "group of friends" to drive this forwards.

Item 5. Workshop on financing gender equality and women's rights in the implementation of the sustainable development goals

Item 5.a. Modernising ODA for the effective implementation of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda: outcomes of the 2014 DAC High-Level Meeting

20. At the DAC High-Level Meeting (HLM) in December 2014, Members agreed to modernise the DAC statistical framework for measuring development finance. **Julia Benn** (Statistics and Development Finance Division, OECD) explained that this decision was taken to: (i) better reflect the changing development financing landscape marked by new actors and instruments; (ii) ensure consistent and rigorous international standards and uniform reporting; and (iii) create incentives for increasing the volume of ODA and mobilise additional resources for development.

21. The DAC HLM decision has four major implications:

- The modernisation of the ODA measure and the introduction of higher concessionality thresholds for loans to be reported as ODA;
- The establishment of an international standard to measure private sector contribution to development in order to further unlock private investments;
- The creation of incentives to target countries most in need such as least developed countries (LDCs) and fragile and conflict-affected states;
- The introduction of a new measure of *Total Official Support for Sustainable Development* (TOSSD), which will capture a broader diversity of resource flows in support of sustainable development.

22. The TOSSD measure – which will complement ODA – will support international monitoring of and accountability for financial flows underpinning implementation of the post-2015 agenda. The new measure will be developed in close collaboration with development partners after the adoption of the post-2015 framework. Participants emphasised the need to continue the conversation on the *quality and impact* of aid in parallel with efforts to leverage more resources.

Item 5.b. How can we mobilise the finance required to deliver on ambitious SDG commitments on gender equality and women's rights?

23. **Zohra Khan** (UN Women) described increasing momentum around gender equality in the FfD negotiations, with approximately 91% of the UN Member States positively referencing gender equality and women's empowerment in their statements at the second drafting session in April 2015. Mobilising the finance needed to implement the SDGs will require: strong political commitment; dedicated resources; new financing instruments; and accountability from all actors involved in financing for development. Priorities for Addis include:

- On domestic public resources: progressive tax policies and systems that address gender biases; gender-responsive planning, costing and budgeting; and policies that reduce the gender pay gap and promote decent work and women's equal rights to economic resources and finance.
- On international public finance: increasing the quantity and quality of aid to gender equality across all sectors and strengthening tracking and monitoring of ODA.
- On private finance: private sector compliance with international human rights standards and alignment with national development efforts.

24. **Nerea Craviotto** (Association for Women's Rights in Development) stressed that the mandate of the Addis Conference goes beyond financing the SDGs, to also deal with broader systemic issues which offer an opportunity to establish strong and fair economies that work for women. She underscored that gender equality is first and foremost a matter of human rights and justice. The increasingly prominent role played by the private sector in development co-operation offers opportunities, but it will be important to ensure that private sector financing does not replace

ODA and that private actors are held accountable for their impact on human rights. A number of important issues will need to be addressed in Addis, including increasing dedicated resources for standalone programmes on gender equality and closing gaps in funding for women's organisations.

25. **Caren Grown** (World Bank) argued that achieving gender equality will require an increase in financial resources and a shift towards making the available resources more effective and catalytic. Despite the commendable improvement in aid to gender equality, aid does not match policy commitments and there is mixed evidence about the effectiveness of this aid in delivering results. For ODA to be more effective, it needs to be used to catalyse new sources of finance such as domestic resources and private sector finance. Taxation is the most important source of domestic revenue, but tax policies contain implicit and explicit gender biases. Such biases need to be removed, for instance by moving from joint to individual taxation systems. Increasing corporate income taxes by reducing tax evasion and avoidance and ensuring that the corporate sector is responsible is also important for broadening the tax base. Finally, leveraging private sector investments will be critical. Ms. Grown called for a paradigm shift in how we think about *costs* in financial accounting systems – such as paying for teachers – which should instead be recognised as *investments* in building human capital and productivity in the longer-term.

26. The linkages between gender equality and trade were presented by **Mariama Williams** (South Centre). Trade liberalisation and trade policies can either enhance women's economic well-being or exacerbate gender inequalities through direct and often contradictory effects on women's access to employment, livelihoods and income. Gender equality and trade should be addressed in the FfD outcome document through commitments to: increase market access for women-owned small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); integrate gender equality in aid for trade and trade-related capacity building; and improve decent work opportunities for women.

27. Women's rights organisations play an essential role in organising and empowering women to claim their rights, but they face particular difficulties in accessing finance. **Amanda Gigler** (Mama Cash) shared examples of the types of funding that works for women's organisations:

- Civil society organisation funding that prioritises women's organisations;
- Small grants programmes through embassies aimed at reaching local women's organisations;
- Funding to intermediaries and re-grantors targeting women's organisations and grassroots groups;
- Peer-led exchange, learning and capacity-building.

Women's funds like Mama Cash are uniquely positioned to channel funding to local women's rights groups and movements. Donors should provide *more* and *better* financing to women's rights organisations by increasing the accessibility of resources and scaling up funding to women's funds.

28. **GENDERNET members** discussed the role of the private sector and highlighted the need to build on the existing Women's Empowerment Principles developed by UN Women and the Global Compact, which offer businesses a set of practical guidelines to promote gender equality and empower women in the workplace, marketplace and community.

Item 5.c. Gender-responsive taxes and budgets: prioritising gender equality in how domestic resources are mobilised and spent

29. **Zohra Khan** (UN Women) shared examples from UN Women's experience of supporting domestic resource mobilisation for gender equality. In Bolivia, UN Women supported a cost assessment of the *Law to Guarantee Women a Life Free from Violence* (2013) to quantify the financial resources required for implementation of this new legislation, which revealed a 95% financing gap. As a result, the government passed a law that made it mandatory for municipalities to allocate a proportion of their budgets to support services for survivors of violence. In Nepal,

UN Women supported the development of a budget classification system to track gender-related expenditures at national and sectoral level. This led to a significant increase in the percentage of gender-responsive allocations as a share of the overall government budget. Lessons from UN Women's programming show the importance of:

- National ownership and political support for delivering meaningful results for gender equality;
- Monitoring and tracking systems to improve transparency and accountability in financing for gender equality;
- The role of civil society in holding governments and donors accountable for gender equality commitments.

30. In Austria, gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) is enshrined in the Federal Constitution. Gender equality must be taken into account in the management of the public budget and federal authorities are required to undertake gender equality impact assessments of new laws and regulations. At the international level, Austria has been supporting a UN Women programme on GRB in South Eastern Europe since 2006. **Christina Stummer** (Austrian Development Agency) shared insights from the programme which has demonstrated the positive impact of:

- Adopting a long-term engagement strategy on GRB;
- Securing ownership through the continuing involvement and participation of civil servants;
- Complementing changes in institutional frameworks with changes in legislation;
- Supporting local GRB initiatives which have a more visible impact on the lives of the population and create opportunities for democratic participation.

31. **Angela Langenkamp** (German Agency for International Cooperation) emphasised that while political commitment to GRB is an essential starting point, efforts are needed to demystify GRB for those who are tasked with implementing it. For example, in Kosovo, Germany has worked closely with civil society organisations to produce practical guidelines on GRB that can be used by politicians, parliamentarians and civil society to hold governments accountable. Germany's experiences have highlighted the need to work with all stakeholders including citizens to increase knowledge and understanding of the budget cycle.

32. Why does taxation matter for gender equality? **Bert Brys** (Tax Policy and Statistics Division, OECD) explained that some tax policies negatively impact on women and presented options to reform tax systems, such as: moving from family-based to individual based taxation; redesigning the dependent spouse allowance which creates disincentives for the carer spouse (most of the time women) to return to the labour market; and abolishing tax-free overtime which encourages men to work more and women to stay at home. Donor agencies have an important role to play in supporting partner countries to develop fairer tax systems and gender-neutral tax policies.

33. **Rachel Moussie** (Independent Consultant) argued that tax policies that fail to consider how gender roles and inequalities impact on how women and men earn, control and spend their income and wealth can entrench gender inequalities. By contrast, tax policies can be designed in ways that encourage an equal sharing of paid and unpaid work between women and men and challenge gender inequalities. A growing number of low- and middle-income countries are relying on indirect taxation such as Value-Added Tax (VAT) to broaden their tax base. This is a worrying trend since indirect taxes have a disproportionate impact on those on lower incomes – disproportionately women – who tend to spend a higher proportion of their earnings on buying necessities. Furthermore, increases in social spending do not compensate for inequalities created by biases in tax policies. Effective strategies to increase domestic resources for the delivery of quality public services that contribute to advancing gender equality include:

- Convincing tax experts in donor agencies of the importance of a gender analysis;
- Ensuring that broadening the tax base does not impact negatively on women through regressive taxation;

- Supporting low- and middle-income countries in applying a gender analysis when developing tax policies, through research and capacity building;
- Supporting women's organisations, feminist researchers and economists, especially from the Global South, who are advocating for systemic change in tax policies.

34. **GENDERNET members** highlighted the importance of collaborating with the gender machinery on GRB and of integrating gender equality in ministries' sectoral budgets to maximise impact. There is a need to improve data collection beyond household surveys to better assess the broader impact of tax systems on gender equality.

Item 5.d. Public-private partnerships that deliver for gender equality

35. Engaging the private sector requires building the business case for investing in gender equality. **Kelle Bevin** (Inter-American Development Bank) presented the IDB's approach which makes this case through: (i) assessing a company's workforce and supply chain for opportunities to increase women's participation and inclusion; (ii) evaluating the costs and benefits of increasing women's participation for the company and communities; and (iii) developing business strategies to enhance gender equity. In Chile, the IDB supported a fruit company which was affected by an unstable seasonal workforce with a high proportion of women labourers to partner with the public sector to provide female employees with better access to health, child care, training and other services. This contributed to enhanced employee loyalty, increased productivity and reduced labour turnover. Challenges in engaging with the private sector include the need for more empirical data on the benefits of gender-inclusive approaches and the perceived high cost of implementing measures to improve gender equity.

36. **Sarah Thorn** (Walmart) introduced Walmart's Global Women's Economic Empowerment Programme which aims to provide training, market access and career opportunities for women along the retailer's global supply chain, including by increasing sourcing from women-owned businesses. Walmart has forged successful partnerships to implement this initiative, for instance with USAID to train women farmers in Central America, and with the IDB to provide retail training for youth in Latin America and the Caribbean. Progress has been more limited in the area of support to women entrepreneurs who require a suite of capacity-building activities. While there is still some apprehension regarding the role of the private sector in development, it is only by working in partnership that it will be possible to deliver more sustainable opportunities for women everywhere.

37. In its recent publication *New Actors, New Money, New Conversations*, AWID conducted a mapping of 170 corporate sector initiatives focusing on women and girls. This revealed that only 27% of these initiatives involved women's organisations as partners, and only 9% directly funded women's organisations. For **Hakima Abbas** (AWID), it is important to recognise the heterogeneity of the private sector and assess where, when and how public-private partnerships (PPPs) have delivered for gender equality and sustainable development. An increased role for the private sector needs to be coupled with the necessary safeguards and accountability mechanisms to ensure that human rights obligations are met. Corporations should be encouraged to focus their philanthropic initiatives not only at the individual level but also to address environmental and systemic issues, and work in partnership with women's organisations.

38. **Amanda Gigler** (Mama Cash) underscored the importance of building bridges between corporate actors and women's rights movements to increase knowledge and resources in support of gender equality and women's rights. Mama Cash and AWID conducted interviews with the private sector to understand companies' motivations and approaches to partnerships with women's organisations. Reasons given by these corporations for *not* partnering with women's organisations included:

- Limited capacity in corporations to understand and reach out to women's organisations;
- Apprehension about the perceived political nature of the work of women's organisations, often based on misperceptions;
- Greater familiarity with international non-governmental organisations as compared to women's rights groups.

These findings highlight the need to strengthen women's organisations' capacity to communicate about the impact of their work.

39. Developing guidance for private sector engagement in development will help to ensure that corporate actors are socially responsible and comply with human rights obligations. **GENDERNET members** discussed the EDGE certification, a global business certification standard for gender equality which assesses companies' policies and practices in five areas: equal pay for equal work; recruitment and promotion; leadership development training and mentoring; flexible working; and company culture. Other promising initiatives to encourage the private sector to play a positive role in promoting gender equality and women's rights include the World Bank 'She Works' partnership which brings together leading private sector companies that have pledged to implement measures to enhance gender equality and the IDB's engagement with private media companies to promote gender equality through soap operas.

Item 5.e. Parallel break-out groups

40. Breakout groups on: (i) domestic resources; (ii) public-private partnerships; and (iii) trade discussed two key questions:

- What main commitments would you like to see in the outcome document that will be agreed in Addis Ababa?
- Based on today's discussions, what concrete actions would you recommend for a Plan of Action on Financing for Development?

Key take-aways from the breakout groups are summarised below.

Breakout group: Domestic resources

- **Main commitments which should be reflected in the Addis outcome document:**
 - Agreed language on gender equality from the Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration;
 - A robust accountability framework for the implementation of the FfD outcome document;
 - Strong references to women's rights and to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
- **Proposals for a Plan of Action on Financing for Development:**
 - Draft a solid plan for monitoring and accountability ahead of Addis;
 - Support the generation and use of more robust sex-disaggregated data.

Breakout group: Public-private partnerships

- **Main commitments which should be reflected in the Addis outcome document:**

- References to women as workers, consumers and decision-makers;
 - Human rights-based language and references to existing normative standards, including the Women's Empowerment Principles;
 - More explicit language on the responsibility of governments to regulate the private sector.
- **Proposals for a Plan of Action on Financing for Development:**
 - Ensure accountability and transparency for FfD by convening multi-stakeholder groupings including women's organisations and trade unions;
 - Make it easier for the private sector and other players to engage through: (i) clarifying entry points and ensuring coherence between the different actors; (ii) frameworks; (iii) value statements.

Breakout group: Trade

- **Main commitments which should be reflected in the Addis outcome document:**
 - References to the human rights of women and girls;
 - Commitment to review the impact of existing trade agreements from a gender perspective as suggested by the Women's Working Group on Financing for Development;
 - Language from the CSW58 Agreed Conclusions on women's role as producers and traders.
- **Proposals for a Plan of Action on Financing for Development:**
 - Increase market access for women small and medium enterprises (SMEs);
 - Gender training for management;
 - Support for grassroots women's NGOs advocating for gender-responsive trade policies.

Item 6. A stocktake of the DAC gender equality policy marker

41. Today, all but one DAC member report on the Gender Equality Policy Marker and 92% of bilateral sector-allocable aid is screened. Since its introduction, the marker has been under continuous review, most recently with the addition of a new purpose code on ending violence against women and girls (adopted in May 2015).

42. Two stock-taking exercises were conducted in preparation for this session: a **survey of DAC members' experience** of using the Gender Equality Policy Marker within their respective agencies and a **review of the data** submitted by members. The findings reveal that members agree on the added value of the marker:

- The simple three-point scoring system makes it easy to use.
- It provides an important accountability tool.
- It has increased visibility for gender equality within members' agencies by sparking internal discussions between projects officers and gender equality experts, and providing an incentive for operational staff to better integrate gender equality in their programmes and activities.
- In some donor agencies, the marker has contributed to increased investments in gender equality.

43. Members shared concrete examples from their own agencies' experience in applying the marker. **Ursula Keller** (Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation) informed participants about the SDC Gender Equality Checklist, which provides guidelines for gender mainstreaming at the design stage and is used for controlling purposes at the commitment stage. **Olivia Dabbous** (French Development Agency) indicated that the French Development Agency has developed a marker to analyse a project's contribution to sustainable development. This "sustainable development opinion mechanism" integrates six elements – one of which is gender equality – and its ranking system is in line with the DAC markers.

44. In the ensuing discussion, **Germany** spoke about how it has linked the gender equality marker to quality and impact. Its *Guidelines on designing a gender-sensitive results-based monitoring system* require that projects marked “significant” have an outcome indicator on gender equality. In **Canada**, project officers are required to rate each activity’s contribution to gender equality results by completing a gender equality assessment at the design stage which is signed off by technical advisers. Canada has also linked the marker to results: projects marked “significant” are required to integrate gender equality both at the output and outcome level. A fourth value “limited integration” has been introduced for projects where gender equality is integrated at the output but not at the outcome level. **Belgium** has developed the Gender Budget Scan, a tracking device to monitor the integration of gender equality in interventions from the design to the evaluation phase. Activities can be classified according to four categories (gender-blind; strengthening gender machineries; gender-sensitive; and gender-transformative).

45. **GENDERNET members** suggested the following options to improve the application of the marker across DAC donor agencies:

- Strengthening the supporting guidance, for example by adding examples and developing a basic checklist to assist project officers in applying the marker.
- Agreeing on a minimum standard for projects to qualify as “significant”.
- Conducting a study/review on the use of the marker to identify best practices for quality assurance and control.

The GENDERNET Secretariat and Bureau will consider these options and follow-up with concrete proposals.

Item 7. Looking ahead: Where should the GENDERNET focus beyond 2015?

46. How can the GENDERNET best support DAC members in the implementation of the SDGs and what is the Network’s unique added value in this? Drawing on members’ inputs, **Emily Esplen** (GENDERNET Secretariat) proposed three priority areas for the GENDERNET for 2015-16:

1. Continuing to support collaborative efforts to influence global processes;
2. Strengthening accountability for the effective implementation of the SDGs and other global commitments; and
3. Building partnerships for the effective integration of gender equality and women’s rights into development co-operation, including the core work of the DAC.

In practice, this will involve developing policy recommendations; organising preparatory meetings to influence global negotiations; analysing and publishing aid statistics; improving the effectiveness of the gender equality policy marker; and fostering collaboration with key partners including UN Women.

47. The adoption of the post-2015 agenda will open a new phase in development co-operation. Members emphasised that the GENDERNET provides a unique space for mutual learning through exchange of experiences, challenges and good practices. The GENDERNET can play a critical role in supporting members to implement the SDGs through generating and sharing expertise on what works in advancing gender equality and serving as a central repository of best practices, particularly in challenging sectors such as infrastructure, energy and finance. Another niche is the Network’s catalytic role in mobilising finance for gender equality, including by supporting members’ efforts to operationalise the commitments agreed at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. Taking forward the discussion on the gender equality policy marker with a view to strengthening its

application and impact will be an important element of this work. Another is to look “beyond aid” – building on the conversations at this GENDERNET meeting on gender and tax, and gender and trade. Members welcomed the collaboration with INCAF on gender equality in fragile states.

Item 8. Hearing from partners: Updates and future directions

Item 8.a. Update from multilateral partners

48. **Andrew Morrison** (IDB) informed participants about the Gender and Diversity Sector Framework Document adopted by the IDB in February 2015, which identifies key areas for the Bank’s analytical and operational work on gender equality and women’s empowerment. These include: (i) expanding women’s agency, including by increasing access to SRHR, preventing VAWG, and promoting women’s participation in the public sector; (ii) improving access to quality public services for women on low-incomes; and (iii) providing better labour market outcomes and expanded entrepreneurship opportunities for women. Recent initiatives by the IDB include the production of a resource guide for development practitioners on preventing and responding to VAWG in partnership with the Global Women’s Institute at George Washington University and the World Bank, and the organisation of a regional policy dialogue on VAWG (December 2014).

49. The next issue of the Asian Development Bank’s (ADB)’s flagship publication *Asian Development Outlook* will address women’s economic empowerment. **Sonomi Tanaka** (Asian Development Bank) informed members about four background papers that are currently being prepared on: women’s labour force participation; law; the gender wage gap; and translating women’s employment into empowerment. A regional seminar in Bangkok (22-26 May 2015) showcased good practices from ADB’s experience in promoting women’s decent employment, entrepreneurship and empowerment in Asia and the Pacific. A thematic study on inclusive business for women is underway. The ADB is also supporting women’s leadership through its Asia Women Leaders Programme which provides targeted training to women in the region to help them improve their capacity and confidence as leaders.

50. **May Ali Babiker** (African Development Bank) presented the African Development Bank’s (AfDB) Gender Strategy for 2014-18, which is built around three pillars: legal status and property rights; economic empowerment; and knowledge management and capacity-building. As part of this new Strategy, the Bank commits to better integrate gender equality in all of its programmes and become a more-gender-responsive institution by transforming its internal culture. Flagship initiatives on women’s economic empowerment include: the ‘50 million African Women Speak’ platform aimed to boost the financial inclusion of women entrepreneurs; the Ebola social investment fund to support women’s reconstruction efforts in Ebola-affected countries; and work on enhancing women’s participation in global and agricultural value chains. Gender equality in fragile and conflict-affected states is also a particular area of focus. The AfDB will soon launch the African Gender Index, which measures the gender equality performance of 52 African countries across three areas: economic empowerment; human development; and laws and institutions.

51. Two years on, the implementation of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development’s Strategic Gender Initiative has demonstrated the existence of strong demand and opportunities for integrating gender equality into its operations but also the need to build a more evidence-based business case for investing in gender equality. **Elena Ferreras Carreras** (EBRD) indicated that the Bank is currently drafting a Strategy for the Promotion of Gender Equality which will focus on five main themes: the enabling environment; men’s engagement for gender equality; sustainability and innovation; better results and data; and voice, agency and participation. The EBRD has recently launched five Women in Business programmes (Turkey, Western Balkans, Eastern Partnership countries, Egypt and Croatia) which seek to promote women’s entrepreneurship by providing dedicated credit lines and business development services to women-led SMEs.

52. **Zohra Khan** (UN Women) shared UN Women's plans for the FfD Conference and the UN Summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda. In Addis, UN Women will organise a side-event with the World Bank on *Financing for gender equality – results and good practices* and a second event co-hosted by Brazil with a number of partners including GENDERNET members and the OECD. On the margins of the UN Summit, China and UN Women are co-organising a *Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment* (27 September). This event aims to mobilise political commitment at the highest level for the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the realisation of the gender equality commitments of the SDGs. Participants will be invited to make concrete announcements and financial pledges in support of the elimination of gender inequality and discrimination against women.

53. **Alyson Brody** (BRIDGE) introduced BRIDGE's new report on *Gender and food security*, which identifies five core principles to shape thinking and action: (i) a commitment to rights, including the right to adequate food for all and respect for women's rights; (ii) people-centred solutions; (iii) gender-transformative solutions which promote gender justice and the transformation of unequal gender relations; (iv) solutions that prioritise stable national and global economies and support gender-equitable trade and investment policies; and (v) ecologically sustainable solutions respectful of local knowledge and rights.

Item 8.b. The 13th AWID International Forum on Women's Rights and Development

54. **Hakima Abbas** (AWID) invited members to participate in the 13th AWID International Forum on Women's Rights and Development on *Feminist Futures: Building Collective Power for Rights and Justice* (Salvador de Bahia, Brazil from 5-8 May 2016). The AWID Forum offers a unique space for women's rights advocates to strategise, learn, network, and celebrate women's rights organising globally. Local actors and movements are engaged in the preparations and the AWID Access Fund facilitates the participation of women's activists from all regions of the world. Activities include the Resource Mobilisation Hub which creates a dialogue between donors and women's rights groups, the Young Feminist Space for young women to network, and the Feminist Tech Hub to build the ICT capacity of women's rights advocates and organizations. The Forum is envisaged as more than an event: follow-up activities include post-Forum innovation seed grants to support the implementation of creative ideas, the transformation of the Forum website into a resource hub, and publications on Forum debates.

Item 9. Close of the GENDERNET meeting

55. **Carolina Wennerholm** closed the meeting by inviting GENDERNET members to think about concrete proposals for an Action Plan on the implementation of the SDG commitments on gender equality and women's rights. She indicated that this meeting had seen the largest participation in the history of the Network and thanked participants and speakers for their active and constructive engagement.