



DFAT / NGO Committee for Development Cooperation

A Joint Committee of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Australian Non-Government Organisations

COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (CDC) MEETING 174

4 March 2025 – 1300-1445

Online via MS Teams

Participants

- Michael Bergmann (DFAT) – Chair
- Adrian Fleming (DFAT)
- Mary James (DFAT)
- Lauren Minson (DFAT)
- Sarah Hunt (ChildFund Australia)
- Peter Keegan (UnitingWorld)
- Fiona Smith (Transform Aid)
- Leah Odongo (CBMA)

CDC Secretariat and Observers

- Shani Field (DFAT)
- Liz Nannelli (DFAT), note taker
- Emily Moreton (ACFID)
- Alan Hewson (ACFID)

1. Welcome, Introduction, Apologies and conflict check

Acknowledgement of Country

- The Chair opened the meeting with the Acknowledgement of Country.

Welcome

- The Chair welcomed everyone to 174th CDC meeting and acknowledged the election of Leah Odongo to the CDC and welcomed both Fiona and Leah to the Committee.

Introductions/Apologies

- The Chair invited all participants to briefly introduce themselves. He noted Lauren Minson would need to leave the meeting at 1330, and that Liz Nannelli would need to leave the meeting at 1430.

Observers

- The Chair invited the observers to briefly introduce themselves.

Conflict check

- The Chair asked meeting participants to declare any conflicts of interest.
- No conflicts were declared.

2. Endorsement of the final 173rd CDC Meeting Minutes

- The CDC endorsed the final minutes for the 173rd meeting.
- The Chair moved to accept the minutes and Lauren Minson seconded the motion.



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- The Chair said there was a long history of the CDC minutes being published on the DFAT website in edited form. He said the practice of publishing minutes was in line DFAT's focus on greater transparency, but not with current broader DFAT practice, and noted that the Committee is a joint DFAT-ANGO body. He asked the Committee's opinion as to whether the minutes should both continue to be published and continue to be published in edited form.
- Sarah Hunt said publishing the minutes was useful and that the current approach to redactions was also reasonable.
- The Chair said DFAT also redacted the names of ANGOs undergoing the accreditation process from other organisational processes in line with the commercial-in-confidence conventions under reporting processes. He asked for the Committee's consideration as to whether that process should continue, noting that the NPQ section may need to also seek internal advice in the future on this practice. The CDC agreed with the appropriateness of continuing to redact the names of ANGOs undergoing accreditation.
- Peter Keegan said he supported the publishing of redacted minutes but requested that the redacted version of the minutes also be circulated to the Committee to review the proposed redactions.
- Adrian Fleming asked of the value of the minutes when a large part of the discussion, i.e. relating to the discussion of accreditation reports, is redacted.
- The Chair said we could use the next meeting as a test case and circulate the full and redacted minutes and bring the approach back to the group for consideration at the next meeting.
- Emily Moreton said ACFID received communications from members who noted occasions where minutes hadn't been published, and who were interested to understand what was discussed by the CDC.
- The Chair agreed the redacted minutes gave a sense of what the CDC was interested in and said the standard practice would continue and the Secretariat would circulate the redacted minutes to the Committee for review ahead of publication.

3. Update on action items – by exception

- The Chair said the Action Log was circulated on 27 February. He noted the CDC had discussed taking forward the conversation on information security and the role of the CDC at CDC 174, but noting the tight timeframe of the meeting, suggested that discussion be held over until CDC 175. The CDC agreed to this proposal.
- The Chair asked for any clarifications on the rest of the Action Log. No clarifications were requested.

4. a) Update from DFAT (Chair)

- The Chair said:
 - o Business as Usual continued in the Department, but the Department was readying itself for the caretaker period and the related caretaker conventions, as outlined on the PM&C website.
 - o Information was now available on the DFAT website on the Innovative Indo-Pacific NGO Accelerator.



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- Following the US decision to pause some official development assistance, DFAT's NGO Program and Partnerships Section (NPQ) had been working closely with ACFID to gather information to see how to use the flexibility of ANCP to address concerns raised by ANGOS, and said the existing approach to variations could be used to make adjustments.
- The ANCP Manual was being finalised and would be released shortly.
- Peekay Consolidated was the successful tenderer for the new RDE contract, which would include the review of ANCP NGO RDE submissions, calculations of the annual ANCP grant amounts and the RDE spot checks for 2025 and 2026.
- The annual assessors workshop was held last week, and was a successful event, bringing the assessors together for information exchange, baselining and consistency.
 - The Accreditation Manual guidance material was shared with the Assessor team for their comments and feedback. NPQ will pursue final internal approvals, but in light of the current pace of global events, we are working with other teams' availabilities.
- The International Gender Strategy was launched on 5 February at Parliament House with both the Prime Minister and Opposition Leader in attendance. The Strategy is available on the DFAT website along with the accompanying press release.
 - The 2025 ANCP Manual update has incorporated relevant updates, but there are no significant changes for ANCP.

b) Update from ACFID

- Emily Moreton said:
 - ACFID has been working with members to understand the impacts of other directives of the US Administration, including diversity, equity and inclusion and the flow-on effects for co-compliance and working closely with DFAT/the ANCP Team. While not currently affecting Code of Conduct compliance, it was being discussed with the Code of Conduct Committee.
 - The Chair said this was also discussed at the Assessor's workshop and while there was no current impact, DFAT would continue listening to, and guiding the assessors, and discuss with ACFID and the CDC.
 - As mentioned at the previous meeting, the new Disability Equity Peer Learning program starts next week to run for four months. 25 organisations will be participating, 20 of whom are part of the ANCP. There will be cross collaboration with DFAT, looking at DFAT's Disability Equity and Rights strategy and ACFID have been working with ANCP's Anna on coordinating one of the accreditation assessors to speak. ACFID intends to follow the same approach as for last year's Climate Action Peer Learning Program, putting together an outcomes report shared with members, updating existing resources through Learn with ACFID, holding deep dive sessions on accreditation and the DFAT strategy which



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will be open to all ANCP agencies, and for this program, making the content continually available on demand. ACFID welcomed any feedback.

- ACFID continued working with members on locally led development and is holding a Round Table tomorrow with CEOs and Board members. Dylan Mathews, CEO of Peace Direct, will be speaking and members will be sharing case studies.
- ACFID is exploring a new Charter for Change Due Diligence Passporting Tool and how this tool could translate to the Australian context. ACFID will provide updates as the conversation progresses. One of the biggest questions coming across the ANGO sector has been understanding the challenges and implications for risk management of this approach. ACFID will look to bring together a group of members to discuss with ACFID, and consider piloting in the Pacific.
- ACFID will hold a round table at the end of March on the NGO accelerator with the Australian International Development Network, with DFAT's Blended Finance Network joining. Emily Moreton invited interested agencies to find out more.

5. Organisation Review Reports

- The Chair invited the Committee to share good practice examples directly with ACFID to record in the Accreditation tracking spreadsheet.
- Four organisation review reports were discussed

6. Other Issues for NGO representatives to table / Any other business

- No other business was raised.

7. Discuss next CDC meeting date

- The Chair said the next meeting is planned for June and would consider the remaining reports from the 2024 new/upgrading round, and include a discussion on information security. The Chair noted a request from the CDC to avoid EOFY (from 8 June).
- The Chair thanked the CDC for their engagement and input.

8. Meeting close – 1445