



COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION MEETING 175

28 May 2025 – 10:00 – 11:45am

MS Teams

Participants

- Michael Bergmann (DFAT) – Chair
- Adrian Fleming (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 175th CDC meeting.

Introductions/Apologies

- The Chair noted apologies from Mary James and Robert Marshall.

Observers

- The Chair acknowledged the presence of the observers.

Conflict check

- The Chair invited participants to declare any conflicts of interest.
- Lauren Minson declared a conflict of interest relating to an ANGO.

2. Endorsement of the final 174th CDC Meeting Minutes

- The CDC endorsed the final minutes of the 174th meeting.
- The Chair moved to accept the minutes and Leah Odongo seconded the motion.
- The Chair noted the discussion at CDC 174 about piloting a process for circulating redacted minutes. The Secretariat expects to circulate the minutes for CDC 172 and 173 shortly.



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3. Update on action items – by exception

- The Chair noted the Action Log was circulated on 19 May and invited clarifications.
- Sarah Hunt asked for an update on the timing of the release of the Accreditation Guidance Manual. The Chair said this would be addressed in the next agenda item.

4. a) Update from DFAT (Chair)

- The Chair said:
 - o Post-election, the Department has been busy. The Chair highlighted the meeting between the new Minister for International Development, Anne Aly, and the ACFID Board on 27 May, noting strong engagement from the Minister's Office with the Department and the sector.
 - o A new Guidance note: [Our Development Cooperation is Enhanced by First Nations Australians' Perspectives](#) has been released.
 - o The ANCP's flexibility has supported partners in responding to changes in the international development context, with several partners increasing local passdown support.
 - o Megan Bonny has joined the ANCP team as a Communications specialist and is working on finalising a draft strategic communications plan.
 - o There is no update on the release of the accreditation guidance manual, which continues to progress through internal approval processes. The Chair acknowledged NGO's interest in this guidance, and he noted the advice that the transition year had moved to 2026.
- Adrian Fleming said:
 - o the 2025 ANCP manual has been circulated, and ADPlans are open, with a submission deadline of 30 June. Adrian thanked the ANCP Community of Practice (COP) for reviewing both documents. Fiona Smith requested clarity on the definition of "local partner", particularly regarding national affiliate offices. She noted the work of the ACFID working group on locally led development. Adrian said the definition drew on the OECD DAC definition of 'local actor' and had been developed in close conjunction with DFAT's lead on locally led development, Kirsten Hawke. It looked to ensure national affiliates had their own funding and governance mechanisms. He invited further questions and noted the ANCP manual will continue to evolve to reflect the sector's approach to locally led development.
 - o The 2025-26 grants are being finalised.
 - o The Anticipatory Action Pilot is continuing for a third year, with an in-depth evaluation planned in 2025-26.
 - o Guidance on engaging with NPQ has been circulated, noting a shift to a centralised engagement model through the ANCP inbox.
- Liz Nannelli said:
 - o the Safeguards Team thanked members for the feedback provided on DFAT's safeguards policies. The DFAT Team has briefed the ACFID Safeguarding COP on the latest draft. DFAT is currently finalising the draft policies and hoping to



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launch them by July/August 2025. An Implementation Handbook for Partners is also being developed.

- Six subject-to reviews are scheduled between now and December.

Meeting Format Discussion

- The Chair thanked members for their flexibility in switching to an online format due to various transport complications.
- He asked the Committee for preferences about in-person meetings moving forward. The Committee expressed a preference for at least one in-person meeting per year, potentially aligned with Annual Reflections. Members requested longer lead-times for in-person meetings and a flexible approach based on agenda items, particularly policy discussions, with decisions made at the preceding meeting.

b) Update from ACFID

- Emily Moreton said:
 - This meeting marks a significant milestone for the Committee - celebrating 50 years of meetings - and reflects a strong, ongoing partnership that is unique in bringing together DFAT and the sector.
 - ACFID continues to work with members to understanding the impacts of changes to the global aid system. A summit for ACFID member CEOs will be held, with an invitation extended to Minister Aly to speak.
 - ACFID is working with members to explore new opportunities for collaboration with philanthropy and looking at anticipated broader and longer-term systemic changes for the sector.
 - ACFID's Code of Conduct Committee continues to monitor the evolving context around Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.
 - ACFID is pleased to participate in the DAC Peer Review process for Australia and thanked the team at DFAT for their support and arrangements.
 - The Disability peer learning program is underway, with two sessions held this week
 - ACFID is working on practicalities of Locally Led Action, including hosting a write-shop to develop a position statement. This aims to include what implementation looks like in practice and, through a collaborative design process, to come up with further guidance for organisations.
 - The ACFID Conference will be held in Canberra on 5-6 November, with a dinner at Government House hosted by the Governor-General on the evening of the 5th.
 - ACFID is actively building relationships with the new Government.
 - ACFID regretfully announced Alan will be leaving the organisation. This was his final CDC meeting. His contributions to the Committee and the DFAT partnership were acknowledged with appreciation.
 - Matthew Maury, previously interim CEO of ACFID, has been confirmed as the permanent CEO.

5. Organisation Review Reports

- The Chair invited the Committee to share good practice examples directly with ACFID to record in the Accreditation tracking spreadsheet.

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- Two organisation review reports were discussed.

6. Information Security discussion

- The Chair noted the discussion at CDC 173 regarding how the Committee formalises agreements that information provided by organisations undergoing accreditation will be treated with appropriate confidentiality by Committee members. He noted that the Accreditation Team had sought internal advice on standard wording that could be submitted to the CDC. Another approach could be to review the CDC Terms of Reference and include a requirement outlining how the Committee operates, consistent with other DFAT mechanisms. He invited thoughts, questions or concerns from the Committee.
- The Chair also noted the Accreditation Team had been seeking advice within DFAT on an approach to requests from ANGOs to redact information from accreditation-related documents, and a proposal will be brought back to the CDC at a later stage.

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

- No other business was raised.

8. CDC 175 acknowledgement

- The Chair acknowledged the significance of the 175th CDC meeting, echoing Emily Moreton's earlier remarks. He noted reaching 175 meetings over 50 years is a remarkable achievement and that few committees across the Commonwealth – particularly those involving government and external stakeholders as partners – have such a long-standing and collaborative history. He noted the Committee's value not only for the ANCP but also for broader information sharing across the sector. The Chair referenced Kilby's 'NGOs and Political Change' which noted that in 1977, the Committee met four times a year with three representatives from government and NGOs, and that a total of 15 NGOs put up 45 projects. The program has since grown significantly, with \$143 million supporting more than 50 NGOs implementing more than 400 projects. He thanked all Committee members for their contribution and invited a group photo/screenshot to share across DFAT.
 - Emily Moreton also sought approval to share the photo with ACFID members.

9. Discuss next CDC meeting date

- The Chair said the next meeting would be a shorter meeting and suggested late July or early August. The committee suggested early August. The Chair advised DFAT would propose a date shortly after this meeting.
- The Chair thanked the CDC for their engagement and input.

10. Meeting close – 1215