



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 176

3 September 2025 – 11:00 – 12:30pm

MS Teams

Participants

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

CDC Secretariat and Observers

- Liz Nannelli (DFAT)
- Tom Bamforth (DFAT)
- Emily Moreton (ACFID), minute taker

1. Welcome, Introduction, Apologies and conflict check

- The Chair opened the meeting with an **Acknowledgement of Country** and welcomed everyone to the 176th CDC meeting.
- The Chair noted this was Lauren Minson's last meeting and thanked her for her contributions since October 2023.
- Lauren Minson reflected on completing her two-year term with the CDC, and expressed her gratitude to current and former CDC members, DFAT colleagues and ACFID staff for their support and shared expertise. Lauren shared that she had previously engaged with ANCP while posted overseas and looked forward to returning to Post in Dili next year with a deeper appreciation for the rigour of the accreditation process.
- The Chair acknowledged Adrian Fleming's new role in the DRR team and Leah Odongo's new role as Director of Partnerships at Global Mission Partners. The Chair also advised DFAT is undergoing its two-yearly renewal process for the DFAT members of the Committee.
- The Chair noted no apologies were received.
- The Chair acknowledged the presence of the observers, and in particular welcomed Tom Bamforth, who has recently joined the ANCP Team to manage Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning.

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

2. Endorsement of the final 175th CDC Meeting Minutes

- The CDC endorsed the final minutes of the 175th meeting.
- The Chair moved to accept the minutes and Lauren Minson seconded the motion.
- The Chair noted the pilot process for circulating redacted minutes for CDC 173 and 174 and invited feedback. The Committee expressed satisfaction with the process.

3. Update on action items – by exception

- The Chair noted the Action Log was circulated on 28 August and invited clarifications.
- No clarifications were raised. The Chair encouraged members to reach out to the Secretariat for any questions between meetings.

4. a) Update from DFAT

- The Chair noted the following:
 - o Jamie Isbister was confirmed as the permanent Deputy Secretary for DMG.
 - o The Department is preparing for High Level Week at the UN, with significant ministerial participation.
 - o The Chair thanked ACFID and NGOs for their support of the Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel.
 - o The Nakamal Agreement with Vanuatu is being finalised.
 - o The Department marked the two-year anniversary of the International Development Policy, with updates on DPPs, thematic strategies, and the AusDevPortal.
 - o The Civil Society Partnership Fund submissions are being analysed, with timing updates to follow once a design approach is confirmed.
- Mary James noted and welcomed the launch of DFAT's refreshed PSEAH and Child Protection policies, and acknowledged it had been an area of interest for the CDC over several years.
- The Chair acknowledged concerns from NGOs regarding delays to the Accreditation Guidance Manual and confirmed the 2018 criteria remains an option for NGOs going through reaccreditation in 2026. There are several clauses undergoing additional review, and the Manual will be released in its entirety once these are finalised.
- Peter Keegan thanked the Chair for this update and noted that concerns regarding the delays to the Manual had also been raised by NGOs with the CDC NGO representatives directly.
- The Chair provided an update on recent applications:
 - o Five new applications were received for 2025, with no upgrade applications.
- The Chair noted that ACFID and DFAT signed a new grant agreement for 2025–2027.

b) Update from ACFID

- Emily Moreton noted the following:
 - o Peter Keegan was reappointed by the ACFID Board for another two-year term. The CDC congratulated him on his reappointment.
 - o ACFID held a CEO Summit and Small Member Forum in June to discuss donor cuts and systemic reforms with over 60 ANGO CEOs. Many of the key themes raised will be built on at ACFID's National Conference on 6 November.
 - o Policy writeshops on locally led development with ANGOs informed a guidance document to be launched in October.
 - o ACFID launched a Misconduct Disclosure Scheme Toolkit which provides practical tools and templates for organisations wanting to join the MDS.
 - o ACFID's Disability Equity peer learning program ran over three months with 62 participants from 26 agencies. The collaboration with the ANCP team on two deep dive sessions open to all program participants as well as ANCP agencies was appreciated by all.
 - o ACFID has contributed a submission to the Civil Society Partnership Fund and looks forward to its continuing design.

5. Organisation Review Reports

- One organisation review report and three subject to reports were discussed.

Adrian Fleming left the meeting at 12:43 following this item.

6. Information Security discussion

The Chair noted the NPQ team has sought internal advice on a draft Deed Poll of Confidentiality that could be signed by non-DFAT members. DFAT employees already have confidentiality commitments outlined in their employment agreements. The DFAT Secretariat will continue to progress this internally and communicate with the CDC when further information is available.

The Chair noted the outstanding question about requests for redaction of some elements in OR reports.

Action item: The DFAT Secretariat will circulate a proposed approach to redactions via email for comment, which will draw on existing principles in the Accreditation Manual.

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

The Chair noted that the agenda for the ANCP Annual Reflections event will be circulated shortly and will include a discussion on the revised Accreditation Manual. Liz Nannelli

confirmed there will also be a separate session outside the Reflections event, similar to the sessions last year on the revised criteria.

8. Discuss next CDC meeting date

The Chair noted no reports are expected for the next meeting and proposed a policy-focused CDC meeting in person around the time of the Annual Reflections and the ACFID Conference. The Secretariat will circulate a list of discussion topics arising from this meeting and seek clarification on CDC members availability.

Meeting closed at 12:48.