



DFAT / NGO Committee for Development Cooperation
A joint committee of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and
Australian non-government organisations

Minutes of the 155th Committee for Development Cooperation (CDC) Meeting held on 12 February 2019

DFAT CDC Members

Megan Anderson (Chair)
Rebecca Lysaght
Simon Cann-Evans
Tim Church

Secretariat

Sarah Dreesse (DFAT)

NGO Members

John Morley (Plan International Australia)
Andrew Hartwich (The Fred Hollows Foundation)
Tricia Keys (Brien Holden Vision)

Observers

Cheryl Johnson (DFAT)
Rebecca Hamilton (ACFID)
Bridie Rice (ACFID)

Apologies

Anthea Spinks (Oxfam), Jon Burrough (DFAT)

2:00pm – Meeting Open

Item 1. Welcome Remarks

In opening remarks, the Chair:

- Paid respect to the traditional custodians of the land on which the meeting takes place and paid respect to Elders both past and present. Extending respect to any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders people present.
- Welcomed participants to the 155th CDC meeting, noting it was Tim Church's first meeting since replacing Sally-Anne Vincent as a DFAT representative, highlighting Mr Church is returning to the CDC having participated as a DFAT representative previously, bringing a strong understanding of the program and the committee. The Chair also welcomed the newly appointed NGO reps, Tricia Keys and Andrew Hartwich.
- Introduced Cheryl Johnson, the incoming Assistant Secretary of the NGOs and Volunteers Branch who will take over as Chair of the CDC moving forward. The Chair thanked the CDC for her time in the role, acknowledging it is an exciting time ahead for the sector and wished Ms Johnson well in the role.

- Acknowledged Apologies:
 - Jon Burrough (DFAT)
 - Anthea Spinks (Oxfam)
- Introduced observers:
 - Rebecca Hamilton (ACFID)
 - Bridie Rice (ACFID)
 - Sarah Dreese (DFAT)
 - Jacqui Lord (DFAT)
 - Mathew Fehre (DFAT)

Conflict of interest check:

The Chair requested all meeting participants declare any conflicts of interest.

- Nil conflicts were declared.

Item 2. Endorsement of minutes from the 154th CDC

- Simon Cann-Evans endorsed the minutes from the 154th CDC, seconded by John Morley.

Item 3. Update on Action Item

The Chair reported on ongoing action items:

CDC reps to provide question regarding Afghanistan and OHS in writing for DFAT's response

- The Chair noted the issue had been largely resolved following the 154th CDC meeting and confirmed with CDC members that there were no further questions relating to the item. The Chair acknowledged that the item will now be taken off the agenda for further discussion at the CDC, however assured CDC members that the broader issue of risk and engagement with risk will continue to be a discussion point during policy discussions for the department and that a range of other consultation opportunities will be available.
- Mr Morley asked if there was another opportunity to have a more targeted discussion around risk ahead of the next Annual Development Plan (ADPlan) period, as some of the issues continue, particularly around high risk and do not travel countries where NGOs are operating. The Chair confirming the topic is on the agenda for discussion at the 2019 Information Sessions next month.

Item 4. Update from DFAT

2019 ANCP Information Session

The Chair spoke to the item:

- The 2019 ANCP Information Sessions will be held for the first time in Canberra on 26 and 27 March, invitations have been sent to ANCP contacts 1 and 2.
- The Information Sessions remain a valuable way to get all 57 NGOs together.
- The sessions will provide an opportunity to cover a range of policy and program issues including preparation of ADPlans, Countering Terrorism Financing, Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH) and other ANCP program updates.
- This year there will be a particular focus on risk. All NGOs programing in High Risk locations will be invited to an additional session that is specifically on this issue. Those that are programing in Do-Not-Travel locations must attend the session.

Refresh of the ANCP Program Logic and MELF

The Chair spoke briefly to this item before handing to Jacqui Lord to provide an update:

- The Chair introduced Ms Lord who has joined to provide an update on the ANCP Program Logic and Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Framework (MELF).
- The program is operating well and has a strong framework. However as the program is expanding and the investment is changing, it is time for a thorough and informed conversation about what we are collectively trying to achieve. One of the strengths of the program is the diversity of the program including, the organisations it attracts and their development and sectoral approaches.
- The Performance and Quality team have been doing some thinking in advance of coming back to the sector about a process that might see a more concerted conversation on what the story is we are trying to tell through the ANCP. The team intend to engage with the sector throughout the process, over the next 8-9 months.
- The refresh of the ANCP Program Logic and the M&E Framework are recommendations from the Data Systems Validation Review, which was tying up the final recommendation from the ODE evaluation, in which DFAT was looking at the quantitative data they collect.
- The last Program Logic was developed in 2015-16, after the ODE review. The MELF was developed in 2012.
- The refresh of the Program Logic and MELF will consider the broader context of the Foreign Policy White Paper and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Ms Lord shared a copy of the draft Program Logic which will be discussed at the upcoming MELF reference group meetings in February and March.

- Ms Lord advised that Clear Horizons have been engaged to help with the process.
- The Chair confirmed whilst it will be a very consultative process, the CDC won't primarily be used as the consultative mechanism for the discussion, that role will belong to the MELF reference group.
- Ms Keys queried if this was something in the past the CDC would have been more involved in. The Chair confirmed to her knowledge it wasn't. The CDC is the governance committee for the ANCP program, which includes general governance, oversight and moderation for the Accreditation process and is also a good point of call for any major policy changes the department might move forward on. Unless following this process there was a view that there should be major policy changes to ANCP operations, than we wouldn't expect to see it come back through the CDC.

Preventing Terrorism Financing Policy Update

The Chair introduced Mathew Fehre to provide an update on the Preventing Terrorism Financing Policy Review:

- Mr Fehre recapped what the department is doing around the issue; flagging that DFAT is looking into their internal policy document around managing the risk of terrorism financing in the Aid program and the provisions within DFATs agreements with NGOs and Contractor etc.
- Mr Fehre acknowledged at the last meeting it was identified that DFAT would come back to the CDC and also more broadly, including to all ACFID members and the International Development Contractors group on the issues and confirmed this was still DFATs intention.
- Mr Fehre confirming the discussion paper which will outline the changes DFAT would like to make, is still not finalised, however reassured CDC members, it is still DFATs intention to put out the paper and go through the process of consultation as discussed at the last CDC.
- Within the next week, the team hope to distribute the paper internally within DFAT for comment before coming out to stakeholders.
- In the meantime Mr Fehre has been spending time engaging with Program areas within DFAT to better understand the issues they are dealing with in applying the existing policy and discussing the feedback they have been receiving from partners working in Aid areas.
- Mr Fehre confirmed he will be participating in the ANCP Information Sessions in March, including the High Risk locations discussion.
- Tim Church declared for future discussions on this issue, he was the officer that drafted the original Countering Terrorism Policy. The Chair confirmed whilst not a conflict of interest for today's discussion, in future he may be required to step out of the room.

Item 5. Other Issues for NGO Representatives to Table

- Mr Morley asked whether there was an opportunity for CDC members to join Organisation Reviews (OR) as observers, highlighting it would be a useful exercise to experience what the process feels like for smaller organisations.
- Rebecca Lysaght confirmed it is on the agenda to have CDC members attend OR's as observers, however given in 2018-19 we expanded the pool of Assessors and there were a number of new trainee assessors also joining reviews, it was not appropriate as we would have outnumbered the NGO with the review team. We suggest at the June CDC we add to the agenda a time to discuss any opportunities that exist for CDC members to participate in ORs for the upcoming cycle.
- Rebecca Hamilton also queried whether or not a representative from ACFID's Code of Conduct team could participate in upcoming OR's.
- The Chair confirmed the question would be considered at the next CDC.

Action Item: Add the topic of CDC members and ACFID Code of Conduct team members attending OR's to the June CDC agenda.

6. Next CDC Date

- The Chair suggested we come back to CDC and advice of the next CDC date. It is DFAT preference to hold the next CDC before Easter. However will come back to the CDC with suggested dates.

3:00pm Meeting Close