



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 156<sup>th</sup> Committee for Development Cooperation (CDC) Meeting held on 09 April 2019

### **DFAT CDC Members**

Cheryl Johnson (DFAT Chair)  
Jon Burrough (DFAT)  
Tim Church (DFAT)

### **Secretariat**

Rebecca Lysaght (DFAT)  
Rebecca Hamilton (ACFID) - minutes

### **NGO Members**

John Morley (Plan International Australia)  
Tricia Keys (Brien Holden Vision Institute)  
Anthea Spinks (Oxfam Australia)  
Andrew Hartwich (Fred Hollows  
Foundation)

### **Observers**

Rebecca Hamilton (ACFID)  
Jocelyn Condon (ACFID)  
Jennifer Alexander (DFAT)

Apologies

Simon Cann-Evans (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. The Chair went on to extend respect to any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders people present.
- Welcomed participants to the 156<sup>th</sup> CDC meeting
- Introduced observers:
  - Rebecca Lysaght (DFAT)
  - Rebecca Hamilton (ACFID)
  - Jocelyn Condon (ACFID)
  - Jennifer Alexander (DFAT)
- Acknowledged Apologies
  - Simon Cann-Evans (DFAT)

### **Conflict of interest check:**

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

- Ms Spinks declared her conflict of interest regarding the Oxfam Organisational Review Report.
- Mr Hartwich acknowledged his prior employment with Oxfam.
- Mr Morley noted Plan International Australia's partnership with Live and Learn in the Solomon Islands.
- The Chair confirmed that the latter two did not constitute a conflict of interest.

### **Item 2. Endorsement of the 155<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March out-of-session CDC Minutes**

- The Chair endorsed the minutes from the 155<sup>th</sup> CDC, noting the addition of the action item on discussion of ACFID's request to participate in an Organisational Review, and the endorsement was seconded by Ms Spinks.
- The Chair called for endorsement of the minutes from the 29<sup>th</sup> March out-of-session CDC. Ms Spinks endorsed the minutes, seconded by Ms Keys.

### **Item 3. Update on Action Items**

The Chair reported on ongoing action items:

- Nil

### **Item 4. Update from DFAT**

- **Wrap up from ANCP Information Sessions**

The Chair invited Mr Burrough to provide an update on the ANCP Information Sessions:

- Mr Burrough reported that the ANCP Accreditation Information Session run by Ms Lysaght and consultant Belinda Lucas on 26 March and the ANCP NGO Information session run by Majdie Hordern on 27 March in Canberra were valuable, as was the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019 induction for two new NGOs potentially joining the ANCP .
  - Next year DFAT will consider holding the sessions in a conference style. Both days demonstrated the value of NGOs travelling to Canberra – for NGOs to network with each other, and for more areas of DFAT to have access to the NGO community.

- The Survey Monkey questionnaire feedback from the participants is expected by the next CDC meeting.
- Mr Church commented on the excellent networking opportunity the information sessions are for NGO's.
- The Chair noted the excellent quality of speakers at the sessions, and the advantage of holding the sessions in Canberra.

**Action: CDC to be provided with an update on the feedback received from the 2019 information sessions questionnaires at next meeting.**

### **Preventing Terrorism Financing Policy Update**

The Chair invited Mr Burrough to provide an update on the Preventing Terrorism Financing Policy Review:

- Mr Burrough stated the Preventing Terrorism Financing discussion paper is close to being finalised and is likely to be released for consultation with NGOs before the Easter break. He added that there will be an Assessors workshop the 16<sup>th</sup> of May, and Ms Lysaght advised that the assessors will also be consulted on the discussion paper.
- Mr Morley commented he is looking forward to seeing the paper, as there is contestation around the idea of 'reasonableness' which needs to be spelt out in practical ways.

### **ANCP Program Logic and MELF Update**

Mr Burrough spoke briefly to this item before handing to Heather Fitt to provide an update:

- Mr Burrough noted that the FY2017/18 ANCP performance snapshot (previously the Aid Program Performance Report (APPR) has been published on the DFAT website. Key findings show that 18.2 million people's lives were improved through 57 ANCP NGOs working with partners to implement projects, and a quarter of ANCP projects leverage funding from other sources.
- Ms Fitt noted the productive ANCP Program Logic and MELF discussions to date and spoke about next steps for this piece of work. Ms Fitt noted that there is a need to balance program management and accountability requirements. The team are looking at ways to improve ongoing consultations, such as by separating into smaller groups to pilot new methods of data collection. A workshop is planned for late May to present the new draft logic with an expression of interest to be called for in advance of the session.

- Ms Keys noted that it was great to see the progression of the logic, and the clear response to feedback from previous consultations in the new draft coming from the initial discussion on the indicators.
- Ms Fitt noted the new Program Logic will be circulated for comment – along with a two-page narrative to accompany the framework itself – this will be circulated later in the year with final sign-off taking place at the ANCP reflections (which have moved from August 2019 to November 2019).

## **PSEAH Policy Update**

The Chair spoke to the item:

- The Secretary has signed off on the Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH) Policy which was launched on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April and comes into effect on 1 July 2019. Guidance notes are being prepared to sit behind the policy itself. The Fraud Control Branch will be sending out letters to this effect, and consequently may field a lot of enquiries.
- The Policy applies to all individuals and organisations involved in delivering DFAT funding including multilaterals, implementing partners, and partner governments. It contains six key principles:
  - zero tolerance of inaction,
  - strong leadership accelerates culture change,
  - victim/survivor needs are prioritised,
  - PSEAH is a shared responsibility,
  - gender inequality and other power imbalances are addressed and
  - stronger reporting will enhance accountability and transparency.
- DFAT will continue to engage with ACFID and the ACNC to implement the recommendations from the VIFM Review Report to improve prevention of SEAH in the Australian NGO sector and are looking forward to ACFID's first progress report.
- Ms Spinks noted that it would be interesting to know how sector feedback shaped and influenced the final policy and wondered whether there had been consideration of the effect a rolling implementation of the policy would have on upcoming organisational reviews.
- Mr Church confirmed that consultation was wide, and a lot of the sectors' feedback was taken on board, and noted that with such an extensive report, there is a lot of work to do with respect to risk. Mr Church went on to clarify, in response to Ms Spinks' query, that for upcoming ORs, the policy would not be applied retrospectively.

- Ms Lysaght noted that the Accreditation Review covered a lot of what is in the policy already.
- Mr Hartwich queried whether the mechanism is clear within DFAT on the mandatory requirements, and Mr Church commented that the guidance will show where reporting is required – this may mean a dual reporting, if it includes a DFAT officer. Ms Spinks noted the same may apply to the child protection mechanism, balancing between the current child protection requirements and the mandatory reporting regime for PSEAH– there is potential for tension between these two principles.
- Ms Condon noted that ACFID would be happy to host a webinar for the section running the new policy.

**Action: DFAT to provide information on which parts of the PSEAH policy will apply on agencies undergoing an organisation review during the implementation phase of the policy.**

**Action: A DFAT representative from the PSEAH area to be invited to speak at the next CDC.**

## **Item 5. Next CDC Date**

The Chair asked if there were any other issues to table.

- Ms Spinks asked whether, given the CDC’s engagement with the Accreditation Review, the CDC could be provided with a summary of trends and reflections collected through the agency feedback mechanism.
- Ms Lysaght noted that de-identified information from the survey of re-accrediting NGOs is routinely provided at the CDC meeting in September.
- Mr Morley requested that the issue of ‘spot checks’ could be added to the agenda for the next CDC.
  - Ms Lysaght clarified that the proposal regarding spot checks will consider the cycle of accreditation and conduct a spot check at the mid-point in that cycle, for an enhanced level of assurance across the whole ANCP – but separate to accreditation. This is matter for program teams but would come through the CDC for noting.
- Mr Morley queried whether it is in fact a matter for the CDC in terms of how the spot check process would be implemented, as providing advice on policy is a function of the CDC.
- Mr Church queried what the process would be if an agency failed a spot check – and whether this would come to the CDC, and the Chair clarified that this would depend on the breadth of the matter at hand. Mr Burrough added that the initial proposal for the spot checks would be to look at safeguards, as an extension of DFAT’s rolling process of auditing, and the process would be determined based on the size of the NGO and how it operates. Mr Burrough acknowledged the importance of making

clear to NGOs the difference between the option to exercise spot checks, verses making spot checks part of the accreditation cycle.

- Ms Lysaght suggested Ms Hordern could attend the next CDC to provide an update on the spot check proposal.
- The date for the next CDC will likely be at the end of May/early June. There will be seven OR reports for consideration at the next meeting.

**Action: DFAT to provide an update on the spot check proposal at the next CDC meeting.**

### **3:45pm Meeting Close**

- The Chair concluded the meeting by acknowledging the significant expertise and valued contribution of Ms Lysaght in all CDC matters.