

OECD Development Finance Network (DeFiNe) Annual Assembly

11-12 October 2010, Paris

SUMMARY OF THE DeFiNe MANAGEMENT MEETING

12 October (morning)

INTRODUCTION

The meeting's purpose was to discuss the management and activities of Define in 2011-2012. The Define secretariat started by

- Introducing the OECD Development Centre, its Programme of Work and Budget for 2011-2012 and the Define network;
- Encouraging members' initiatives;
- Proposing possible forms of involvement at regional and/or global (joint organisation of seminars, expert meetings, expert exchanges, joint working papers, direct input to flagship publications, dissemination events, topical sub-networks, between-members activities, joint research, small research fund);
- Proposing possible regionalisation of the network (coordinators, regional chapters);
- Presentation by Mustafizur Rahman and Debapriya Bhattacharya (CPD) of an example of joint initiatives: International Dialogue on "Exploring a New Global Partnership for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the context of the UN LDC IV," Dhaka, 24-26 November 2010, in collaboration with the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) in Bangladesh.

DISCUSSION

The discussion was balanced and the members presented rather unified opinions regarding the Network's modus operandi. They could be summarised as follows:

REALISM

- Important to remain realistic without creating overambitious structures.
- Concern that it is taxing for member institutions to actively participate in many networks, and all meetings offered – but occasional involvement to exchange experiences is realistic.

STRUCTURE

- Remain centralised as centralised networks works very well, e.g. the Global Development Network (GDN). Such networks are loose networks with strong centralised secretariat.

NATURE

- Currently Define serves as a reference group for the Development Centre, the Development Cooperation Directorate and other directorates of the OECD.
- Define secretariat should welcome members' suggestions on work program and activities of the Centre and the Network. Starting from the next Programme of Work and Budget, consultations could be organised 1-2 months prior to the Annual Assembly.
- Maintain Define's ownership over the OECD Global Forum on Development (GFD)'s scope.
- Be a platform for sharing topics, partnerships, financing ideas and fostering joint research.
- Important to demonstrate how the Network influences policy, and not just discusses issues.

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- Important to foster non-OECD view and thinking.
- Tailored programs between members could arise as a result of in-Network interactions.

LOCALITY

- Take Define out of Paris by organizing and participating in events in other countries: attending global and international fora, as well as the Centre's regional units' events; organising a Define-specific event abroad once a year.

REGIONALISATION

- The fact that the network is global and not regional is its main asset.
- Giving the Network a regional scope might not work because other regional networks already exist, e.g. ARTNET in South Asia. They have large budget, capacity building angle, focal points in each country and financial support given to members. This is not the case for Define.
- There are also bigger organisation in regions dealing with regional work and questions, e.g. ESCAP.
- Entry point for regional streams at Define could be specific themes of interest to given region, e.g. green growth and economies in transition, especially of interest for members in South and Southeast Asia.

COMMUNICATION

- Keep members updated on projects and partners' activities, through the website and newsletter. Share in advance what partners are thinking to do in future to facilitate planning. This is important because not all relevant information can be found on partners' websites.
- We should look for creative ideas how to maintain communication in the Network on regular basis, e.g. quarterly.

PARTNERS

- Engage with governments.
- Ensure larger civil society involvement.
- Who is engaged in Define will determine its resource potential.

FUNDING

- While not easy to create research fund, existing resources should be used and pooled when cooperation potential exists between members.
- Some joint projects could be used to fundraise from external bodies, and this could be member driven.
- Members may cooperate on the ground by providing links with local partners, providing infrastructure for meetings, and other self-owned resources.

GOVERNANCE

Next, the assembly discussed the Network's governance, focusing on:

- The rules of engagement
 - (i) Current (No fees, focal point at the level of executive director, minimum engagement once a year, communication via Define secretariat at DEV);
 - (ii) No further amendments proposed.
- Decision approval process

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- (i) Current (Submission to all members for approval, silence is consent);
 - (ii) No further amendments proposed.
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Annex – Individual members’ research interests¹

CEBRI (Adriana de Queiroz):

- Key areas of interests are food, **energy** and **development cooperation**;

CEF (Pablo Souto):

- Interested in various aspects of **finance**, e.g. housing.

CSEND (Lichia Saner-Yiu):

- Interested in various aspects of **aid effectiveness**, e.g., Monitoring and Evaluation, policy governance.

ECDPM (Melissa Daleau):

- ECDPM works on **development cooperation**, in particular on the EU relationships with developing countries, mostly in Africa and Asia-Pacific;

Fedesarrollo (Mauricio Olivera):

- Interested in economics of natural resources, rural and **green development**;

IBON (Tony Tujan):

- Better Aid is hosted by IBON;
- Prepared a report on **development cooperation**;

IRMA (Yoginder Alagh):

- IRMA interested in rural and **green development**; it organizes training on sustainable development to scholars in South Asia; for South Asia food and employment security are key themes of interest; IRMA belongs to a rural network and ready to organize/host a meeting on rural economies in transition;
- The above is linked to SAEO 2011 on green growth and also to PDG 2011 on **social cohesion**;
- Interested in macroeconomic result of micro foundations;

Merconet (José Fanelli):

- Interested in the **macroeconomic** aspects of development process;

ODI (Jonathan Glennie):

- Interested in aid and **development finance beyond aid**, climate finance/**green development**, going outside the regular donor viewpoint.

¹ Themes in bold will feature in the Programme of Work of the Development Centre for 2011-2012.

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