



## DFAT / NGO COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

A Joint Committee of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Australian Non-Government Organisations

### 165th COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION MEETING

2 March 2022 – 1:30pm – 3:20pm

Meeting held online via Webex

#### Participants

- Mr Aedan Whyatt (DFAT) – Chair
- Ms Selvi Vikan (DFAT)
- Mr Tim Church (DFAT)
- Ms Christina Munzer (DFAT, left meeting at 2pm and rejoined at 2:15pm)
- Ms Ellen Shipley (UnitingWorld)
- Mr John Morley (Plan International Australia, left meeting at 2.35pm and did not rejoin)
- Mr Andrew Hartwich (The Fred Hollows Foundation)
- Ms Jessica Waite (International Women’s Development Agency)

#### CDC Secretariat and Observers

- Ms Emily Moreton (ACFID) – minute taker for this meeting
- Dr Jane Alver (ACFID, left meeting at 3:15pm and did not rejoin)
- Ms Marilyn Yue (DFAT)
- Ms Tina Angel (DFAT)

#### Agenda

##### 1. Welcome, Introduction, Apologies and conflict check- Chair

###### Welcome to Country

- The Chair opened the meeting with the Welcome to Country as follows “I would like to pay my respect and acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which this meeting takes place, and also pay respect to Elders both past and present. I extend this respect to any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people here today.”

###### Welcome

- The Chair welcomed everyone to 165th CDC meeting.

###### Note the observers, and Secretariat:

- Ms Moreton (ACFID), minute taker.
- Dr Alver (ACFID)
- Ms Yue (DFAT)
- Ms Angel (DFAT)



## DFAT / NGO COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

A Joint Committee of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Australian Non-Government Organisations

### Conflict Check

- The Chair asked all meeting participants to declare any conflicts of interest.

### 2. Endorsement of the 164<sup>th</sup> CDC Minutes - Chair

The minutes of 164<sup>th</sup> CDC have been circulated.

- The Chair moved that the CDC accept the 164<sup>th</sup> Minutes.
  - The 164<sup>th</sup> Minutes were accepted by the CDC.
  - Ms Munzer endorsed, seconded by Ms Shipley.

### 3. Update on Action Items

- Ms Moreton outlined a new tracking tool developed to support to an action arising from the CDC meeting on 12 June 2020.
  - The spreadsheet aims to help the CDC identify and monitor trends where NGOs are receiving subject tos, how many subject tos are being given and the timeframes allowed.
  - There is potential to expand the spreadsheet to track NGO good practice identified in OR reports.
  - ACFID offered to be responsible for maintaining the spreadsheet.
- Mr Church asked how the CDC will ensure the privacy of the information in the spreadsheet and who this will be shared with. Ms Shipley suggested that data could be deidentified and summarised. Mr Morley stated that it was still important to be able to identify the agency in some way, so that the CDC could monitor consistency in the use of subject tos across agencies.
- Ms Vikan noted the benefits of having this tool to easily identify areas of learning, and areas of strength for different organisations, and suggested that it only be shared with the CDC. Ms Vikan agreed with Mr Morley that it would be beneficial to be able to identify the agencies individually.
- Mr Morley stated that the spreadsheet would be very beneficial for the annual reflection session with assessors.
- The Chair agreed that the spreadsheet should be kept as a tool for the CDC, with an update to track areas of good practice as well as subject tos.

**Action:** ACFID to update the tracking spreadsheet based on the feedback provided.

### 4. Update from DFAT

#### Accreditation Reviews Summary - Chair

- The Chair noted that:
  - 10 applications were received in the 2021 accreditation round, which closed on 30 September 2021. This comprised of eight organisations applying for accreditation for the first time and two organisations applying for upgrades outside the usual five-year



## DFAT / NGO COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

A Joint Committee of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Australian Non-Government Organisations

assessment period. It is anticipated that these ORs will be discussed at the next CDC meeting in May 2022.

- A further 14 organisations are due for re-accreditation this year.

### Accreditation Policy Review – Ms Vikan

- Ms Vikan provided an update on the planned Accreditation Policy Review
  - The findings from the ANCP Evaluation currently underway will be used to inform the Accreditation Review.
  - The Accreditation Review will begin after the conclusion of the ANCP Evaluation which is expected to be in August 2022, with preparation for the Review beginning earlier.
  - DFAT are also considering the merits of updating other key documents, e.g. CDC ToR, ANGO Accreditation Guidance Manual, as part of the Review or subsequent to the Review. This will be discussed further at a CDC meeting in June or July.

### Action Log – Ms Yue

- Ms Yue thanked and acknowledged the CDC NGO reps for their engagement with DFAT on the action log.
  - Ms Yue met with Ms Shipley to discuss a new approach to managing the action log.
  - The proposed approach includes refining the action log by grouping actions by topic not date.

**Action:** DFAT to develop a draft of the revised action log and circulate to the CDC for review and feedback prior to the meeting in May 2022.

### Proposed Myanmar briefing

- Ms Yue provided an update on the request for an NGO briefing on changes to the aid program investment in Myanmar made by Mr Morley at CDC 164.
  - The ANCP team has discussed this with the relevant geographic area and ACFID.
  - Plans are underway to hold a roundtable in the coming months, noting discussions are continuing with the ACFID Myanmar Community of Practice, ACFID and NGOs on the ground.
  - Details of the event will be shared once determined.

### DFAT Safeguards Review

- Ms Shipley noted that DFAT's Safeguards policy review was completed and asked when an indication of the next steps and potential outcomes might be provided to the NGO sector.
- Ms Vikan confirmed that the dates and next steps for this process are still being considered and will provide updates to the CDC when there are developments.



## **DFAT / NGO COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**

A Joint Committee of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Australian Non-Government Organisations

### 5. Subject-to and Organisation Review Reports

### 6. Other issues for NGO Representatives to table – Chair

The Chair asked CDC members if there are any other issues/business to table.

– No other issues were raised.

### 7. Next CDC Dates and Meeting close - Chair

The Chair advised CDC members that the next CDC is planned for May 2022. 10 OR reports are expected.

The Chair thanked the CDC members for their preparation and input to the meeting.

**3:20pm Meeting Close.**