



166th COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION MEETING
25 May 2022 – 10:00 – 12.15pm
Meeting held online via Webex

Participants

- Mr Aedan Whyatt (DFAT) – Chair
- Ms Selvi Vikan (DFAT)
- Ms Christina Munzer (DFAT, joined the meeting at 10.30am)
- Ms Ellen Shipley (UnitingWorld)
- Mr John Morley (Plan International Australia)
- Mr Andrew Hartwich (The Fred Hollows Foundation)
- Ms Jessica Waite (International Women’s Development Agency)

CDC Secretariat and Observers

- Ms Jocelyn Condon (ACFID)
- Ms Emily Moreton (ACFID)
- Ms Robyne Leven (DFAT)
- Ms Tina Angel (DFAT), minute taker

Agenda

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

Acknowledgement of Country

- The Chair opened the meeting with the Acknowledgement of 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 166th CDC meeting.

Apologies

- Mr Tim Church (DFAT)

Note the observers, and Secretariat:

- Ms Jocelyn Condon (ACFID)
- Ms Emily Moreton (ACFID)
- Ms Robyne Leven (DFAT)
- Ms Tina Angel (DFAT), minute taker
- Ms Liz Nannelli (DFAT)



Conflict Check

- The Chair asked all meeting participants to declare any conflicts of interest.
 - No attendees declared any conflicts of interest.

2. Endorsement of the 165th CDC Minutes - Chair

The minutes of 165th CDC have been circulated.

- The Chair moved that the CDC accept the 165th Minutes.
 - The 165th Minutes were accepted by the CDC.
 - Mr Morley endorsed, seconded by Ms Shipley.

3. Update on Action Items

- The Chair noted the approach to the Action Log has been revised following discussion at the 165th CDC meeting and collaboration between the Secretariat and members.
 - The Action Log was circulated on 10 May 2022.
- Ms Shipley stated the new structure was more useful than the old format.
- Ms Condon agreed to lead on the review of the Conflict of Interest Policy (Action Log Item 2), for discussion at the 167th CDC meeting.
- Mr Morley asked whether the Reledev review proposed some changes to attendance of DFAT training and if it should be reflected in the action log.
- Ms Vikan advised the Reledev report would be discussed later in the meeting and should clarify Mr Morley's query.

4. Update from DFAT

ANCP Independent Evaluation – Ms Vikan

- The primary data collection phase is now complete.
 - This included consultation with DFAT officers at Post and Canberra, other donors, Development Practice Committee (DPC) ACFID, ANCP NGOs and local partners.
 - Thirty-two (56%) ANCP NGOs - with a good representation of large, medium and small NGOs - participated in thematic roundtables.
 - Five focus group discussions were held with local partners in Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Vietnam and Indonesia.
 - ACFID, DPC and 11 ANCP NGOs provided written submissions.
- The evaluation team have prepared an Aide Memoire of preliminary findings.
 - Preliminary findings show there is room to streamline the ANCP's processes to reduce the burden on NGOs, shift to multi-year funding models and better connect the ANCP to DFAT's bilateral and regional programs.
 - : The evaluation team do not consider outsourcing all of ANCP to a private contractor would deliver the dividends DFAT and NGOs are seeking.
 - : However, the evaluation team identified there is scope to streamline business processes to more appropriately leverage the assessed capabilities of ANGOs to



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- create efficiency dividends and reinvest DFAT resources from compliance to demonstrating effectiveness and strategic engagement.
- The preliminary findings are to be validated and recommendations developed through a series of findings and strategy testing workshops.
 - : Tentatively scheduled to take place 16-17 June 2022.
 - : A wide range of stakeholders will be invited in the coming weeks.
- Welcomes the opportunity to work through the preliminary findings of the Aid Memoire with the CDC
 - : Drafting the evaluation report will take place during June and July.
 - : First draft is due to DFAT on 30 June, second draft due on 15 July.
 - : Final evaluation report is due on 14 August.
- Mr Morley asked if there would be a broad civil society strategy incorporated into the red book, DFAT's relationship with ACFID and the bigger picture for DFAT and NGOs.
- Ms Vikan stated broader discussions were happening with DFAT SES and Labour had announced an election commitment to ANCP over the forward estimates.
 - Looking for efficiencies around administration and contract management and more focus on strategic engagement.

Update on the DFAT Safeguards Policy Review - Ms Vikan

- Ms Vikan provided background information on the independent review into the effectiveness of DFAT's safeguard policies.
 - The high-level review was completed on 15 June 2021.
 - The review provided high-level strategic and operational conclusions and recommendations including:
 - : that DFAT's safeguard policies are broadly in line with international good practice and domestic requirements, however there are areas for improvement.
 - : Another key finding was that the three policies could be simplified and streamlined to improve accessibility, reduce overlap and give equal importance to the content of each.
 - The review team met with internal and external stakeholders, including ACFID and its members.
- Ms Vikan advised DFAT is in the process of responding to the review.
 - Developing a coherent, contemporary safeguards regime that is fit for purpose for DFAT's current needs is a significant undertaking.
 - Working through the implications to ensure a fit for purpose approach for the department.
 - Consulting a range of functions/areas across the department to help determine the most appropriate future approach/es.
 - We will keep the CDC informed and expect further advice mid-year.
- Continuing to work through ways to improve DFAT's safeguarding approach.



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- DFAT's Fraud Control Branch team is working to support a range of high-risk programs to ensure that the safeguard approaches are robust and responsive to the challenging conditions.
 - COVID-19 has influenced the management of safeguard risks, particularly Child protection and PSEAH, their monitoring and reporting.
 - Insights from the NGO sector are useful given the exposure to risks and challenging operating environments.
- Ms Vikan stated she appreciated the ongoing interest and engagement in the Safeguard Policy Review.

Accreditation Reviews Summary – Aedan Whyatt

- Mr Whyatt advised CDC members the 2021 accreditation round, which closed on 30 September 2021, received 10 applications, with eight ANGOs applying for the first time and two ANCP NGO's seeking to upgrade their accreditation from Base to Full.

Fourteen ANGO's are due for re-accreditation in 2022-23.

5. Organisation Review Reports – Ms Leven

6. Other issues for NGO Representatives to table – Chair

ANCP Projects aligning with Partnerships for Recovery

- The Chair provided members with an update on the revised ANCP manual.
 - There were some minor updates including localisation and relating to ANCP projects aligning with the Partnerships for Recovery (PFR) pillars.
 - Noted the revisions were made pre-election and willing to discuss how we revise the manual going forward, including logos for for-profit organisations. Opened up for discussion.
- Ms Shipley stated she would like to explore the link to PFR but didn't have anything to add to the logos discussion.
- Mr Morley had some concerns about ANCP flexibility and the possible erosion of a long-held approach.
 - Stated the program needs flexibility, and ANCP projects are beneficial to Posts where there is no significant aid program.
 - Posts can rely on ANCP partners to help deliver DFAT's aid program.
 - ACFID is prepared to take the issue to the Foreign Minister.
- Mr Morley also stated asked what were the issues with corporate logos?
 - Would like more information on the rationale behind co-branding requirements.
- Ms Vikan advised CDC members the request to align ANCP projects with PFR came from the Ministers office.
- Mr Morley stated the principle of restricting the geographic footprint is what is concerning NGOs.
- Ms Waite stated NGOs are sensitive to the shrinking aid program and would like more control on funding and where/what it is used for.
- Ms Vikan acknowledged NGOs that DFAT would try to maintain flexibility to the ANCP.



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- The Chair elaborated the importance of ongoing engagement and policy alignment will take time and consultation.
 - Whilst there is not instant clarification, the ANCP is a long-standing bipartisan program.
 - Noted ANCP continues to operate with flexibility and DFAT is reviewing feedback received on the manual.
 - Stated the use of logos maximise and leverage partnerships, however there are other considerations around logos. Will come back to the group at the next meeting.
- Mr Morley noted the Government supports NGOs that the Australian public supports. That is the reason why Base/Full level accreditation is calculated on RDE.
 - The funding mechanism is the delivery model
 - ANCP is unique and an outlier in practice and funding.
- Ms Waite stated that DFAT could do more to bring Post into ANCP and create convening and collaboration with ANCP partners.
 - Needs to be strengthened.
 - Would welcome more engagement with Post.
 - Noted it is different to trying to align ANCP with the aid program.

Action: DFAT to provide further information about corporate logos and for-profit entities.

7. Next CDC Dates and Meeting close - Chair

- The Chair advised CDC members that the next CDC is planned for July 2022.
 - The proposed July meeting will focus on policy
 - ACFID (Ms Condon) will lead on reviewing the Conflict of Interest paper.
- Mr Morley stated he would prefer to meet face-to-face.
- The Chair agreed and stated it was more positive face-to-face.
 - Thanked the CDC members for their preparation and input to the meeting.

12.15pm Meeting Closed.