



DFAT / NGO COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

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

169th COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION MEETING

22 May 2023 – 1:00-2:45pm

Meeting online via Teams

Participants

- Ms Selvi Vikan (DFAT) - Chair
- Ms Catherine Gill (DFAT)
- Ms Mary James (DFAT)
- Mr Adrian Fleming (DFAT)
- Ms Ellen Shipley (UnitingWorld)
- Mr John Morley (Plan International Australia)
- Ms Sarah Hunt (ChildFund Australia)
- Ms Jessica Waite (International Women’s Development Agency)

CDC Secretariat and Observers

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

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 169th CDC meeting.
- The Chair noted that this is Ms Shipley’s final CDC meeting and acknowledged her extensive experience and valuable input to the Committee over many years. The Chair and other CDC members reflected on Ms Shipley’s contributions and thanked her for her significant service to the Committee.
- The Chair welcomed and introduced three new DFAT representatives to the Committee, Catherine Gill (Director, Humanitarian and Development Deployments Section), Mary James (Assistant Director, Human and Environmental Safeguards Section) and Mr Adrian Fleming (Assistant Director, NGO Program and Partnerships Section).



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- The Chair also noted the contribution of Mr Tim Church (DFAT) who finished his term on the Committee. Mr Morley acknowledged and thanked Mr Church for his long-standing commitment to the CDC.
- The Chair confirmed that the CDC Chair position will be filled by Ms Selvi Vikan on an ongoing basis, with Mr Aedan Whyatt attending the CDC for policy discussions and acting as the Delegate for CDC decisions. Mr Fleming will take on the role previously filled by Ms Vikan.

Apologies

- Ms Waite joined the meeting at 1:30pm.

Note the observers, and Secretariat:

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

Conflict Check

- The Chair asked all meeting participants to declare any conflicts of interest.
 - Ms Hunt advised she had assisted Opportunity International Australia with some preparatory work related to re-accreditation, as previously noted at the 168th CDC. The Chair thanked Ms Hunt for declaring perceived conflicts of interest and advised she could remain in the meeting.

2. Endorsement of the 168th CDC Minutes - Chair

- The Chair moved that the CDC accept the 168th Minutes.
 - The 168th Minutes were accepted by the CDC.
 - Ms Shipley endorsed, seconded by Mr Morley.

3. Update on Action Items

Accreditation tracker

- The Chair noted that the tracking spreadsheet is being updated to reflect the strengths of NGOs identified through the OR, as well as subject tos.
- The Chair asked the CDC for their views on the best approach for highlighting and sharing good practice and common areas for improvement with NGOs. One option proposed was to place general information on the ANCP website, with the consent of the relevant NGO.
- Ms Shipley noted that it is important to recognise existing opportunities for sharing this kind of information, for example NGOs are profiled at the Annual Reflections. It would be most useful to use existing mechanisms, including working through the ACFID ANCP Community of Practice, and



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existing gatherings of accredited NGOs. She noted that it can be difficult to keep website information up to date.

- Ms Condon explained that occasionally DFAT assessors or ACFID members will approach ACFID directly at the end of an OR to request peer-to-peer support, which has been an effective approach so far, and ACFID are happy to support this ad-hoc networking link.
- Ms Hunt highlighted other opportunities for sharing this information including ANCP reflection sessions and ACFID learning events. She suggested that it would be useful to have examples of good practice consolidated in one place, possibly linked to ACFID's learning offerings.

Action: DFAT to liaise with ACFID about opportunities to discuss effective approaches to sharing good practice and trends in accreditation with the ANCP CoP.

Informed consent

- Ms Condon confirmed that the issue of informed consent is being reviewed as part of the current ACFID Code of Conduct Review. ACFID and its members are considering opportunities for greater alignment between the Code and DFAT's Child Safeguarding policy approach.

DFAT Safeguards Policy Review

- The Chair recommended that this item be removed from the action log noting that the CDC, and the sector more broadly, will be proactively informed of any updates regarding the Safeguards Policy Review.
- Ms Shipley suggested that keeping it on the agenda of the CDC recognises the importance of the review and of the ongoing interest of the sector in the outcomes of the review, and what are extremely core standards for accreditation and NGO practice.
- Mr Morley agreed, noting that having no updates is still significant to NGO representatives. Potentially there may be movement after the new Development Policy is launched, and it is best to keep it in the action log.
- The Chair confirmed that updates have been sought from the Safeguards team prior to each CDC. The Safeguards team noted that it is likely that there will not be any updates for some time, but as soon as there is any movement, they will inform the ANCP team and CDC.

Decision: Retain the updates on the Safeguards Policy Review in the CDC action log.

Spot check letter

- The Chair confirmed that ANGOs would be notified of the ability to request a letter regarding any spot checks in the next ANCP Bulletin.

Surge Helpdesk

- The Chair confirmed that only DFAT offices can submit a request to the Surge Helpdesk. ANGOs can request support through the ANCP inbox for a specific ANCP program.
- Mr Morley suggested it would be good for ANGOs to know if there's specific information required when making a request.
- The Chair referred to the ANCP team for further follow up

Action: DFAT to confirm if any specific information is required when requesting support from the Surge Helpdesk through the ANCP team and to add this information and how to make a request into the next ANCP Bulletin.



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Structure of OR report

- The Chair confirmed that the structure of the OR report will be reviewed as part of the Accreditation and Funding Policy Refresh.

4. Updates

A. DFAT

Government priorities

- The Chair provided an update on key issues since the 168th meeting in March 2023:
 - Federal Budget presented on 9 May 2023.
 - DFAT's response to the unfolding situation in Sudan.
 - Appointment of Mr Justin Mohamed as Australia's inaugural Ambassador for First Nations People.

NPQ Section update

- The Chair advised:
 - Mr Adrian Fleming has joined the NPQ Section, as an Assistant Director.
 - Ms Alli Smith has joined the NPQ Section and is assisting with ANCP Operations.
 - Ms Robyn Leven has moved to the Disability Inclusion section for twelve months, reflecting the importance of Disability Inclusion as one of the Government's priority areas. NPQ will continue working closely with Robyne in her new role. Ms Sandra Martinovic is now leading the Accreditation and Funding Policy Refresh.

Accreditation and Funding Policy Refresh

- The Chair advised that:
 - a preferred supplier has been identified and it is anticipated the Refresh will begin in mid-June 2023.
 - the preferred approach is to consider the Accreditation and Funding Policy Refresh as a holistic piece, and not to separate them into two components.
- Ms Shipley asked whether the CDC had seen the TOR previously and Ms Hunt confirmed it had been shared via email in February for comment.
- Ms Condon asked if the final Terms of Reference will be circulated publicly. The Chair confirmed that in keeping with the approach taken in the ANCP Evaluation with ACFID's Development Practice Committee, the TOR will be shared with the CDC once DFAT has had an inception meeting with the contractors. Input will be sought from the CDC regarding any improvements or queries. The final TOR will then be shared publicly.
- Ms Condon noted the anticipated start date of mid-June is close and if possible, it would be a good opportunity for the CDC to meet to discuss the TOR prior to the June start date.

Action: DFAT to re-circulate the Terms of Reference for the Accreditation and Funding Policy Refresh.

Partnering approach



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- The Chair advised the CDC that the ANCP team is working to build internal capacity to support a new partnering approach with NGOs. Several staff members have attended partnership brokering training. NGOs will be advised in June who their partnership manager will be.

Accreditation Reviews Summary – Ms Nannelli

- Ms Nannelli advised CDC members the 2022 accreditation round, which closed on 30 September 2022, received 5 applications, with two ANGOs applying for the first time at Base level and three ANCP NGOs seeking to upgrade their accreditation from Base to Full.
There are also seven ANGOs due for re-accreditation in 2022-23, and three upcoming subject-to reviews.

B. ACFID Code Review – Ms Condon and Ms Moreton

- Ms Moreton shared an update on the progress of the ACFID Code of Conduct Review since the previous CDC meeting:
 - Following feedback from a wide range of stakeholders in late March, the proposed changes to the Code related to locally-led development/humanitarian action, climate change, and racial justice have been revised.
 - The next round of consultation workshops will be held in late May to collect feedback on the revised changes.
 - New changes related to improving the alignment of the Code with other standards, including DFAT Accreditation criteria, have been drafted and will also be discussed at the workshops in May. Some areas under consideration include safeguarding, partnerships, evaluation and organisational risk management.
 - Expect a clearer picture on where changes to the Code will be in June and aiming for approval of ACFID's revised CoC by October 2023.
- Ms Condon noted that with the changes in the timeframes to the Accreditation Refresh it was not possible to arrange joint consultation workshops in May as hoped, but it would still be beneficial to hold further conversations with the Refresh team when possible.

Action: ACFID to provide an update on the Code Review to the next CDC meeting.

5. Subject to timeframe discussion

The Chair said, conscious of the time, this item would be held over until the end of the meeting.

The meeting subsequently ran out of time. The CDC agreed to hold over this discussion until the next CDC meeting due to time constraints.

Action: Discussion on the Subject to timeframes to be included in the agenda for CDC 170.

6. Subject-to Reports and ORs – Ms Nannelli

- One subject to report, three organisation review reports and one desk assessment were discussed.



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7. Other issues for NGO Representatives to table – Chair

No issues were raised.

8. Next CDC Dates and Meeting close – Ms Nannelli

- Ms Nannelli advised CDC members that the next CDC is planned for October 2023, with a potential additional meeting to discuss the TOR for the Accreditation and Funding Policy Refresh.
- Ms Shipley strongly encouraged the CDC to meet and discuss the Refresh as soon as possible.
- The Chair confirmed the CDC is the main reference group for the Refresh and will be consulted at all stages.

2:45pm Meeting closed.