DEVELOPING GUIDANCE FOR EVALUATING CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACE BUILDING ACTIVITIES

This note has been prepared by Norway for discussion at the 4th meeting of the DAC Network on Development Evaluation, 30 – 31 March 2006.
Developing Guidance for Evaluating Conflict Prevention and Peace Building Activities

Purpose and Context
The objective of the joint work between the DAC Evaluation Network and the DAC Network on Conflict, Peace and Development Cooperation (CPDC) is to improve methodology for evaluating conflict prevention and peace building interventions, as one of the major recommendations of the so-called Utstein study. Discussions during the past months of how to proceed have resulted in a decision to develop guidance for evaluating conflict prevention and peace building programmes using a similar approach as for the existent Guidance for Evaluating Humanitarian Assistance in Complex Emergencies. Evaluation guidance should be relevant at project, programme and country level and for the interaction between the three levels as previous evaluations have often focused only on the micro-level. Work that was begun in 2005 to analyse past evaluations will be circulated when available.

Conduct of the Work
The work has been managed by a Steering Group of lead donors: Norad and DFID from the Evaluation Network, Sida from the CPDC, and the DAC Secretariat. Inputs from interested Evaluation Network members will be solicited at key stages in the process, notably in relation to approval of the inception report and upon receipt of the draft report. Members who want to register their interest and to comment on draft products are encouraged to indicate this to the Secretariat. The CPDC has a large Task Team of interested members (see below).

Summary of CPDC Network meeting on 7-8 February 2006
The CPDC meeting reaffirmed its strong support for developing guidance in this area and noted a need for evaluation work not only at the programming level but also at the level of policy. Members highlighted:

- The need to move forward to the main workshop and to make concrete progress before the end of the 2005-06 work programme.
- Interest in the idea of pilot testing the draft guidance, though it was agreed that it is too early to select specific countries.
- Interest in receiving any usable lessons learned from the work conducted in 2005.
- The political nature of CPPB assistance, the importance of local ownership and the importance of joint evaluations in view of the Paris Declaration.
- Interest in participating in the Task Team was expressed by: Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, US, UNDP and the World Bank.
- Need to keep the full memberships of the two Networks informed on progress.

Proposed next steps and timetable
1) The Steering Group has developed ToR for a paper on 'Developing guidance for evaluating conflict prevention and peace building programmes'. The process will involve an inception phase where the inception report must be formally approved by the Steering Group before proceeding the work towards a final draft near publishable paper.

2) A workshop on evaluation guidance, involving all interested members of both Networks and external experts, should be possible in the third quarter of 2006, provided timelines are met, to discuss the findings of the draft near publishable paper, and the way forward towards full draft guidance.

3) Full draft guidance would then be finalised/developed based on the paper and the discussions at the workshop. The draft guidance should be agreed by both Networks by end-2006/early-2007.

4) A number of members have expressed interest in pilot testing the draft guidance in the 2007-2008 work programme before finalising it in 2008.