

## **Inter-Departmental Committee on Development**

**14<sup>th</sup> December 2011 Iveagh House**

### **Summary Report**

#### **1. Opening Remarks**

The Minister of State for Trade and Development, Jan O'Sullivan, T.D., welcomed the colleagues to the IDCD and began by reiterating the Governments commitment to the development programme, as an expression of our values as a people and our interests as a country. The Minister informed the Committee that the 2012 Official Development Assistance (ODA) allocation will be €639 million, representing 0.5% of GNP based on current projections, and reiterated the Government's continuing commitment to achieving the UN 0.7% GNP target, noting that Ireland's development cooperation is considered in the top three globally in terms of effectiveness but that we have to ensure that we stay there.

During her recent trade mission to South Africa twenty eight Irish companies secured €15 million in new exports and strategic alliances and the Minister stated that Enterprise Ireland will shortly open an office in Johannesburg to support Irish companies increase exports and establish a long term presence in the South African and wider Sub-Saharan region markets. She noted the significant scope for growth in Ireland's trade with developing countries, including Ireland's priority countries four of which are predicted to be among the world's fastest growing economies. The focus has to be on building mutually beneficial economic and trading links and representatives of African countries, that she has met, have encouraged this as they wish to move away from a dependency on aid.

Similarly in Vietnam, the Minister noted that while Ireland is providing vital assistance to poor and marginalised rural and urban communities, we are at the same time, at the request of the Vietnamese Government, assisting in private sector development and sharing our own development experience. There is also strong cooperation between Irish Aid and Enterprise Ireland, highlighting important economic opportunities, especially in the areas of IT and education and the Department of Education recently signed a MoU with their counterparts in Vietnam.

#### **Aid Effectiveness**

The Minister noted that the outcome of the Busan High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness reflected a broadening of international development to include the private sector and emerging economies. The Busan Partnership agreement recognises that the long term aim is independence from aid and to achieve this requires an examination of how all public policies, not just development policies, contribute to sustainable development. As well as facilitating other sources of development financing such as taxation, investment, aid for trade, and climate change financing, donors need to consider other mechanisms, such as knowledge sharing and technology transfers.

Ireland will actively engage with the new Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation which has been established to drive forward the Busan agreement.

### **OECD DAC mid-term review**

The Minister then commented on the OECD DAC mid-term review of Ireland's development cooperation noting that the report was very positive about the clear progress that has been made. It particularly highlighted the leadership that Ireland has demonstrated in prioritizing responses to global hunger and food insecurity; the continued progress in mainstreaming cross-cutting priorities; the opportunities presented subsequent to the launch of the Africa Strategy and the benefits of a continued focus on performance and results. On Policy Coherence for Development the report noted that Ireland has made progress since the last peer review through the IDCD and through the relationships between Irish Aid staff and their colleagues in other Departments. The OECD commended Ireland for commissioning the IIS report on PCD in Ireland as it provides a sound basis for understanding the status of policy coherence and what needs to be done to improve it. The review report suggested that other DAC members could learn from this. The Minister thanked members who contributed to Ireland's submission to the review team, in particular the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine who met with the OECD team in Limerick

### **Climate Change**

The Minister noted the Minister of Environment's announcement of €10 million in new support for climate actions in developing countries and invited Dominic O'Brien, Dept. of the Environment, Community and Local Government to brief the Committee on the outcome of the Durban Climate Change conference. Mr. O'Brien reported that the main outcomes included a commitment to a legal framework on climate change to be adopted by 2015 and implemented by 2020; a rollover of the Kyoto protocol commitments post 2012; and the establishment of a Green Climate Fund. Agriculture and food security were key issues and there was also a technical agreement on the contribution of forestry to climate change mitigation which would benefit Ireland. The EU, while sidelined in Copenhagen, was pleased with the outcome in Durban where their contribution benefited from key networking with the Least Developed Countries (LDC) group and the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). The discussion that followed considered Ireland's climate change financing and the links between climate change and food security: it was agreed that climate change issues would remain on the IDCD's agenda for future meetings.

## **2. Review of the White Paper on Irish Aid**

The Minister introduced the Review of the White Paper on Irish Aid noting that she wanted to make sure that every Department had the opportunity to engage with the process. Donal Cronin, Irish Aid, provided a briefing on progress to date and the next steps in the consultation process. A draft consultation paper had been circulated in advance of the meeting and was well received. In the discussion a number of key issues were raised or emphasised, including: the importance of gender mainstreaming especially in relation food and nutrition security, including gender budgeting, disaggregating data and identifying gender sensitive indicators; the importance of consultations with our partner countries; consideration of Rio+20 and the proposals for Sustainable Development Goals; the security and development nexus; and the need for greater emphasis on vulnerability rather than on fragile states.

The comments were noted and would be considered in the finalisation of the Consultation Paper. The Minister appreciated all the comments and encouraged Departments to consult internally on the future of Ireland's development cooperation in preparation for the next IDCD meeting when they would be expected to submit their input to the review itself.

### 3. Points of Information

Carol Hannon provided updates on a number of PCD issues:

#### Europe

Following the incorporation of the former Development and EuropeAid Directorates into the Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid Directorate (DEVCO), the responsibility for PCD now lies with Unit A3 of DEVCO along with aid effectiveness and financing for development. The Commission's biennial PCD report, to which Ireland contributed, should be published shortly and will be circulated once available. Current and upcoming Commission communications or legislative proposals relevant to PCD include: two communications on Development Policy and Budget Support; legislative proposals and impact assessment on the Common Agriculture Policy post 2013; a communication on the evaluation and future development of the Global Approach to Migration; a communication on Corporate Social Responsibility and Social Business Initiative; and a communication on Trade and Development. In 2012 there will also be a mid-term evaluation of the Commission's work programme and a study on the impact of PCD on a specific geographical region (to be identified).

The Netherlands and Germany have jointly commissioned two complementary studies under the heading *Modernising the Comparability of Donor Contributions Post-2015*. The first study will develop a typology of development-related financing contributions and look into scenarios of how such contributions can be associated to ODA reporting. The second study will examine the feasibility and design of a 'development friendliness' index to evaluate donor policies beyond their ODA contributions. This is similar to the Committee's work on indicators and the Secretariat is liaising with the consultants involved.

In November CONCORD, the European Network of Development NGOs, published its second report on the EU's performance on policy coherence for development "*Spotlight on EU Policy Coherence for Development*" ([http://coherence.concordeurope.org/pdf/Concord\\_Report\\_15\\_AW\\_LORES.pdf](http://coherence.concordeurope.org/pdf/Concord_Report_15_AW_LORES.pdf)). The report focuses on the institutional framework for PCD and four policy areas - food security, natural resources, migration and human security, drawing on various studies, reports and case studies. The foreword is provided by MEP Birgit Schreiber-Jastram who is the European Parliament's Standing Rapporteur for PCD. This position was established in May 2012 and the Standing Rapporteur, who is appointed for two years, is responsible for promoting PCD within the EP and for producing a biennial report.

#### OECD

In November the OECD launched a web-based International Platform on Policy Coherence for Development to serve as a focal point on the internet for all things to do with PCD including being:

(i) a repository for PCD documents; (ii) a forum for monthly topical features; and (iii) a forum for on-line consultation on the OECD Strategy on Development.

The OECD Strategy on Development, currently being developed, is expected to be endorsed at the Ministerial Council meeting in May 2012. It will have four substantive pillars (i) innovation and sustainable sources of growth; (ii) mobilization of resources for development; (iii) governance for development; and (iv) measuring progress for development.

#### **PCD indicators**

A few comments had been received on the IIS report and it is assumed that there are no other comments or corrections. A few Departments had proposed indicators that could form part of the IDCD's PCD index but members were requested for suggestions particularly in relation to agriculture and fisheries, trade, security, finance and migration. Ann Derwin noted that the DAFM had been working on PCD indicators and would follow up with the Secretariat after the meeting.

#### **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Gerard Monks, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Innovation, noted that the comment in relation to the role of technical assistance might be misconstrued to imply that technical assistance in the area of trade facilitation is tied aid which is not the case. The Committee agreed that this interpretation was not intended and that our Aid for Trade support is untied aid. The minutes were agreed with this clarification.

## **4. Any Other Business**

The Department of the Taoiseach noted the Taoiseach has received an invitation to the 2012 ASEM conference which will be held in Laos on 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> November.

Ann Derwin reported that a delegation of officials from the Tanzanian Ministry of Agriculture visited the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine and met with Minister of Agriculture Simon Coveney. The purpose of the visit was to explore ways to strengthen Tanzanian research and extension services by drawing on Ireland's approach and to explore and develop specific links with Irish institutions such as Teagasc and University College Dublin on policy, research and extension services. Minister Coveney is interested in continuing the relationship and collaboration.

Gerald O'Regan reported that the Department of Justice and Equality was represented at the recent 2011 Global Forum on Migration and Development in Geneva. The next high level meeting will be in 2013 during Ireland's EU Presidency and so it will fall on Ireland to facilitate EU consensus. In November the Commission published a communication, *The Global Approach to Migration and Mobility*, on the evaluation and future development of the global approach to migration. The communication identifies migration and development as an important theme of the Global Approach. The Department of Justice and Equality, in consultation with several key Departments including the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, made a significant contribution to the evaluation, in particular, we highlighting the following priorities: establishing strong links with complementary policy fields such as security, trade and economic development; a refocusing of geographical priorities on important countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia and a clearer logical relationship between the various tools of the Global Approach. The Department was encouraged by the extent to which these priorities were reflected in the Commission Communication.

Niall Cassidy, Department of Finance, noted that Minister Noonan attended the World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings in September and announced Ireland's contribution of €90 million to the 16<sup>th</sup> IDA replenishment. He informed the Committee that Ms. Marie Lucie Morin, who represents Ireland, Canada and Caribbean States on the World Bank Group Board of Executive Directors, had accepted an invitation from Deputy Pat Breen to appear before the Foreign Affairs and Trade Committee in March 2012 and also suggested holding an information event in cooperation with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) for Irish businesses on business and investment opportunities.

**Inter-Departmental Committee on Development Meeting**

**14<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

Department:	Name:
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Ann Derwin
Department of Defence	Ciaran Murphy
Defence Forces	Lt. Col. Eamon Caulfield
Department of Education and Skills	Apologies
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Innovation	Apologies
Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government	Dominick O'Brien
Department of Finance	Niall Cassidy
Department of Health	Apologies
Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform	Gerald O'Regan
Department of Social Protection	Apologies
Department of the Taoiseach	Aileen Shanahan
Department of Transport	Apologies
Department of Public Expenditure and Reform	Dermot Quigley
Department of Foreign Affairs	MoS Jan O'Sullivan Michael Gaffey Finbar O'Brien Donal Cronin Michael McManus Carol Hannon Catherine Brennan