

## **MOVING TOWARDS ACCESSION TO THE DAC**

REPORT ON A WORKSHOP HOSTED BY  
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS  
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

**BRATISLAVA, 4 OCTOBER 2012**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Main messages</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Setting the scene</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Joining the DAC</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Implementing the findings of the Special Reviews</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Performance monitoring and evaluation</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Conclusions</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>ANNEX 1: Moving towards Accession to the DAC - Agenda</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>ANNEX 2: Moving towards Accession to the DAC - Participants List</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>ANNEX 3: <i>Aide Mémoire</i> on the Accession of New DAC Members and Full Participants</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Boxes</b>	
<b>Box 1. Korea's experience as a new DAC member</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Box 2. DAC Special Reviews</b>	<b>7</b>

## MAIN MESSAGES

- The OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) welcomes the contribution of all providers of development co-operation resources and expertise towards the common goal of reducing global poverty. In a statement adopted in 2011, the DAC expressed its hope to forge new and mutually beneficial relationships with these new partners in international development.
- The DAC and the European Union have a shared interest in encouraging European Union Member States that fulfil the accession criteria to join the DAC. With this objective in mind, the OECD and the European Commission are working in partnership to strengthen the institutional capacity for managing development co-operation in these countries.
- DAC membership brings with it many advantages. But, more importantly, advanced economies that are already members of the OECD have considerable experience to share and belong in the DAC.
- A country seeking to join the DAC needs to write to the OECD announcing its interest. Countries are not spontaneously invited to join the DAC.
- Four European Union Member States in the OECD that are not members of the DAC have requested that the Committee conduct a Special Review of their development co-operation programme, namely: the Czech Republic (in 2007), Poland (in 2010), the Slovak Republic (in 2011) and Slovenia (in 2012). These countries found their Special Review to be a useful experience, providing an independent, credible and evidence-based analysis drawing on the consolidated experience from conducting Peer Reviews of DAC members.
- The Special Reviews found that all four countries have made substantial progress in building up a development co-operation system including: i) establishing the legal and political foundations; ii) identifying a clear focal point, usually the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA); iii) expanding the volume of official development assistance (ODA) (albeit slowly at times); and iv) working to build up public awareness and support.
- At the same time, all four countries face some similar challenges including: i) increasing ODA volume further; ii) rationalising a large number of small allocations; iii) modernising their business model; iv) finding the best fit for civil society; v) balancing desires to make ODA more effective with pressures to increase visibility; vi) addressing human resource issues; and vii) establishing systems for monitoring and evaluation.
- All four countries are taking steps to respond to the findings and recommendations made in their Special Review. These steps range from reducing the number of partner countries or narrowing the programme's thematic focus, to adopting a new law, to reinforcing the MFA's co-ordinating role (including management of the aid budget), to streamlining institutional arrangements (e.g. reducing the number of ministries involved), to reforming the minister's consultative council, to developing a web-based system for recording and reporting aid statistics.
- In relation to the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation system - an accession criterion for joining the DAC - progress is being made with all four countries regularly monitoring their bilateral aid activities and most now starting to conduct evaluations, using internationally agreed evaluation standards (including those of the DAC) as a reference.
- The challenges that the Czech Republic, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia face in building up their capacities to manage development co-operation effectively are faced by other countries as well, including some members of the DAC. To continue moving forward, the non-DAC European Union Member States can exploit all possibilities to share experiences and learn from each other, participate actively in existing networks within the DAC or the European Union and seize opportunities to participate, alongside other countries, in joint activities promoted within the European Union.

## SETTING THE SCENE

A workshop on “Moving towards accession to the DAC” was held in Bratislava on 4 October 2012, hosted by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic. Its main objectives were to:

- Take stock of progress in building capacity for managing development co-operation in the four European Union Member States in the OECD that have requested a Special Review, namely: the Czech Republic (in 2007), Poland (in 2010), the Slovak Republic (in 2011) and Slovenia (in 2012), including how the findings and recommendations made are being followed up. A particular area of interest is monitoring and evaluation, an accession criterion for joining the DAC.
- Provide an opportunity to the European Union Member States that have participated, as an observer, in a DAC Peer Review to consider requesting their own Special Review.
- Discuss issues related to joining the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

Participants in the workshop included directors, deputy directors and other senior officials from the development co-operation departments of the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs or of Finance as well as representatives of international organisations providing capacity building for the non-DAC European Union Member States (i.e. the European Commission, UNDP, OECD and the World Bank Institute).

The agenda for the workshop is attached as Annex 1 and the list of participants as Annex 2.

## JOINING THE DAC

The DAC and the European Union have a shared interest in encouraging European Union Member States that fulfil the accession criteria to join the DAC:

- In a statement adopted in 2011, the DAC stressed that it welcomes the contribution of all providers of development co-operation resources and expertise towards the common goal of reducing global poverty and hopes to forge new and mutually beneficial relationships with these new partners in international development. The DAC Global Relations Strategy identifies the non-DAC European Union Member States as priority partners.
- Under the European Union (EU) Treaties, development policy and co-operation is a parallel competence between the European Union and its member states. This implies a two-way influence: the member states participate in policy and decision-making processes at the EU level and agree on common positions for the participation of the European Union and its member states in international fora. Decisions taken at the EU level that also concern the member states’ own development policy and co-operation have then to be translated into the national policies and programmes of the member states. Such European Union common positions can reflect agreements reached in other fora, including the DAC. It is consequently in the European Union’s strategic interest that European Union Member States participate fully in these other fora where key decisions can be made.

The criteria and process for accession to the DAC are outlined in the “Aide mémoire on the Accession of new DAC Members and Full Participants” – see: Annex 3. Discussions during the workshop highlighted a need to clarify some aspects of the accession process:

- Countries are not spontaneously invited to join the DAC. Rather, a country formally notifies the OECD of its interest in becoming a Member (in the case of OECD countries) or an Associate (in the case of other countries) of the DAC.
- As a corollary, a lack of a formal invitation to join the DAC in no way implies that a country is not ready to join the DAC or indeed that the DAC is not open to new members.
- For OECD countries, DAC membership has no additional cost. They already contribute to the Committee’s core budget through their contributions to the OECD. Associates pay an annual fee. Since the DAC works on a range of important issues beyond those covered by its core resources, the Committee also welcomes additional financial contributions, on a voluntary basis, to carry out all the activities mandated by the Committee.

The benefits of DAC membership is a pertinent issue for countries considering joining the committee. DAC membership brings with it many advantages; it gives providers of development co-operation an opportunity to:

- Enhance their international credibility and broaden their influence.
- Benefit from advice on managing their development co-operation systems through peer reviews.
- Improve the collection and reporting of their statistics on development co-operation flows.
- Take part in the development of DAC policy guidance.
- Participate as a full member of the committee (e.g. being able to stand for office, elect office holders and vote on the accession of new members).
- Fill positions and take seats at the table in international processes traditionally filled by DAC members.

Beyond these benefits for the country concerned, countries that have gone through the development process have lessons and experiences to share with others and belong in the DAC. For Korea, the newest member of the DAC, joining the Committee was a moment of national pride and symbolised the culmination of the country’s successful transformation from one of the poorest at the end of World War II to the world’s 15<sup>th</sup> largest economy in 2011 (see Box 1). For Brian Atwood, Chair of the DAC, it is the responsibility of advanced economies to join the DAC and participate in its activities fully. At a conference in Bratislava on 3 October 2012, on how the Slovak Republic is responding to its Special Review, Mr Atwood stated that the Slovak Republic “belongs in the DAC” and encouraged the Slovak Republic “to start the accession process”.

### Box 1. Korea's experience as a new DAC member

Korea is an example of a country that has successfully transformed itself. Korea was a major recipient of official development assistance (ODA) for 30 years, up until the 1980s. This foreign aid played an invaluable role in supporting Korea's transition by helping to avert a humanitarian crisis after liberation in 1945 and during the Korean War (1950-53), by driving recovery and reconstruction during the 1950s and then subsequently by helping to expand infrastructure and increase human capital. By the time that Korea graduated from the DAC List of ODA Recipients in 1999, it had received a total of USD 12.6 billion of ODA.

As part of this transition, Korea also started providing ODA in the late 1980s. Between 1987 and 2011, Korea provided a total of USD 9.4 billion in ODA.

Korea formally applied to join the DAC in 2006. It requested a Special Review in 2008. An Accession Review was then conducted in 2009, to assess Korea's readiness for DAC membership. Based on the positive findings in the Accession Review, the DAC invited Korea to take up membership of the Committee as from 1 January 2010.

For Korea, the process leading up to DAC membership helped the country to strengthen its commitment to increase the quantity and quality of its foreign aid. Several reforms were introduced including adopting a comprehensive legal basis, devising a Strategic Plan for International Development Co-operation with a Mid-Term Policy for ODA, reducing fragmentation in programming, establishing an integrated evaluation system and increasing the proportion of aid that is untied (from 2 % in 2006, to 36% in 2010, with the objective of reaching 75% in 2015).

DAC membership also helped Korea to raise public awareness of development issues. This has generated a more informed basis for managing the trade-offs between political, economic and development priorities.

*Source* : Presentation by the Korean Delegate to the DAC at the workshop.

## IMPLEMENTING THE FINDINGS OF THE SPECIAL REVIEWS

Four non-DAC European Union Member States have requested Special Reviews in recent years, namely: the Czech Republic, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia (see Box 2 for further information on the DAC Special Reviews). There is some overlap and many similarities in the findings from these Special Reviews:

- All four countries have made substantial progress in building up a development co-operation system including: i) establishing the legal and political foundations; ii) identifying a clear focal point, usually the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA); iii) expanding the volume of ODA (albeit slowly at times); and iv) working to build up public awareness and support.
- At the same time, all four countries face some similar challenges including: i) increasing ODA volume further towards the EU commitment of 0.33% of gross national income (GNI) by 2015; ii) rationalising a large number of small allocations to a large numbers of partner countries and multilateral agencies; iii) modernising a business model based essentially on project aid and calls for proposals; iv) finding the best fit for civil society, which is vibrant but also has a large stake in the system; v) balancing desires to make ODA more effective (implementing the agreements made in Paris, Accra and Busan) with pressures to increase visibility; vi) addressing human resource issues including building up a cadre of development professionals; and vii) improving systems for monitoring and evaluation.

### Box 2. DAC Special Reviews

The workshop provided an opportunity to encourage countries that have participated, as an observer, in a DAC Peer Review to consider requesting their own Special Review.

The Special Reviews draw on the DAC Peer Review methodology. A country interested in requesting a Special Review needs to pay a fee and ensure that its ODA statistics reported to the OECD are up-to-date.

The DAC Special Reviews take place over several months:

- The interested country first prepares a Memorandum providing information on the legal and policy framework of the country's development co-operation, the size and scope of its ODA, the institutional set-up and management of its development co-operation, as well as any specific questions the Special Review should address.
- The country then prepares a visit programme to the capital (lasting 3 to 4 days) including meetings with senior officials, representatives of civil society and other informed stakeholders.
- A review team visits the capital, generally consisting of two examiners from DAC members and two experts from the OECD.
- The review team drafts a report which includes a set of main findings and recommendations.
- The country concerned reviews the report for factual accuracy.
- Once finalised, the report is distributed to DAC members for information and posted on the OECD website.
- Optionally, a meeting can be held in the capital to disseminate the main findings and recommendations to a domestic audience.

The discussions at the workshop showed that all four countries were taking steps to respond to the findings and recommendations made in their Special Review:

- Since its special review in 2007, the **Czech Republic** has: i) reduced the number of partner countries to ten; ii) adopted an Act on Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Aid; iii) established the Czech Development Agency to implement Czech bilateral ODA; iv) reinforced the MFA's co-ordinating role and reduced the number of ministries involved in the aid system; and v) centralised the bilateral development co-operation budget in the MFA.
- Since its special review in 2010, **Poland** has: i) developed a Multiannual Programme for Development Co-operation (although without multiannual financial allocations); ii) adopted a Law on Development Co-operation; iii) created the Programming Council for Development Co-operation, made up of representatives from the MFA, line ministries and representatives from civil society, academia and the private sector; and iv) reinforced the legal basis for implementing policy coherence for development (PCD).
- Since its special review in 2011, the **Slovak Republic** has: i) adopted a Communications Strategy and a Strategy for Global Education for 2012-16, ii) developed a web-based system for recording

and reporting of ODA (the system is compliant with the CRS++<sup>1</sup>), iii) narrowed the thematic focus of the aid programme including by focussing more on sharing its own experience of transformation processes; iv) reduced the number of institutions represented on the Co-ordination Committee; and v) introduced a volunteer programme.

- Since its special review in early 2012, **Slovenia** has: i) started the process to introduce amendments to its legislative framework, ii) focussed its country-programmable aid on eight priority countries; iii) started consultations linked to the mid-term review of its ODA strategy; iv) further strengthened the MFA's co-ordinating role; v) drafted a strategy for its multilateral assistance; and vi) started setting up a system of monitoring and evaluation.

These four countries have consequently made good progress with building up stable, effective and efficient development co-operation systems over the last few years. The Special Reviews have helped them to mobilise political support for expanding and modernising their aid programmes. In several cases, the DAC recommendations have provided the stimuli for taking concrete steps towards improving their development co-operation programme.

At the same time, and as is seen with DAC members themselves, a well-functioning development co-operation programme requires continuous efforts to maintain and up-grade approaches and systems. To continue moving forward, these four countries can direct further attention to:

- Setting a growth path for ODA with realistic annual targets that will be owned by the whole government and widely publicised.
- Focussing on fewer countries, fewer sectors, fewer activities and fewer multilateral partners as well as emphasising more each countries' comparative advantage as a development partner (finding their own "niche").
- Moving away from a model of small projects towards modalities based on the principles of ownership and alignment with partner country strategies.
- Further improving the collection of aid statistics and building up a statistical system compatible with DAC standards, as well as considering the advantages and disadvantages of continuing to train MFA staff, who regularly rotate, in aid statistics and considering alternative approaches (e.g. asking the central statistical agency to report aid flows).
- Communicating on aid activities in a way that emphasises results, rather than inputs.
- In allocating human resources, keeping an appropriate balance between managing bilateral and multilateral aid that reflects more the share of ODA delivered through each channel (approximately three-quarters of ODA is channelled through multilateral institutions, in particular the European Union).

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1 . The Creditor Reporting System (CRS) is a database managed by the OECD which contains detailed information on individual aid activities.

- Adopting a more active, strategic and focused approach to managing multilateral assistance.
- Strengthening monitoring and evaluation systems (see next section).

## PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND EVALUATION

As part of the DAC accession process, an assessment is made of the candidate country's system of performance monitoring and evaluation. It is consequently important to consider how the four non-DAC European Union Member States that have had a Special Review are working to strengthen their system of performance monitoring and evaluation and determine next steps to strengthen capacity in this area.

Drawing from the experience of DAC members, the OECD has identified some key lessons on development evaluation. These include:

- Clarify the role of evaluations within the aid system. Different types of evaluation can serve different purposes: decision-making, learning or accountability.
- Strengthen the independence and credibility of the evaluation system.
- Communicate evaluation results effectively and act on findings.
- Match ambition with resources and select the evaluation method that is appropriate for the purpose.

The four Special Reviews encouraged the country concerned to strengthen its system for performance monitoring and evaluation. The discussions at the workshop showed that the Czech Republic, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia have all been taking steps to do so:

- In the **Czech Republic**, every bilateral project is monitored, usually twice a year. In 2010, an evaluation function was created, funded by a specific budget line. To strengthen its evaluation capacity, a Czech official was seconded to the UNDP Bratislava Regional Office for 1½ years and has now returned to Prague. The Czech Republic commissioned to external evaluators three project evaluations in 2009 and a further six in 2010; this is helping to build up the ministry's know-how in managing evaluations. The Czech Republic nevertheless aims to move to evaluations at more aggregate level (e.g. of all activities in a priority country). All evaluation reports are made available on the MFA's website and a management response is prepared.
- **Poland** is doing its first evaluations, to complement its on-going monitoring of bilateral activities. In 2012, Poland conducted pilot evaluations of two types of activities (the SENSE project, which has been training government officials, and Poland's support to social reform in Georgia). In parallel, Poland is developing its evaluation system. In 2012, an independent post responsible for the evaluation of Polish Development Co-operation was established within the Development Co-operation Department. Poland intends to make the results of its evaluations publicly available.
- The **Slovak Republic** recently set up an evaluation function, funded by a specific budget line, and has started to evaluate some of its bilateral projects. In setting up its system, the Slovak

Republic has benefited from financial support from the EU Structural Funds as well as technical support from the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (Sida). The Slovak Republic plans to develop and implement a system for monitoring and evaluating Slovak ODA projects.

- **Slovenia** is preparing a mid-term evaluation of its ODA strategy but is also reflecting on how best to approach the setting up of its monitoring and evaluation system. In doing so, there are several issues that arise (that are also relevant for other countries). First, most Slovenian ODA is multilateral, so it is important that the evaluation function also focuses on this channel. Second, with many small bilateral activities, it is not efficient to evaluate all of them; it may be more effective to focus more on improving quality at entry and evaluate small projects only when there is sufficient justification. Third, because the value of many projects falls below the thresholds under EU law, there is no need to tender through international competitive bidding. As a result, tendering and project documentation is normally only prepared in the national language, which implies that only nationals will be in a position to evaluate these projects. Because the national pool of development experts and especially evaluators is small, this can lead to issues about the independence of evaluations.

The discussions at the workshop thus showed that progress is being made in these four countries in building up their systems for monitoring and evaluation. All four countries regularly monitor their bilateral aid activities and most are starting to conduct evaluations, using internationally agreed evaluation standards (including those of the DAC) as a reference.

At the same time, and as is seen in many DAC members as well, there can be challenges with building up a well-functioning performance monitoring and evaluation system and an evaluative culture within an institution. As next steps, all four countries could consider:

- Reflecting further on the role of evaluation in the whole aid system and setting out the goals and objectives for evaluation.
- Continuing to work to improve the quality of evaluations and share experiences (e.g. through participating in joint evaluations, including of multilateral institutions, and sharing guidelines based on internationally agreed standards).
- Looking at the experience and good practices of DAC members in effective communication of evaluation results.
- Seizing opportunities to work on development results with partner countries.
- Participating actively in networks focussed on development evaluation within the DAC and the European Union.

## CONCLUSIONS

Overall, the Czech Republic, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia found their Special Review to have been a useful experience, providing an independent, credible and evidence-based analysis drawing on the consolidated experience from conducting Peer Reviews of DAC members.

The workshop also showed that these four non-DAC European Union Member States in the OECD have made important progress in many areas since their Special Review and are well on the way to establishing stable, effective and efficient development co-operation systems. The Special Reviews have helped the Czech Republic, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia to identify gaps and pointed them towards possible solutions or appropriate follow-up actions. The Special Reviews have also helped these countries to mobilise support for expanding and modernising their aid programmes. In several cases, the findings contained in the Special Review have provided the political stimuli for introducing reforms and taking concrete steps towards improving each country's development co-operation programme.

Despite the areas for further improvement discussed during the workshop, nothing prevents these four countries from expressing their interest in joining the DAC. The accession to the DAC of the Czech Republic, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia would be mutually beneficial. It would strengthen the relevance of the Committee and the OECD in the rapidly changing global aid architecture. It would also increase the influence of the newest European Union Member States, as well as of the European Union itself, in discussions on important topics such as the future of global development policy and co-operation, including improving the effectiveness of development co-operation and the post-2015 development agenda. The DAC itself is clear about its desire to expand its membership and DAC membership for member states is a strategic objective for the European Union as well.

In the meantime, the non-DAC European Union Member States should exploit all possibilities to share experiences and learn from each other on how to make their development co-operation programmes more effective. In this context, a number of possible areas for further co-operation were suggested:

- Participate actively in existing thematic networks (on evaluation or on policy coherence for development, for instance) within the DAC or the European Union (the European Commission has indicated that its dedicated funding for capacity building will be phased out after 10 years' membership of the European Union).
- Seize, including for the learning benefits, opportunities to participate in joint activities promoted within the European Union (e.g. joint programming, joint evaluation activities or partnering with the European Union and its member states in triangular co-operation).
- Engage in the new Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation.

More generally, the OECD will pursue its co-operation with the European Commission to strengthen capacity for managing development co-operation in non-DAC European Union Member States by contributing to workshops on aid statistics organised by the European Union, by conducting aid management seminars, by facilitating participation by non-DAC members, as an observer, in a DAC Peer Review and by conducting Special Reviews (these may be co-financed by the European Commission). To

the extent possible, these activities will involve several countries facing similar challenges and promote a sharing of knowledge and experience amongst European Union Member States and DAC members; those that are more advanced in developing their systems and capacities will be encouraged to share their knowledge and experience with others. In this context, the UNDP was encouraged to pursue its proposal to organise a regional workshop in 2013 focussed on monitoring and evaluation.

## REFERENCES:

1. Special peer review reports:
  - Special Review of the Czech Republic:  
<http://www.oecd.org/dac/peerreviewsofdacmembers/45367897.pdf>
  - Special Review of Poland:  
<http://www.oecd.org/dac/peerreviewsofdacmembers/45362587.pdf>
  - Special Review of the Slovak Republic:  
<http://www.oecd.org/dac/peerreviewsofdacmembers/49512222.pdf>
  - Special Review of Slovenia:  
<http://www.oecd.org/dac/peerreviewsofdacmembers/50110911.pdf>
2. DAC Global Relations Strategy: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/aidstatistics/49304654.pdf>
3. Welcoming New Partnerships in International Development Co-operation:  
<http://www.oecd.org/dac/47652500.pdf>

**ANNEX 1**  
**MOVING TOWARDS ACCESSION TO THE DAC**  
**WORKSHOP HOSTED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS**  
**OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

**AGENDA**

**THURSDAY 4 OCTOBER 2012 – BY INVITATION<sup>2</sup>**

*Currently, 12 of the 27 member states of the European Union are not members of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC). The OECD, in partnership with the European Commission, is working to strengthen these countries' institutional capacity for managing development co-operation, including through workshops on aid statistics, their participation as an observer in DAC Peer Reviews, Special Reviews of their own development co-operation programme and aid management seminars.*

*The objective of this session is to discuss how four non-DAC European Union Member States – the Czech Republic, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia - are using the findings from their special review and determine relevant follow-up actions, bearing in mind the objective of future admission to the DAC once the accession criteria have been fulfilled. Countries that have participated as an observer in a DAC Peer Review may consider whether they are ready to request their own Special Review.*

Moderator: **Peter Hulényi**, Department of Development Assistance and Humanitarian Aid, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

9:00 – 9:30	<p><b>JOINING THE DAC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The process and criteria for joining the DAC</i>  <b>Michael Laird</b>, Senior Policy Analyst, Review, Evaluation and Engagement Division, OECD (5 minutes)</li> <li>• <i>The European Commission's support to member states moving towards DAC membership</i>  <b>Renate Hahlen</b>, Deputy Head of Unit, Aid and Development Effectiveness and Financing Unit, Europe Aid, European Commission (5 minutes)</li> <li>• <i>Korea's experience as a new DAC member</i>  <b>Choi Sung-soo</b>, DAC delegate for Korea (10 minutes)</li> </ul> <p><i>Questions and answers (10 minutes)</i></p>
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2. Workshop for representatives from OECD countries/European Union Member States that have had a Special Review (Czech Republic, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia) or have observed a DAC Peer Review and are considering requesting a Special Review (Estonia, Hungary and Romania) and from international organisations working to strengthen institutional capacity for managing development co-operation (the European Commission, OECD, UNDP and the World Bank Institute).

9:30 – 10:45	<p><b>IMPLEMENTING THE FINDINGS OF THEIR SPECIAL REVIEW</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Key findings and recommendations of the DAC Special Reviews</i> <b>Michael Ward</b>, Senior Policy Analyst, Review, Evaluation and Engagement Division, OECD (10 minutes)</li> <li>• <i>How the Czech Republic has responded to its Special Review</i> <b>Zuzana Hlavicková</b>, Director, Department for Development Co-operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic (10 minutes)</li> <li>• <i>How Poland has responded to its Special Review</i> <b>Zuzanna Kierzkowska</b>, Deputy Director, Development Cooperation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland (10 minutes)</li> <li>• <i>How the Slovak Republic has responded to its Special Review</i> <b>Marcela Hanusová</b>, Department of Development Assistance and Humanitarian Aid, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Slovak Republic (10 minutes)</li> <li>• <i>How Slovenia has responded to its Special Review</i> <b>Matej Kramberger</b>, Implementation Unit, Directorate for International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (10 minutes)</li> </ul> <p><i>Questions and answers (25 minutes)</i></p>
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:00	<p><b>Open discussion: Moving towards accession to the DAC – Remaining challenges and how to address them</b></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Michael Laird</b>, Senior Policy Analyst, Review, Evaluation and Engagement Division, OECD</p>
12.00 – 12.30	<p><b>REQUESTING A SPECIAL REVIEW</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>An overview of the DAC Special Reviews</i> <b>Michael Laird</b>, Senior Policy Analyst, Review, Evaluation and Engagement Division, OECD (10 minutes)</li> <li>• <i>A first-hand experience of a DAC Special Review</i> <b>Matej Dostál</b>, First Secretary, Delegation of the Slovak Republic to the OECD (10 minutes)</li> </ul> <p><i>Questions and answers (10 minutes)</i></p>

## PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND EVALUATION

As part of the process of assessing a country's readiness to join the DAC, an assessment is made of the candidate country's system of performance monitoring and evaluation. Special Reviews often encourage countries to strengthen their system for performance monitoring and evaluation. Performance monitoring and evaluation is consequently a relevant issue for countries on the path to joining the DAC, once the accession criteria have been fulfilled.

The objective of this session is to discuss how the four non-DAC European Union Member States that have had a Special Review - the Czech Republic, Poland, The Slovak Republic and Slovenia – are working to strengthen their system of performance monitoring and evaluation and consider appropriate next steps to strengthen capacity in this area.

Moderator: **Michael Laird**, Senior Policy Analyst, Review, Evaluation and Engagement Division, OECD

14:00 – 15:30	<p><b>BUILDING SYSTEMS FOR PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND EVALUATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>The experience of the Czech Republic</i> <b>Jozef Špánik</b>, Head of Multilateral Unit, Department for Development Co operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic (10 minutes)</li><li>• <i>The experience of Poland</i> <b>Zuzanna Kierzkowska</b>, Deputy Director, Development Cooperation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland (10 minutes)</li><li>• <i>The experience of the Slovak Republic</i> <b>Diana Sijková</b>, Department of Development Assistance and Humanitarian Aid, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Slovak Republic (10 minutes)</li><li>• <i>The experience of Slovenia</i> <b>Matej Kramberger</b>, Implementation Unit, Directorate for International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (10 minutes)</li></ul> <p><b>Discussant:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Michael Ward</b>, Senior Policy Analyst, Review, Evaluation and Engagement Division, OECD (10 minutes)</li></ul> <p><i>Questions and answers (40 minutes)</i></p>
15:30 – 15.45	Coffee break
15:45 – 16:00	<b>Building the system of Slovak development co-operation recording and reporting and its demonstration</b>
16.00 – 16.20	<p><b>CONCLUSIONS, NEXT STEPS AND CLOSING REMARKS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Peter Hulényi</b>, Director, Department of Development Assistance and Humanitarian Aid, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic</li><li>• <b>Renate Hahlen</b>, Deputy Head of Unit, Aid and Development Effectiveness and Financing Unit, Europe Aid, European Commission</li><li>• <b>Michael Laird</b>, Senior Policy Analyst, Review, Evaluation and Engagement Division, OECD</li></ul>

**ANNEX 2**  
**MOVING TOWARDS ACCESSION TO THE DAC**  
**PARTICIPANTS LIST**

Sung-soo Choi	DAC Delegate for Korea
Matej Dostal	Delegation of Slovak Republic to the OECD
Renate Hahlen	European Commission
Jozef Spanik	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic
Zuzana Hlavickova	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic
Tamas Orosz	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary
Lilla Makkay	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary
Miroslaw Luczka	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland
Zuzanna Kierzkowska	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland
Valeria Zolcerova	Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
Marcela Hanusova	Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
Diana Sijkova	Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
Peter Hulenyi	Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
Lucia Zimanyiova	Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic
Dusan Wunder	Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic
Matej Kramberger	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia
Michael Laird	OECD
Pawel Baginski	OECD
Michael Ward	OECD
Daniel Hanspach	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Dimitri Mariyasin	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
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## ANNEX 3

### AIDE MÉMOIRE ON THE ACCESSION OF NEW DAC MEMBERS AND FULL PARTICIPANTS<sup>3</sup>

#### INTRODUCTION

1. The Development Assistance Committee's overarching objective is "to promote development co-operation and other policies so as to contribute to sustainable development, including pro-poor economic growth, poverty reduction, improvement of living standards in developing countries, and to a future in which no country will depend on aid."

2. Since it was founded in 1961, the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) has grouped the world's main donors and established itself as the forum of reference for knowledge sharing, policy dialogue and identification of good practices in development co-operation. However, the development co-operation landscape is changing fast and many economies beyond the DAC membership are becoming significant providers of development co-operation. In this context, the DAC will reach out to these countries in an effort to be more inclusive. Through this, the Committee will strengthen its role as the primary global forum for providers of development co-operation and ensure the relevance and impact of its policies in the years ahead. DAC membership and full participation should be seen as indicative of a commitment to an effective contribution to the international development effort.

3. In its effort to forge a comprehensive system of development co-operation leadership, the DAC will use the following to guide future membership applications from countries that are already members of the OECD, independent of their status as ODA recipients. Non-OECD members can express interest in becoming full participants and will be evaluated according to the same criteria. In addition, they should meet OECD-wide criteria for non-member participation in OECD Committees, as established in the Council Resolution Concerning the Participation of Non-Members in the Work of Subsidiary Bodies of the Organisation [C(2004)132/FINAL]. This Aide Mémoire will be revisited by the DAC every five years to ensure that it reflects current realities, is still an appropriate instrument of Committee operations and takes into account the implications for its operating budget and management.

#### PROCESS

4. A country seeking to join the DAC shall address a brief letter to the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate (OECD/DCD) announcing its interest in becoming a member or full participant and asking that appropriate procedures be initiated.

5. The OECD/DCD will then undertake a preliminary analysis of this application and, if deemed appropriate, visit the candidate's development co-operation headquarters and possibly one field mission,

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3. This *aide mémoire* forms Annex 1 to the DAC Global Relations Strategy [DCD/DAC(2011)36/FINAL].

the funding for which will be covered by the applicant. The OECD/DCD will produce a report, with a recommendation to the DAC, for discussion and action. This will include assessing the candidate member against:

- The existence of appropriate strategies, policies and institutional frameworks that ensure capacity to deliver a development co-operation programme.
- An accepted measure of effort (e.g. ODA/GNI ratio over 0.20% or ODA volume above USD 100 million).
- The existence of a system of performance monitoring and evaluation.

6. In light of the Secretariat report and any other relevant information, the DAC will decide whether the country should be invited to become a member (in the case of OECD members) or a full participant (in the case of non-OECD members). If the decision is positive and if the candidate country is an OECD member, the country will write to the OECD Secretary-General, setting out the candidate country's wish to formalise its membership in the DAC and a pledge to fulfil the obligations of DAC Membership, namely:

- To implement forthwith the Recommendations adopted by the DAC since its inception and to commit to use DAC guidelines and reference documents in formulating national development co-operation policies.
- To provide the annual submission of required ODA statistics which meet DAC requirements.
- To maintain the capacity to participate in all meetings of the DAC and at least one of its subsidiary bodies.
- On request, provide summary information to be included in the Development Co-operation Report.
- To submit to a regular Peer Review of its development co-operation, undertaken by the DAC and the OECD/DCD, and to serve as an examiner in reviewing other member programmes.

7. Once the DAC has established that a country that is not an OECD member meets the criteria for participation (as listed above in paragraph 5), the DAC can recommend to the OECD Council that the country becomes a full participant in the Committee. Upon Council approval, an invitation letter will be issued and the government of the candidate country should respond with a letter confirming its wish to become full participant in the DAC and pledging to fulfil the obligations of DAC Members (as listed above in paragraph 6). The country should also commit to pay the relevant fees for full participation.