

Additional Background Information

Session 2 / Panel 1:

Broadening access to inclusive financial sectors, including microfinance

The panel “Broadening access to inclusive financial sectors, including microfinance” will debate ways to maximize the impact of aid on promoting pro-poor inclusive financial systems and sectors, with a particular focus on microcredit, savings, and insurance. The panel will be moderated by **Mr. Axel de Ville** (Executive Director of Appui au Développement Autonome in Luxembourg).

The first panelist, **Mr. Bernd BALKENHOL** (independent advisor and expert, lecturer at the University of Geneva, and former Director of the Social Finance Programme at the International Labour Organization in Geneva), will introduce the key elements to be addressed in the course of the discussions:

- Clarification of the concept of financial inclusion, key elements (access, usage, impact) and rationale for talking about financial inclusion in times of the global financial crisis and the recent criticism regarding microfinance
- What role for public bodies and development aid in promoting and maximizing the impact of financial inclusion at a national level? (financial inclusion policy, policies in terms of infrastructure, regulation/supervision, capacity building, smart-subsidies)
- What stake for the private sector in financial inclusion? (financial inclusion as a business case? potential leverage on development aid?)
- Contribution of initiatives at an international level (UN, G20, Basel Committee...) to the maximization of the development impact of financial inclusion

Mr. Amadou DIALLO (Director for ODA Coordination and Effectiveness in the Ministry of Economics and Finance/ Directorate General for Cooperation of Burkina Faso) will take the floor as a second speaker and representative of a developing country. Referring to the experience of Burkina Faso, Mr. DIALLO will expose his view on the lessons learned so far in terms of financial inclusion and microfinance, and will answer the following questions:

- What have been the major achievements with respect to access, usage and impact of inclusive finance in Burkina Faso?
- And in this context, what has been the particular role of public bodies and development aid?

Mr. Marc BICHLER (Director for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Action in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg) will then take over as a third speaker and representative of a donor country. With the help of concrete examples, Mr. BICHLER will expose his view on the lessons learned so far concerning the role of public donors and private actors in financial inclusion and will answer the following questions:

- How can development aid best create a favourable environment for financial inclusion and for continuous innovation in terms of inclusive financial services (regulation, supervision etc.)?
- Are there opportunities for public-private partnerships? And under what conditions does development aid have a leverage effect on private sector involvement?

Both Mr. DIALLO and Mr. BICHLER will formulate concrete recommendations on how to maximize the impact of development aid on financial inclusion that will then be discussed together with the participants.

As a last panellist, **Mr. David MORRISON** (Executive Secretary of the United Nations Capital Development Fund), will provide a summary of the content of the panel, by taking up the recommendations made and by linking them with the following issues:

- How should donors and programme countries adjust their approach to make development aid a catalyst for building and strengthening inclusive financial sectors, including microfinance, and to ensure the realization of the Millennium Development Goals? What are the opportunities and challenges faced by the United Nations (and UNCDF in particular) in doing this?
- With the perspective of the UN DCF 2012 and a joint vision of global development: What linkages exist or should exist between the results of this DCF Symposium and the international aid effectiveness agenda?

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