



Minutes of the 43rd DCED Annual Meeting Business Session Teleconference, 10 June 2021

12 June 2021

In 2021, the face-to-face elements of the 43rd DCED Annual Meeting were cancelled due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. To perform the functions defined in the [DCED Charter](#), the Business Meeting was therefore held on-line. It was attended by 32 participants from 21 agencies (see [annex below](#)).

Johan Veul (Netherlands MoFA), DCED-ExCo Co-Chair, welcomed participants to the online meeting.

ExCo member election

He introduced the first agenda item by noting that Simon Andrews (IFC) had completed a two-year term on the ExCo and was therefore due for re-election. Simon Andrews expressed his willingness to stand for re-election as ExCo member. No other candidates were forthcoming. Simon Andrews was then re-elected by acclamation. Johan Veul thanked Simon Andrews for his continued support to the DCED as ExCo member.

Annual Progress Report, Work Plan and Budget

Jim Tanburn provided an overview of the FY 2020-21 Progress Report and FY 2021-22 Work Plan and Budget, which had been shared with members by email ahead of the meeting. In addition to the significant progress made against almost all DCED strategy targets and work items, he highlighted in particular the increased frequency of working group meetings (20 meetings, up from 13 meetings in FY2019-20); all work items proposed by working groups for next year are driven by strong member interest.

Questions or comments were then invited. Johan Veul commended members for their active participation in the DCED throughout the year, despite the new reality of communicating virtually. This was echoed by Merten Sievers (ILO), ExCo member, who praised the high level of activity of all working groups despite the pandemic.

Siobhan Kelly, FAO, commented that green growth and sustainability issues are mentioned in the work plans of three Working Groups (GGWG, MSDWG and BEWG), and that it may be useful to explore synergies in a joint meeting, possibly as part of the Work Plan for FY2022-23. Several members agreed with this idea.

Liliana de Sá (SECO), DCED-ExCo Co-Chair remarked that ExCo members are keen to follow the activities and work plan development process of the Working Groups more closely in the coming year, as a basis for a more strategic overview and technical feedback to the Working Groups.

Members then approved the FY 2020-21 Progress Report and the FY 2021-22 Work Plan and Budget by acclamation.

Next Annual Meeting

While SDC had offered to host the DCED Annual Meeting in Bern, Switzerland in both 2020 and 2021, it will not be in a position to repeat the invitation next year.

While no invitations to host the Annual Meeting were put forward by members during the call, members agreed that an in-person meeting would be of great value, if feasible in light of the pandemic.

Meredith Lee (MasterCard Foundation) and Liliana de Sá both highlighted that hosting the Annual Meeting has been perceived by hosting agencies as a great experience and opportunity to get more visibility for the agency itself and for a topic that the agency cares about. Jim Tanburn also remarked that a large part of the associated administrative work is generally taken on by the Secretariat, with limited workload for hosting agencies.

Liliana de Sá wondered if an offer by the IFC a few years ago to host the Annual Meeting in a partner country might still stand. Simon Andrews responded that this might be an option that could be explored, but that IFC are currently not planning to hold any in-person meetings in the foreseeable future.

Members then discussed several aspects related to the value, format and location of an in-person Annual Meeting:

- 1. Communicating the value of an in-person meeting:** Some members noted that successful online meetings during the pandemic, and the time and environmental impact associated with travel, might make it more difficult to argue for the resumption of face-to-face meetings. Several members highlighted the importance of in-person meetings for the functioning of the DCED as a multi-donor forum focused on exchanging experience. They argued that online meetings had only worked well because members had built a previous relationship through in-person meetings. This situation might unravel once staff turnover leads to a majority of new member representatives who haven't met before. Merten Sievers also noted that evidence exists on what is lost when meetings are held virtually. Other members suggested considering a single physical meeting each year as part of a 'package' of many online meetings throughout the year.
- 2. Suitable formats of an in-person meeting:** Some members argued in favour of hybrid meetings, which would allow for participants to join either in person or virtually; such a format would have the advantage of enabling members in places with continued or renewed travel restrictions due to COVID-19 to join the meeting. Hybrid meetings would however pose the risk that line managers reject travel applications on the grounds that the meeting is designed to enable online participation.
- 3. Preferred meeting location:** Holding the Annual Meeting in a partner country could have several benefits, such as sharing the effort of organising it between different donor agency country offices, and providing a practical focus to discussions. Other members however preferred choosing a location in Europe in order to minimise travel for most members and the associated carbon footprint.

As an initial next step, Jim Tanburn will get in touch with individual members to explore their potential interest in, and parameters for, hosting the Annual Meeting.

Annex - List of Participants

	Member Agency	Representative
1	Australia DFAT	Craig Robinson
2	Austria ADA	Gunter Schall
3	Belgium MoFA	Nathan Rasquinet
4	Canada GAC	Marc Blanchette
6	EC	Matthias Altmann
7	FAO	Siobhan Kelly
8	Finland MoFA	Laura Desmoulin
9	Germany BMZ	Tobias Lechtenfeld
10	<i>Observer</i>	Andreas Beckermann
11	<i>Observer</i>	Daniel Taras (GIZ)
12	ILO	Merten Sievers
13	Ireland DFA	Neil Gannon
14	Japan JICA	Hironobu Murakami
15	<i>Observer</i>	Naho Aizu
16	<i>Observer</i>	Yuka Asakawa
17	Luxembourg MAE	Paul Weber
18	MasterCard Fdn	Meredith Lee
19	<i>Observer</i>	Nafis Muntasir
20	Netherlands MoFA	Johan Veul
21	OECD	Priscilla Boiardi
22	Sweden Sida	Elisabet Montgomery
23	Switzerland	Guido Beltrani (SDC)
24	<i>Chair</i>	Liliana de Sa (SECO)
25	UK FCDO	Tom Sanderson
26	UNIDO	Stefan Kratzsch
27	<i>Observer</i>	Anna Schrenk
28	USAID	William Butterfield
29	<i>Observer</i>	Anastasia de Santos
30	<i>Observer</i>	Moussa Traore
31	WBG/IFC	Simon Andrews
32	<i>Observer</i>	Urkaly Isaev
33	DCED Secretariat	Jim Tanburn
34	DCED Secretariat	Melina Heinrich-Fernandes
35	DCED Secretariat	Ella Duffy