

(DRAFT)  
LABOUR/MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME  
MEETING OF TRADE UNION, DEVELOPMENT AND OECD EXPERTS  
**Gender, Development and Decent Work**  
*Building a Common Agenda*

Paris, 27<sup>th</sup> April 2009  
DRAFT DESCRIPTION

## INTRODUCTION

In the context of the OECD Labour/Management Programme (LMP), a meeting of development, poverty reduction and gender policy advisors, academics and trade unionists will take place at the OECD Headquarters, taking as its theme '*Gender, Development and Decent Work: Building a Common Agenda*'.

## PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The aim is to examine how to support the employment and empowerment of women in the context of global production systems in which work is increasingly feminised, informalised and precarious. The discussions will identify the deficits in Decent Work that affect women workers, before exploring the steps to be taken ensure that pro-poor growth policies support the movement of women into Decent Work and out of poverty. The discussions will also address the implications of the financial crisis

## BACKGROUND TO THE MEETING

The rationale for the meeting lies in the:

- Central importance of gender equality and women's empowerment to the reduction of poverty and overall achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and specifically to Goal 1: *Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger* and *Target 1b: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people*;
- *Role of Decent Work as the main route out of poverty* for most poor women, as recognised by the DAC Network on Poverty Reduction's Draft Policy Guidance on Employment;
- Need to support the *empowerment of poor women working in the formal and informal economies* as part of a pro-poor growth policy agenda, as identified by the DAC Network on Poverty Reduction (POVNET) in its commitment to develop policy guidance in this area, in its 2009-10 Work Programme;
- Need to support partner governments' efforts to base their Poverty Reduction Strategies on existing commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment, as stated in the DAC Guiding Principles for Aid Effectiveness, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, which were endorsed by the DAC Senior Level Meeting in December 2008;

- Changing nature of the global labour market and supply chains, the implications for women's work in the formal and informal economies and the need for donors to take account of these working conditions when promoting the employment of poor women;
- Value of bringing together the expertise on gender that exists in the respective communities of development, poverty reduction and work, in order to promote joint action and mutual learning.

## **PRACTICAL ORGANISATION**

### Venue

The meeting will be held at the OECD's Headquarters in Paris, 2 rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris, in Conference Centre Room 5 (CC5).

### Date and Time

27<sup>th</sup> April 2009; 9:30 – 18:00

### Session Chairs

Bert Van Geel, Vice Chair, Development Assistance Committee (DAC).  
 P. Kamalan, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC).  
 Patti O'Neill, Secretariat of the DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET).

### Participants

The meeting will be attended by development, poverty reduction and gender policy advisors, academics and trade unionists.

### Working languages

English and French.

### Documentation

*Background material:* OECD Documentation; ILO Campaign Material on Gender and Decent Work; Trade Union Case Studies on Export Processing Zones; Material on the GoodElectronics Network and the Ethical Trade Initiative.

*Summary report:* to be circulated after the meeting.

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TO DISCUSS:**

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**9:30 - 18:00 – Room Conference Centre 5 (CC5)**  
(2 rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris)

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

<b>CHAIR</b>	<i>Bert Van Geel, Vice Chair, Development Assistance Committee (DAC)</i>
9:30 – 9:40	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b> Art de Geus, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD
9:40 – 11:10	<b>Session I: Development and Decent Work</b>  <i>Pro-poor Growth and the Employment and Empowerment of Women</i> Peter Bieler, DAC Network on Poverty Reduction (POVNET), OECD  <i>Gender, Global Production Systems and Decent Work</i> Amy Luinstra, International Labour Organisation (ILO)  <i>Is Informal Normal?</i> Johannes Jütting, The Development Centre, OECD  <b>Discussion</b>
11:10 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 13:00	<b>Session II: Women at Work in the Global Economy</b>  <i>Export Manufacturing: Textiles</i> Noorlailah Aslah, President of the National Union of Workers in Shoe Manufacturing Industry, Peninsula Malaysia, Chair of the ITUC-APRO Women's Committee  <b>Discussion</b>  <i>Agriculture</i> Adwoa Sakyi, International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF), Regional Coordinator for Africa, IUF Agricultural Workers Trade Group  <i>Migrant Workers</i> Rachel Kurian, Institute of Social Studies (ISS), the Netherlands <b>Discussion</b>

13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
<i>CHAIR</i>	<i>Diana Holland, Assistant General Secretary, T&amp;G Section of UNITE - the Union (UK), Chair of the Women's Committee, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)</i>
14:30 – 15:30	<p><b>Session III: Addressing Decent Work Deficits</b></p> <p><i>Export Processing Zones and the GoodElectronics Network</i> Jenny Holdcroft, International Metal Workers Federation (IMF)</p> <p><i>Ethical Trading Initiative</i> Annie Watson, Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI)</p> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee break
<i>CHAIR</i>	<i>Patti O'Neill, Secretariat of the DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET), OECD</i>
15:45 – 18:00	<p><b>Session IV: Strategies for Donors</b></p> <p><b>Panel Perspectives</b></p> <p>Jorma Pauku, Ambassador for Gender and Equality, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland</p> <p>Jean-Pierre Garson, Non-member Economies and International Migration Division, Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD</p> <p>Raili Lahnalampi, Policy Coherence for Development, OECD</p> <p>Jo Morris, Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC)</p> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>
	<i>Chair's Closing Remarks</i>