

SEA in International Development Cooperation

OECD/DAC, UNDP, UNEP, WORLD BANK DAY

The interest in and application of SEA to international development has gained momentum over the past few years. This is driven by a change in emphasis in the way aid is delivered. It is being increasingly recognised that, to be more effective, assistance needs to focus more on strategic interventions than projects. Interest in SEA as a tool to help develop and appraise policies, plans and programmes of both donor agencies and their developing country partners has escalated as a consequence.

SEA is primarily applied in development work in support of efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.-in particular, the goal on Environmental Sustainability (MDG 7). This calls for the integration of the principles of sustainable development into countries policies, plans and programmes.

Most development agencies, and many of their partner developing countries, are applying SEA type approaches to various facets of their activities. However, development effectiveness is best served by ensuring this does not result in diverse approaches to SEA. Common frameworks, approaches and principles are needed. This is consistent with the recent Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, in which donors and partner countries jointly committed to developing and implementing common approaches to SEA.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) has been developing Guidance on the Application of SEA in Development Cooperation. This has been undertaken by a multi-agency Task Team that has also co-opted many international experts on SEA.

Several of the Task Team members will be taking a lead in the OECD/DAC, UNDP, UNEP, World Bank Day. The programme focuses on the application of SEA in development cooperation and will serve to further develop greater coherence in approaches by encouraging participants to consider common frameworks, principles and approaches in various facets of SEA implementation.

Participants will learn of the current status of the Guidance on the Application of SEA in Development Cooperation and encouraged to provide critical comment. The Task Team will be especially interested to learn of practical experiences and case studies that illustrate the problems and opportunities inherent in the implementation of SEA approaches in practice.

The intention is to launch the final Guidance at the IAIA Annual meeting in Stavanger, Norway, in May 2006.

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09:30-10:30 **SESSION ONE Introduction and Objectives** (Room: SIC 1)

Chairpersons: Remy Paris/ Linda Ghanime

Welcome and Objectives of the Day. (10 minutes)

- History and Progress of the OECD/DAC Task Team on SEA in Development Cooperation. Barry Dalal-Clayton (20 minutes)
- Current status of implementing SEA in the World Bank. Kulsum Ahmed (20 minutes)
- Discussion (10 minutes)

10:30-11:00 **Coffee/Tea**

11:00-13:30 **SESSION TWO** (Room: SIC 1)

Facilitator: Linda Ghanime (UNDP)

11:00-11:10 Explanation of parallel groups and introduction of leads for each group (10 minutes)

11:10-12:10 Parallel groups (60 minutes)

Group A (Room: SIC 1)

Modelling SEA

From up-streaming/mainstreaming environment to addressing integration and sustainability.

Group B (Room: SIC 2)

Criteria for a successful SEA

Providing Quality Assurance for SEA.

Group C (Room: A1)

SEA as a complement to other tools

Similarities and differences with other instruments. Fulfilling potential synergies and reducing the confusion.

12:10-13:00 Plenary Session/Report Back (10 minutes each)

Discussion (15 minutes)

13:00- 14:00 Lunch

14:00-16:30 **SESSION THREE** (Room: SIC 1)

14:00-15:00 Parallel groups (60 minutes)

Group D (Room: SIC 1)

Making the case and communicating the importance of SEA

How to overcome the barriers to introducing SEA into development agencies and in their developing country partner's strategic decision-making.

Group E (Room: SIC 2)

The relevance of SEA to regional and land use plans and major infrastructure investments

Does SEA have a role? Or are cumulative impact assessment and getting EIA right adequate?

Group F (Room: A1)

Supporting SEA and building capacity for SEA implementation

What are the capacity building needs in both partner countries and development agencies?

15:00-15:30 Coffee/Tea

15:30-16:30 Report Back (10 minutes each)

Discussion (30 minutes)

16:30-17:00 **SESSION FOUR Closing Session** (Room: SIC 1)

Closing comments from OECD: DAC (Remy Paris), UNDP (Linda Ghanime), UNEP (Hussein Abaza), World Bank (Kulsum Ahmed)