To: #HQ-DCD PP&E White Paper Review
Subject: White Paper Input

Introduction: These views are formed over 20 years of working with governments as a professional, as an interested individual in the nature of Development, and as a concerned funding taxpayer.
Progress Made: Not known
Changing context: In today's climate there is a need for more focus. As a country we need to focus on those needs with Programme countries where we can have most impact.
Key Issues: The issues identified are too broad, wide ranging and unfocussed for Ireland as a very small country to have a meaninglful impact. For issues of hunger, yes Ireland has historic experience in this domain but apart from empathy, and private contribution by concerned citizens to aid agencies, there is not a role for Irish Government to intervene here. Yes we have a strong history in agriculture but this is not typically applicable in the Programme countries Ireland focusses on. Yes there have been strong stances by outstanding Irish people in the past on the range of other issues, but again this is not a role for a Government as small as Ireland's with no meaningful global presence on these issues.

Given the limited resources and the need to focus these, which issues should the Government prioritise in its future aid programming?
One issue which is part of the current focus is Governance. This is the one issue which can impact on all others. An aspect of this is use of technology in Governance. SMS mobile text messaging was developed in Ireland and we still have a globally positive reputation as being strong on technology development. Any Government I have spoken with in developing countries expresses an interest in Irish experience, knowledge, and help in this area. It is the one area which, above all others, we have a meaningful and relevant value-add.

Ways of Working: We should identify a high-impact domain such as tax collection and identify how we can partner and help Programme countries to make meaningful impact in this domain. We should institute programmes of knowledge-sharing with secondments of Irish public officials with key domain knowledge as part of the programme.
Once such a collaboration is delivering results others such as private sector development, public registry development, eLearning services and others could be identified and delivered.
This approach will ultimately result in much closer relationships and ties with our Programme countries, and valuable economic (not tied-aid) activity with Irish companies. This will result in more employment and economic impact at home.

There has been a resistance to focus on these domains to date, in preference for the higher profile Aid issues. However, this is what developing countries want from Ireland.

It will also result in much more meaningful understanding of what our Government is doing in developing countries with taxpayers' money, and stronger support for this.

Other comments:
These comments are made truly with the foremost interests of Irish people and its Government at heart.

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