



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

Director General

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### NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF DEVCO DIRECTORS

#### **Subject: Procedure for the examination of requests for Pillar Assessments**

Delegation of tasks to partners has become a common implementing modality for DEVCO since 2003 ("joint management" with international organisations) and 2008 ("indirect centralised management" with national agencies). As of 2014, the Financial Regulation has harmonised the legal framework to be used for the delegation of tasks to these two categories of organisations ("indirect management"). This is reflected in the establishment by DEVCO of a single Terms of Reference for carrying out the "pillar assessments" of these organisations and a single contractual model (PAGODA).

If an organisation passes successfully the pillar assessment, it becomes eligible for benefiting from a *specific* procedure (indirect management) and/or a contractual template (PAGODA), in addition to the "standard" contracting modalities such as grants and procurement.

Before the introduction of the new Financial Regulation, 98 international organisations and 23 national agencies underwent a pillar assessment to become eligible for what is now indirect management. The large majority of these organisations were obvious candidates to become partners of DEVCO in the implementation of development policy (international organisations such as the World Bank and the UN and national development agencies such as AFD, GIZ, DFID, KfW, AECID, etc).

DEVCO is receiving an increasing number of requests to undergo a pillar assessment from smaller, more specialised organisations, and from national agencies from non-EU countries, for which a **critical opportunity analysis** by DEVCO would be appropriate. Also, there is a need to establish a clear procedure to assess whether these entities comply with the **eligibility criteria** provided for in the Financial Regulation (e.g. legal status).

For this reason, DEVCO management has adopted a new procedure for the examination of requests for a Pillar Assessments of organisations wishing to work with DEVCO under indirect management; applicable both to international organisations and national agencies (cf. Annex 1). This procedure will be incorporated in the DEVCO Companion.

The application form to be used by entities interested in undergoing a pillar assessment is attached in Annex 2. This application form is publicly available at the DEVCO site (<https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/node/44223>) and will also be attached to the DEVCO Companion.

*[E-signed]*

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Annexes: (1) Procedure for the assessment of International Organisations and National Agencies (2) Application form

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