

Maastricht – Advanced Academic Update, 14th – 15th, October 2008

Proposed Presentation title, Abstract and biographical details for Andrew Lawson

TITLE:

Has the new thinking on policy conditionality influenced the practice? The nature of conditionality in the Ghana and Tanzania General Budget Support arrangements

ABSTRACT:

This presentation summarises the key conclusions of academic research on policy conditionality during the 1990s and considers its operational implications. It examines the new approaches to conditionality developed by the Bretton Woods Institutions, by the European Commission and by some of the European bi-lateral agencies. It then considers two recent contrasting examples of the use of conditionality within General Budget Support arrangements, namely within the Ghana Multi Donor Budget Support (MDBS) programme and the Tanzania Poverty Reduction Budget Support (PRBS) programme. It examines both how conditionality has been used in these cases and what the consequences have been, drawing some operational lessons for what might be a workable, modern approach to conditionality.

Andrew Lawson is Co-Director of Fiscus Limited (UK) and was until July 2007, the Director of the Centre for Aid and Public Expenditure (CAPE) at the Overseas Development Institute, London. He is an economist, with an extensive experience in the design, management and evaluation of General Budget Support. He was co-author (with David Booth) of the OECD-DAC framework for the evaluation of General Budget Support (2004) and subsequently led evaluations of the Tanzania PRBS (2004-05) and the Ghana MDBS (2006-07). During 2007, he undertook research on the use of conditionality for ODI on behalf of the Advisory Board for Irish Aid. The paper presented at this conference is based upon that work.