

Notes for Opening Remarks at the
Seminar on Evaluating Policy Influence in Ukraine

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- ▶ The overall goal of the workshop is to exchange ideas from different perspectives on the way knowledge acquired through research leads to improved policy.
- ▶ IDRC's Evaluation Unit has surveyed and assessed 24 programmes from that particular point of view, generating a substantial body of knowledge. This is essential new knowledge for us as we seek to make our research support effective in increasing the capacity of local researchers to apply the new knowledge generated from their research.
- ▶ Today, we will focus on one IDRC programme: EMDU, the Environment Management Development in Ukraine. This programme, sponsored by DFAIT and then by CIDA took place between 1994 and 2001. It is unique in IDRC's experience and justifies a special seminar.
- ▶ As you all know, IDRC's activities in Ukraine are coming to a close. In February 2004, all activities will cease. It is therefore important for us at IDRC to share our experience with our partners, both Ukrainian and Canadian, so that all this experience does not go to waste.
- ▶ We hope that today's discussions will result in improving existing knowledge and sharing it widely.
- ▶ We have structured the seminar in the following fashion: First, we will hear a summary of the case. Dr. Iryna Lyzogub will present her evaluative findings following a survey she conducted under the Evaluation Unit's supervision. Jean-H. Guilmotte will summarise for us the intent that guided the actions of his team throughout the seven years of the project. Dr. Masurkevich will then give the point of view of our Ukrainian partners.
- ▶ A short coffee break will follow these three exposés. During the second and final morning session, all participants are welcome to ask questions or to comment upon the

conclusions reached by IDRC and Ukraine. I will then call upon Carol Weiss and Evert Lindquist to launch the group discussions.

- ▶ We are faced with a challenging agenda and only half a day to hear each other's point of view and to draw shared conclusions. I invite participants to be generous to each other and not to crowd out others by speaking at length. When you wish to speak, please stand your name plate on end and leave it standing until you have spoken. This way, others may have an idea of the number of participants wishing to speak on any particular issue.
- ▶ Unless there are objections to the proposed agenda submitted to you in your background documentation, I would suggest that we proceed immediately with the first speaker, Iryna Lyzogub.
- ▶ But first, let me give the floor to Ambassador Scherbak.