

DAC GLOBAL RELATIONS

Progress with Implementing the DAC Global Relations Strategy in 2015-16

OBJECTIVES, PRIORITY PARTNERS AND INSTRUMENTS

During 2015-16, the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) continued to engage with providers of development co-operation beyond the committee's membership to improve the relevance and impact of its work. Its **objectives** in doing this are to:

- Enrich policy dialogue and knowledge sharing on development co-operation.
- Ensure that DAC decision-making and dialogue processes are more open and inclusive.
- Strengthen the DAC's contribution to a more effective development co-operation architecture.

These **objectives** are set out in the *DAC Global Relations Strategy*, which also identifies **priority partners** and **instruments** for the DAC's engagement.

The **priority partners** for the DAC's global relations are:

- Members of the OECD that are not DAC members (currently Chile, Estonia, Israel, Latvia, Mexico and Turkey).
- OECD accession countries (currently Colombia, Costa Rica, Lithuania and Russia).
- The OECD's Key Partners (Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and South Africa).
- European Union Member States that are not OECD members (e.g. Croatia or Romania).
- Arab providers of development co-operation.

The DAC's three **instruments** for engagement are:

- Policy dialogue with a view to exchanging experience and promoting mutual understanding on shared international goals and how to achieve them.
- Collaboration on management and statistics, to share the DAC's methodologies and guidance as well as DAC Members' experience in these areas.
- Analysis of the development co-operation provided by non-DAC countries and related issues, including on triangular co-operation.

PROGRESS DURING 2015-16

ACCESSION TO THE DAC

The goal of the OECD Secretary-General is that all OECD Members become DAC members. In 2016, **Hungary** became the 30th member of the DAC, completing a cycle of accessions started in 2013 when five OECD Members - the **Czech Republic, Iceland, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia** - joined the committee.

Non-OECD countries may join the DAC as *Associates* with the same rights and obligations as OECD members. Non-OECD countries may also engage in the formal work of the committee on an on-going basis, but with limited rights and obligations, as *Participants*. The United Arab Emirates became the DAC's first *Participant* in 2014. In 2016, Qatar also became a *DAC Participant*.

Non-OECD countries may also collaborate with the DAC in areas of mutual interest on an *ad hoc* basis (e.g. a representative from Malawi, Moldova, Rwanda, Samoa or Sao Tome and Principe attended the DAC Peer Review meeting when their country provided the field perspective).

POLICY DIALOGUE

Policy dialogue was pursued through:

- Participation of non-DAC OECD Members, OECD accession countries and key partners in the **DAC high-level and senior-level meetings** and several **DAC subsidiary bodies**, notably the **Working Party on Development Finance Statistics** and the **Network on Development Evaluation**, as well as in other **international fora** supported by the DAC:
 - The **Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation**, a platform supported by the OECD and the UNDP for dialogue and joint action with non-member countries and organisations. Policy dialogue is also pursued through the Global Partnership's various **Voluntary Initiatives**.
 - The **International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding**, a forum that brings together conflict-affected and fragile countries, international partners and civil society to catalyse successful transitions from conflict and fragility.
 - The **Effective Institutions Platform**, a partnership of over 60 member countries and organisations (multilateral and bilateral development agencies, civil society, think tanks) that supports developing countries' needs to strengthen public sector reform through peer learning and experience sharing.
- Regional dialogues with **Arab providers of development co-operation and institutions**, and with **Latin America and the Caribbean**:
 - Since 2009, the Arab Co-ordination Group and the DAC have collaborated to exchange ideas, share good practice and identify opportunities for joint action. In 2015-16:
 - **Arab-DAC Dialogues on Development** were held at the OECD and at the OPEC Fund for International Development. Discussions focused on ensuring sustainable energy for all, reducing trade and investment costs, effective development co-operation, working with the private sector and strengthening the means of implementation to achieve the sustainable development goals.

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- A joint **Task Force on Energy** was created after the 2015 Arab-DAC Dialogue. It has demonstrated that members of the Arab Co-ordination Group and the DAC can work together successfully at the sector level. Preparatory work for a joint Task Force on Education was also launched in 2016.
 - Exchanges on **development finance** continued, leading to agreement at a technical level on a harmonised format for Arab Coordination Group institutions to report their development co-operation activities to the OECD.
 - The **United Arab Emirates** piloted use of the concept of Total Official Support for Sustainable Development – TOSSD – to its programme.
- The first **LAC-DAC Dialogue on Development Co-operation** was held in 2016 in Santiago de Chile. Discussions focused on translating the sustainable development goals into institutional strategies, implementing development co-operation with middle-income countries and promoting triangular co-operation and other innovative mechanisms, themes that were also discussed at the Global Partnership High-Level Meeting in Nairobi in 2016.

Policy dialogue was also pursued through:

- A meeting in Lisbon on **triangular co-operation** and side events to the Global Partnership High-Level Meeting in Nairobi in 2016, which strengthened collaboration with many countries beyond the DAC membership.
- Exchanges at the OECD on: **Emerging donors and the Global Development Agenda: Kazakhstan** by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, **the first World Humanitarian Summit** by the Ambassador of Turkey to the OECD and **Chile's new development co-operation strategy** by the Executive Director of the Chilean Agency for International Co-operation and Development.
- The **DAC Chair speaking at conferences** in China, Croatia, Hungary, India, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania and the United Arab Emirates, as well as at numerous international events.
- Presentations by OECD staff at meetings of the Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST) and in other fora on issues related to **measuring development co-operation**.

COLLABORATION ON MANAGEMENT AND STATISTICS

There is a clear demand from the DAC's engagement partners to learn from the DAC's expertise and DAC Members' experience on managing development co-operation (including evaluation) and statistics. During 2015-16, collaboration took place through:

- Seminars on **statistics** in Kazakhstan and Turkey and advice to the governments of Kuwait, Mexico and Qatar.

- **Briefings at the OECD** on DAC policies and good practices for officials from Azerbaijan, Latvia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.
- Contributing to **training courses** for a range of provider countries organised by the United Nations and the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation.
- Officials from Chile, Mexico and the United Arab Emirates **observing a DAC peer review**.
- Collecting **development co-operation statistics** from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Timor Leste for the first time while Hungary, Lithuania and Romania started activity-level reporting.

ANALYTICAL WORK

Several analytical pieces were prepared related to the development co-operation activities of providers beyond the current DAC membership:

- Chapters on **non-DAC providers of development co-operation** for the 2015 and 2016 editions of the Development Co-operation Report.
- An **issues brief** on "Development Co-operation by Countries beyond the DAC".
- **Preparation of estimates** of the bilateral and multilateral development co-operation of the main provider countries not reporting to the OECD.
- A report "Dispelling the myths of triangular co-operation", as well as several factsheets, which summarise the findings of a survey conducted of actors involved in **triangular co-operation**.
- Development of an approach to **tracking triangular co-operation flows** through DAC statistics.
- The DAC website on triangular co-operation up-dated to include a **repository of over 100 documents** as well as an **on-line database** of over 420 triangular co-operation projects.
- A report for the Arab-DAC Task Force on **Energy in Malawi** and contributions to the synthesis report on the Task Force's activities prepared for the Arab-DAC Dialogue in 2016.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2017

Through policy dialogue, collaboration on management and statistics, and analytical work, the DAC will continue to engage with other providers of development co-operation to improve the relevance and impact of its work.

The OECD Secretariat stands ready to work with engagement partners, on a demand-driven and cost-recovery basis, to conduct **seminars on management or statistics** or to conduct **special reviews**. The OECD will continue to collect data on, analyse and promote triangular co-operation, including by working with Canada, Mexico and others to set up a **Global Partnership Initiative** on triangular co-operation.