

Preface by the Secretary-General

The 2003 Development Co-operation Report is the first to appear under the responsibility of Richard Manning, the new Chair of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC). It was a great pleasure to welcome our new chair to this important post, he being singularly well qualified to lead the DAC during this important period.

OECD contributes to development in many ways. Certainly by giving a home to the DAC where bilateral donors, i.e. the providers of close to USD 60 billion in official development assistance in 2002, co-ordinate their strategies on how to help developing countries achieve economic growth and poverty reduction. Indeed, the development process in many of these countries will continue to depend on ODA support for the foreseeable future.

At the same time, we know that growth and development will only be sustainable if based on trade and investment. Here, OECD and its member countries have an enormous amount of expertise and experience to share. And there is growing readiness among various other Committees of OECD to take the specific problems of developing countries into account when discussing technical issues. The OECD Initiative on Investment for Development is a recent example of this changing mindset. Beyond trade and investment issues, a great deal of work within the OECD should contribute to Development. Think of Information and Communication Technology, biotechnology, agriculture, the environment and so on. The DAC is especially well placed to identify these resources of the OECD and to marshal them in support of Development. The DAC can count upon the support of management of the OECD to facilitate this critical and continuing challenge.

It is gratifying to see that, more and more, the work of the DAC and other important OECD committees is indeed focusing on the potential synergies between various drivers of economic growth in the interests of developing countries.

Donald J. Johnston
Secretary-General

