

Foreword

For over forty years, the OECD's Development Co-operation Report has charted, under the guidance of successive Chairs of the Development Assistance Committee, the progress of the development enterprise, and particularly of the role of one of its pillars, the provision of official development finance. It is written from a donor perspective but informed by insights from many quarters.

As the report recognises, the efforts of partner countries themselves will continue to be the main driver of progress, along with the wider international environment within which they have to work. Central to the thinking of the Development Assistance Committee and the OECD more widely is that official aid is only one – and for many countries not the most important – element in external financing. But the Committee takes seriously the need to account for the nearly USD 60 billion a year now going into official development assistance, and to improve its effectiveness and impact, particularly in view of the distance that must be travelled if developing countries are to get close to the goals set by the world's leaders at the Millennium Summit. This report is designed to provide as much transparency as possible about the emerging shape of this international effort. It also provides a way of bringing to wider attention the overall work of the Development Assistance Committee, which remains the central body for collective discussion of many policy issues within the bilateral donor community, increasingly in partnership with the multilateral donor community.

As a new Chair of the Committee, I should like first to recognise the contribution of my many predecessors, and most recently Jean-Claude Faure, to the evolution of thinking in the donor family which is reflected, however imperfectly, in the report. Secondly, I should like to express my great appreciation to Michael Roeskau and the many members of the Secretariat who have contributed the material of this report, and not least to Kerry Burns, for her work in pulling it together and ensuring delivery to a very tight timetable.

Richard Manning
DAC Chair

