

## Foreword

*This report issues as the international community focuses increasing attention on the challenges inherent in a very unequal world, and hence on the absolute necessity to help the very poor improve their lives. The response by people all over the world to the horrific earthquake and tsunami in the Indian Ocean on 26 December 2004 shows the growing strength of feelings of international solidarity in tackling the plight of those who suffer.*

*As the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change said in its report to the UN Secretary-General in December 2004, "Development makes everyone more secure". In September 2005, world leaders will have the opportunity to reflect on the challenges – including those set out in the Millennium Project Report – and to consider what individual and collective steps the nations of the world need to take to address them.*

*In this context, both the quantity and the quality of aid will matter, though aid can be fully effective only where it is complementary to the efforts of the people and governments of poor countries, and where the environment supports broad-based growth. The Paris High-Level Forum (28 February-2 March 2005), on "Aid Effectiveness: Harmonisation, Alignment and Results" is a crucial opportunity to assess progress in improving aid delivery and to agree further steps.*

*The OECD Development Co-operation Report 2004 is designed to offer a transparent account of aid flows to the latest available period (2003), and sets out the commitments that many DAC members have made to increase these flows. It provides a general overview of the work of the DAC, while at the same time seeking to clarify some of the contentious issues in the debate around security and development.*

*I hope that it will provide a useful input into the very important debates that will take place over the next few months.*

*I would like to pay tribute to the huge effort made by the Secretariat to enable the DAC to carry forward a very heavy agenda this past year. Many members of the Secretariat have made extraordinary efforts in order to sustain the momentum of DAC work. The timely production of this report is only one example. On behalf of the Committee, I sincerely thank them all.*

Richard Manning  
DAC Chair

