

FOREWORD

Following the Monterrey and Johannesburg Conferences, the international community is endeavouring to implement, with heightened resolve, the development consensus that now unites its members.

The stakes are high. Consolidating the efforts of partner and donor countries alike to promote poverty reduction and sustainable development strategies. Basing those strategies on the pursuit of stronger, more sustainable economic growth to benefit the poor, on widespread respect for rights, and on the need for a change of scale on the education and healthcare front. Acting within a more open form of globalisation that will serve to boost growth in trade, investment and knowledge sharing. Establishing stronger partnerships based on policy relevance, good governance for all and effective ownership. Incorporating into this new approach every aspect of development finance, with a marked increase in official development assistance over the coming years, extensive and sustainable mobilisation of national resources, and involvement of the private sector, particularly in the form of public/private partnerships on a much larger scale.

Challenges are immense. They demand scaling-up and sustained momentum. They imply a joint effort to implement development strategies and make systematic progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, guided by a strict monitoring of outcomes. The effectiveness of aid, and of the partnerships themselves, needs to be strengthened by means of a shared responsibility approach. It is also necessary to make proper use of increasingly available aid resources, for which donor countries are accountable to the public, so as to foster solidarity and generate a more open form of globalisation. And finally the challenges impose the need to achieve policy coherence and maximise the synergies between development co-operation, private investment and trade. We know how much ground there is still left to cover from the Doha Development Agenda set by the World Trade Organization's Ministerial Conference in late 2001.

The DAC report gives details of the policies and measures introduced by member countries, trends in aid, and commitments for the future. This year it also gives me the opportunity to end on a more personal note. This will be the last report I shall have the honour of publishing on my responsibility before once again becoming one of its most assiduous readers when my mandate as DAC Chairman ends in a few months' time. I consider it a privilege to have been offered the opportunity of taking part with my colleagues – on the Committee, in the OECD and its Secretariat, in our partner countries and the international community – in this joint enterprise to promote development co-operation. At a time when change, once elusive, is becoming a tangible, appealing but demanding prospect, this experience has confirmed my feeling that the DAC will continue to play a vital role in the process already under way.

I should like, once again, to emphasise how much this report owes to the commitment, competence and professionalism of the OECD's Development Co-operation Directorate, headed by Michael Roeskau. The team involved in this year's Report, run tirelessly and energetically by editor and production co-ordinator Kerry Burns, have given unstintingly of their time and effort, in addition to their usual work. My thanks also go to DAC Members, other OECD directorates and the OECD Development Centre for their contributions and comments.

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