OECD DAC POLICY STATEMENT FOR THE RIO+20 CONFERENCE

This statement was endorsed by the DAC at its Senior Level Meeting on 3-4 April 2012
Rio+20 is an important opportunity to assess progress, identify gaps and renew commitments to sustainable development. We, the members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), pledge to strengthen our collaboration to address new and emerging challenges and promote economic and social transformation for sustainable development. We are fully committed to the three pillars of sustainable development, through our support for social development, economic growth and environment protection and we will contribute to the delivery of clear and significant outcomes from the Rio+20 Conference by building a post-2015 global development framework on the successful example of and lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

We will continue our support for developing countries’ pursuit of greener and more inclusive growth in their nationally owned development objectives and poverty reduction strategies, in line with the principles adopted in the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation. We stand by our commitments to integrate biodiversity, ecosystem services and climate change adaptation into our development co-operation practices and to enhance the quality and effectiveness of development assistance, particularly regarding pro-poor economic growth and poverty reduction. We welcome the Ministerial Policy Statement of the OECD Environment Policy Committee, agreed on 29-30 March 2012.

We are building on our past efforts. Our ODA, which is supporting all MDGs, traditionally with a focus on social and economic development, has steadily increased and in 2010 amounted to almost USD 130 billion. This represents an increase of 63% since 2000. We have also made efforts to better take into account the increasing concerns of developing countries regarding environment challenges they are facing and, during recent years, ODA allocated to environmental development (the third pillar of sustainable development) has also increased. Between 2001-02 and 2009-10, bilateral ODA for general environmental protection grew from USD 1.9 billion to USD 5.1 billion and support for other activities addressing environmental sustainability rose from USD 5.8 billion to USD 20.3 billion.

We share developing country concerns about environmental sustainability and recognise that many of them have taken the lead in the responsible use of natural resources and are learning the lessons from the shortcomings of conventional development models. We also recognise the particularities of green growth in developing countries, where it must deliver on national development, poverty reduction and job creation objectives in the context of sustainable development. We believe that green growth can deliver on these objectives, but this is only possible if context-specific strategies are defined through national policy and planning processes, led by Governments.

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2. “The overarching objective of the DAC is to promote development co-operation and other policies so as to contribute to sustainable development, including pro-poor economic growth, poverty reduction, and to this effect to enhance the quality and effectiveness of development assistance.” Based on DAC Mandate from Council Resolution C(2011)123 and CORR1.
We will support our developing country partners’ efforts to:

- Develop and implement country-specific, nationally-owned, cost-effective and inclusive strategies aiming at ensuring green growth, that take into account trade-offs and political economy barriers, support local, sectoral and national policy frameworks for equity, poverty reduction and development, and are implemented through national planning and budget processes.

- Build trust, partnership and capacities among all stakeholders, and strengthen inclusive governance of public policy and expenditure, economic governance and natural resource management, so that the interests of poor women and men are reflected in green growth policies and their rights to sustainable livelihood assets and social protection programmes are secured.

- Identify and nurture opportunities for affordable green innovation and investment that increases employment and creates jobs, such as climate-resilient livelihoods and low-carbon and resource-efficient technologies, *inter alia* by supporting local initiatives, indigenous knowledge and technology transfer on voluntary and mutually agreed terms and conditions to, and between, developing countries.

- Support and scrutinise public-private partnerships to foster innovation, mitigate investment risks and facilitate multi-stakeholder initiatives to promote more equitable and environmentally sustainable investments and commodity chains.

- Increase the value and welfare derived from natural capital by managing natural resources sustainably; developing mechanisms for the payment of ecosystem services; increasing domestic revenue and income distribution from natural resource use and extraction; developing more comprehensive national accounts; and adopting relevant well-being measures.

We will also:

- Assess and promote the coherence of our domestic green growth policies with development objectives, use Strategic Environmental Assessments and Poverty Impact Assessments to raise awareness in our country offices of environmental issues and climate change, and their links to poverty reduction, and ensure that our programmes coherently support green growth and poverty reduction.

- Support systems to allow countries to choose growth paths and technological trajectories that are socially and environmentally sustainable, and to adequately manage global public goods by: creating incentives for foreign investment in sustainable sectors; promoting trade flows of environmentally sustainable goods and services; supporting developing countries’ active participation in international standardisation processes; and developing capacity for innovation.

- Encourage countries to work collaboratively at all levels to promote knowledge sharing and effective capacity and institutional development, including by making use of the Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP).

We intend to track our progress by:

- Supporting developing country partners’ own systems for monitoring, evaluating and reporting on public programmes to develop and use their own indicators of green growth and sustainable development, including by drawing upon OECD work on measuring well-being and green growth.

- Continuing to monitor and report on external resource flows targeting relevant social and environmental objectives through the OECD DAC.

- Reporting through the OECD DAC on our progress to integrate green growth into development co-operation, implement key actions from this Statement, and share good practices and lessons learned.