Summary Record of the 1060th DAC meeting held on 29 March 2019

The Draft Summary Record [DCD/DAC/M(2019)3] was approved under Item 2 of the Draft Annotated Agenda [DCD/DAC/A(2019)8] at the 15 May 2019 DAC meeting and is now issued as FINAL. The Committee also agreed to declassify this final version.

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Item 1. Welcome and Adoption of the Agenda

1. The Chair welcomed participants and explained that the traditional order of agenda items has been slightly modified for today’s meeting in order to accommodate the schedule of external guest speakers. She then invited delegates to approve the draft agenda, which they did without modification.

Item 2. Approval of Draft Summary Records

2. The Committee approved the draft summary record from the 1056th DAC meeting held on 21 January 2019. Canada proposed one minor change to the summary record from the 1058th DAC meeting and Senior Level Meeting held on 22 February 2019 to paragraph 18, to which the Committee agreed. The DAC further agreed to declassify the final versions of both records.

Item 3. Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC)

3. The Global Partnership Co-chair, Germany, debriefed the Committee on the GPEDC Steering Committee meeting, held in Kampala, Uganda on 26-27 March 2019, which advanced preparations for the GPEDC Senior Level Meeting (13-14 July 2019, New York). The Kampala meeting endorsed the draft SLM programme and key deliverables, including Principles for Effective Private Sector Engagement through development co-operation. Germany also reflected on major achievements during its tenure, including revitalised engagement around development effectiveness, adapted monitoring, enhanced participation by the private sector and establishment of a fourth co-chair representing the six non-executive constituencies of the GPEDC Steering Committee.

4. The Secretariat presented emerging findings of the third GPEDC monitoring round, conducted in 86 countries (2016: 81 countries, 2014: 47 countries) covering US$ 64 billion in grants and loans from over 100 bilateral and multilateral partners. It reported mixed progress on donor alignment, use of country systems, and predictability. The Secretariat also reflected on inherent and new challenges with the monitoring process, including evolving co-ordination structures at country level and the diminishing share of government-to-government co-operation, which call for a review of the monitoring process and for continued updating of the effectiveness narrative.

5. Mr Thomas Gass (Head, South Cooperation Department, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and incoming GPEDC co-chair for providers of development co-operation) outlined his vision for the GPEDC going forward – to build a robust narrative around the effective use of public international resources to build capacities, make the multilateral system better, and mobilise private sector entrepreneurship and finance to support the realisation of the 2030 Agenda and Addis commitments. Mr. Gass expressed appreciation for the Partnership’s achievements to date, including its monitoring exercise and policy work, and underscored the need to reinforce leadership among constituencies and linkages to the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda at global and country level. Mr Gass also wants to focus more on data to strengthen relationships between duty bearers and rights holders and to reveal vulnerabilities in the context of the Partnership’s work going forward.

6. Delegates welcomed the presentations and reiterated strong support for the Partnership as a critical vehicle for DAC outreach. Many delegates appreciated the linkages that the GPEDC SLM is forging to the UN HLPF and SDGs under review this year, pledging their support for a productive meeting. Robust engagement of all partners, including civil society and private sector, was considered imperative for the SLM’s success. Delegates also welcomed the adoption of the Private Sector Principles and the work of the GPEDC on adapting the monitoring framework to fragile situations. Most delegates concurred on main challenges of the monitoring process and committed to step up the DAC’s engagement on development effectiveness, including through more structured reflection on the importance of development effectiveness principles.
7. The DCD Director reflected on the path of the GPEDC since Nairobi, reiterating the need for integrating the effectiveness narrative better in the 2030 Agenda, involving emerging economies and the private sector, and building on the important substantive work to date.

8. Mr. Gass concluded by encouraging DAC members to engage actively in the run-up to the SLM and beyond in devising a future work programme. The Chair reiterated this, and the need to further ‘broaden the tent’, building on successes, including the references to development effectiveness at the BAPA+40 conference.

Item 4. Alignment of Development Co-operation with the Objectives of the Paris Agreement

9. The Secretariat presented its work on aligning development co-operation with the objectives of the Paris Agreement, which will include the production of a report assessing current approaches to policy, capacity, and finance within development co-operation and proposing actionable recommendations for DAC members. The Secretariat intends to prepare the report, which will benefit from input and guidance from an Informal Expert Group, for presentation at the UN Secretary-General’s Climate Summit in New York in September 2019.

10. In discussion, a strong majority of DAC members expressed overwhelming support for the initiative. While the United States voiced an inability to support a project with such an explicit focus on the Agreement, alternative methods for engagement were suggested. In terms of the proposed content of the work, delegates generally supported building upon Nationally Determined Contributions to ensure country-led development and the role of development co-operation to increase the capacity and ambitions of these commitments. Biodiversity and desertification were also mentioned as cross-cutting issues for addressing climate change. Members provided a diverse set of suggestions for improving the content of the report as well: focusing on the role of multilateral development banks and addressing the fragmentation of international climate funds. The Committee also encouraged including a nuanced view for small island developing states and other categorisations such as least developed countries and a focus on gender. Delegates underscored the need for systemic change, including going beyond recommendations for cutting greenhouse gas emissions, focusing on transforming energy systems and engaging in partnerships beyond traditional development co-operation actors.

Item 5. Harnessing the Benefits of the Sustainable Ocean Economy for Developing Countries

11. Representatives of Kenya and Portugal, the co-host countries for the Second High Level Ocean Conference in June 2020, opened this session by providing an overview of their engagement on the topic and highlighting the relevance of OECD’s work on Sustainable Oceans for All: Harnessing the Benefits of the Sustainable Ocean Economy for Developing Countries to their domestic priorities. They also stressed the strong contribution they expect of this work to the Second High Level Ocean Conference in 2020. The Secretariat illustrated the scope and major milestones for its work on the topic.

12. Members expressed a strong interest in and support for this work programme. They valued the emphasis that this work places on all aspects of sustainability, including environmental and social, and its focus on ensuring that developing countries are not left behind in terms of participating in its benefits. Members affirmed the usefulness of the guidance this work can provide for development co-operation and the contribution it can make to many countries, including small island developing states.

13. Members also shared information on initiatives and work they are conducting in this area and saw positive synergies with this work. Members encouraged the Secretariat to take into account existing research and activities and to avoid duplication with other ongoing activities, and to include more “countries most in need” in the forthcoming country diagnostics on the sustainable ocean economy, such as Least Developed Countries. While an extension to other countries will be possible depending on resources made available by members as the Secretariat fills the existing funding gap for this work, this work builds on original reference work that the OECD has undertaken in the area, will rely on unique
OECD datasets and create new data, and is well co-ordinated with the other initiatives, who actually have pro-actively approached the OECD seeking input and co-operation.

**Item 6. Private Finance for Sustainable Development**

14. The update on the Private Finance for Sustainable Development (PF4SD) work programme included a presentation of ongoing and future efforts on (1) building the evidence base, (2) impact of investments for sustainable development, (3) the Tri Hita Karana Roadmap for Blended Finance, and (4) the community of practice. In respect to the ongoing research, delegates welcomed the work on blended finance in fragile contexts and the co-operation with UNCDF on least developed countries. Members supported the focus on water and sanitation as well as agriculture for the deep-dives. Further topics for future work suggest focuses on sustainable energy, transport infrastructure, climate adaptation, health and education, as well as regional perspectives on Arica and small and remote states. Participants also underlined the importance of the work on measuring impact and setting standards in this area; the co-operation with the Evaluation Network is welcomed but should not be conflated with the measurement work on impact. Participants would welcome more information on the Central Priority Funding project led by the DCD. Participants also underlined the importance of the policy work on the Tri Hita Karana Roadmap as a means for co-ordination. Co-chairing one of the working groups is not an option at this stage for participants.

15. On the community of practice, participants provided positive feedback on the PF4SD conference last January with some suggestions for improvement, e.g. introducing a variety of session formats. The community of practice as a means to engage the private sector in implementing the SDGs received positive feedback. Some members expressed their wish to see a formal DAC subsidiary body on this topic, also to respond to questions of ownership. The Secretariat highlighted the Results Community as an example for an existing community. The Secretariat will submit to the DAC a proposal for a community of practice and the terms of reference.

**Item 7. Briefing by the DCD Director and DAC Chair**

16. The Director and Chair reported to the Committee on a number of developments and work streams, including on debt relief, the 2019 Tidewater meeting, engagement with key partners, the Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD) measurement framework, and the possibility of convening a High Level Meeting (HLM) of the DAC. Members expressed doubts on the organisation of an HLM this year, in particular in the absence of clear decisions for participants to take. The Chair then announced that the 16 April 2019 DAC meeting would be informal and that the Vice Chair from the Netherlands had agreed to chair it.

**Item 8. Summary of Conclusions**

17. The Secretariat provided an overview of the decisions, action points, and next steps emerging from the day’s proceedings. The Secretariat will circulate this overview to the Committee in electronic form; it will include the Director’s briefing points from agenda item 7.

**Item 9. Any Other Business**

18. The delegate from Greece reminded the Committee that she had circulated an e-mail with a list of the DAC facilitators of subsidiary bodies and announced that there remains a vacancy for the DAC facilitator to MOPAN. As DAC co-facilitator of the International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF), the delegate from the United States updated the Committee on work in this body, including follow up to the nexus recommendation and the establishment of three working groups. The delegate from Norway reported to the Committee on preparations for the 3 April DAC retreat. The agenda has been circulated and a reminder will be issued on Monday with final information.