



Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

DCD/DAC/M(2019)4/FINAL

Unclassified

English - Or. English

18 July 2019

**DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE**

Summary Record of the 1062nd DAC meeting held on 15 May 2019

The Revised Draft Summary Record [DCD/DAC/M(2019)4/REV1] was sent for APPROVAL via the written procedure. No objections were expressed by the deadline; the record is therefore considered approved, issued as final, and declassified.

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JT03449863

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Item 1. Welcome and Adoption of the Agenda

1. The Chair welcomed participants and invited delegates to approve the draft agenda, which they did without modification.

Item 2. Approval of Draft Summary Record

2. The Committee approved the draft summary record from the 1060th DAC meeting held on 29 March 2019 and agreed to declassify the final version.

Item 3. Briefing by the DCD Director and DAC Chair

3. The Director and Chair reported to the Committee on a number of developments and work streams, including through newsletters issued the previous evening. The Director reminded delegates that Friday, 17 May 2019, is the deadline for nominations to fill the two upcoming vacancies in the DAC Bureau, as the Netherlands and Canada will be stepping down as Vice Chairs over the summer. The intention is to have the new Vice Chairs formally elected at the 18 June 2019 DAC meeting. He informed the DAC that official invitations to the Senior Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, to be held 13-14 July 2019 in New York, have been issued from the Co-Chairs to all DAC members. He encouraged delegates to mobilise their Directors-General to attend the meeting, as it is important to show force from the DAC to help renew the narrative on effectiveness. The Director then referred to the documents [DCD/DAC(2019)25 and DCD/DAC(2019)25/ADD1] that report on the implementation of the 2017-18 Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) and shared details on expenditure and the provision of voluntary contributions.

4. The Chair informed delegates that the DAC roadmap for 2019 [DCD/DAC(2019)1/REV3] has been updated and included in today's documentation. There remains a need to take a decision on the meeting in December, for example, as a High Level Meeting (HLM) or a regular meeting. Tidewater will likely be in October (between the UN General Assembly and the World Bank / IMF Annual Meetings).

5. The Chair then spelled out her priorities for the DAC, formulated following consultations with members and the Secretariat since her arrival. The DAC provided comments on these priorities, which the Chair will integrate into a brief document to be shared in the coming weeks so that delegates can circulate it to capitals for reactions.

Item 4. Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD): Update on progress

6. The Secretariat presented an update on recent developments of TOSSD. A very large majority of the members reiterated their strong support for TOSSD and congratulated the Secretariat on the progress made on delivering the TOSSD Reporting Instructions, carrying out the TOSSD Data Survey and on the progress made at the UN. Several members in particular welcomed the uptake of the measure in the UN context recognising that efforts needed to be pursued and offering to support TOSSD in NY. A few members reiterated the importance of ensuring that TOSSD responds to the interest of developing countries. One member invited others to regularly look at the TOSSD Task Force website¹ to stay informed and in particular to look at the Pillar II Reporting Instructions.

¹ <http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/tossd-task-force.htm>

7. Three members, while recognising efforts made by the Secretariat, expressed their concerns and raised issues of process and progress. Two of them insisted on the necessity to see more efforts in involving emerging providers and identifying a UN custodian agency for TOSSD. One of these members asked the Secretariat to provide an overview of the options. The three members expressed concerns that the rationale and narrative of TOSSD were not clear (purpose and usefulness, the demand from developing countries), that there was neither enough buy-in from developing countries and the United Nations, nor enough progress in securing such support to warrant the time, efforts and means going into the process. One of these members doubted that TOSSD was the best way to use our resources to obtain better development results on the ground and reach the ones furthest behind, and was worried about how TOSSD will affect ODA. One of these members also questioned the work on the governance of the TOSSD measure.

8. While reiterating the importance to be updated regularly, several members supported the view expressed by one member that the DAC was holding too many discussions on TOSSD and that this could give the impression that TOSSD is a DAC product, thereby potentially undermining efforts to have it hosted at the UN. Several members supported the idea that means should be found to hold informal discussions to be updated on TOSSD, with light documentation, rather than having TOSSD as a formal item on DAC meeting agendas. This could be done through MPIs or ad-hoc informal meetings. One member proposed to have a DAC facilitator for TOSSD.

9. Ten members that had not yet submitted responses to the survey announced that they would soon respond. Three members that had already submitted their responses highlighted that the pre-filled data files prepared by the Secretariat helped to lower the reporting burden, and that the Survey was in the end not too complicated to fill in. Three members indicated that they would not respond to the Survey.

10. In his closing remarks, the DCD Director indicated he would test the idea of a DAC facilitator with the co-chairs of the TOSSD Task Force and also agreed on the necessity to hold informal rather than formal meetings for updates on TOSSD. He asked the three members that indicated that they would not respond to the survey to re-consider the possibility of doing so. He insisted that it would be important to have responses from all members and proposed to hold workshops in these countries to sensitise all necessary stakeholders. He also called for these countries to elaborate on the reasons why they were reluctant to support TOSSD. He also indicated it was important to engage with the IAEG-SDGs to have TOSSD recognised in the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda and that the Secretariat would aim to have a mention of TOSSD included at the UNGA Dialogue on Financing for Development. He saw an increasing uptake by non-DAC providers, including China and India, and pointed to the continued importance of TOSSD pilots for building the case for TOSSD. He clarified that UN staff at the technical level were keen to engage in the development of TOSSD, but could not do so without clear support from all members, including the G77.

11. The Secretariat explained the process that helped to facilitate the reporting work of members for the data survey. She highlighted that the files received from members already showed interesting information on Pillar II. The Secretariat highlighted that transparency was a critical argument to promote TOSSD in the international arena.

12. The DAC Chair concluded by noting the agreement among members to receive updates on TOSSD through informal meetings and indicated that the Secretariat would follow up with the three countries with concerns, to understand better what the issues were and how to address them.

Item 5. Development Co-operation Report 2019

13. The Secretariat outlined the focus theme for the 2019 Development Co-operation Report on the narrative for development co-operation (exact title to be decided). The report will be launched end October/November 2019. The intention is to take stock of development co-operation policy today and to tell a story/update the narrative for this policy instrument in relation to the 2030 Agenda; and the evolving international architecture, policies and challenges since 2015. The report will be short, journalistic, and forward-looking, while drawing on the Committee's recent evidence-base, analysis, and flagship publications.

14. Evidence and collective knowledge show that development co-operation is adapting to today's complex global and national socio-economic and environmental realities, including the 2030 Agenda. This report will tell that story. At the same time development co-operation faces some pressures – positive and negative – that can be explained in a clearer way. Evidence gathered from DAC peer reviews and through reports published by DCD/DAC in 2018, for example, shows that development co-operation has a communication challenge that needs to be fixed. The report will be written to equip members in communicating clearly the specific role, value, and contribution of development co-operation. The target audience for the narrative will be the public and politicians.

15. Delegates expressed interest and support for the proposed theme. In response to questions from delegates, the Secretariat clarified that the content and focus of the narrative have a strong evidence base from several reports published in 2018. It also responds to clear demand from members and beyond for a meta-narrative for the evidence, analysis, reviews and recommendations supported by the Committee. The Secretariat will invite DAC members to an informal meeting/workshop on 20–21 June to discuss the concept note, which will be circulated in advance.

16. The Secretariat also informed the Committee about innovations with the profiles of providers of development co-operation, which will be launched end June/early July, and updated the Committee on progress in disseminating the 2018 DCR on Joining Forces to Leave No One Behind.

Item 6. DAC–CSO dialogue and policy guidance

17. The Secretariat provided an update from the civil society work stream including the findings from the survey/study on 'How DAC members work with civil society'. Delegates commended the progress, underlining the importance of effective support and partnerships with civil society to remedy the shrinking space and to achieve the SDGs. Delegates highlighted that the inclusiveness facilitated through the DAC's dialogue with CSOs is central to the Committee's legitimacy but that CSOs need access to relevant information to prepare and engage in constructive dialogue. DAC delegates also encouraged subsidiary bodies to commit to greater engagement with CSO partners.

18. The Chair and Secretariat encouraged delegates to attend the Civil Society Days in June including the International Conference on Civil Society Space (during which the working paper on the above-referenced study will be presented) on 6 June, and the next DAC–CSO Dialogue Meeting on 7 June. A policy brief on civil society space will also be presented for discussion at the July DAC meeting. The final publications (study and guidance) will be available in the fall.

Item 7. Global Refugee Forum

19. The DAC Chair welcomed the UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Mr. Volker Türk, and opened the session by emphasising the importance of the development community in general, and the DAC in particular, in engaging more systematically on refugee issues. She noted that there is considerable interest in tracking the volume of financial flows to refugees and expressed concern about dwindling amounts of funding to Least Developed Countries, which host the majority of the world's refugees. She emphasised the importance of evidence-based interventions and encouraged DAC members to consider how they can influence policies and open up space for refugees. In this regard, the DAC Chair

referenced her own experiences in Ethiopia, where donors had strongly advocated with the Government to create an enabling environment for refugees to access the labour market and linked their advocacy to the Ethiopia Economic Opportunities Program. She also noted that the DAC provides a space for discussions around what individual donors are doing, but also around how we can encourage other actors to deliver for refugees.

20. The DCD Director thanked UNHCR for the continued collaboration, noting that there are several entry points for further engagement. These entry points include work on in-donor refugee costs to ensure harmonisation among donors on costing for refugees in donor countries, the humanitarian–development–peace (HDP) nexus recommendations, surveys on financing of refugee contexts, the development of principles for better financing, support to the development of the Global Compact on Refugees’ indicators, and pilot studies on transition (including in Uganda and Lebanon).

21. The UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner then presented the objectives of the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) and asked DAC members, among others, to identify how they could inform contributions and showcase good practices (e.g., HDP nexus, better financing) in support of the GRF themes.

22. In discussion, the DAC expressed its willingness to consider opportunities for pledges and contributions at the GRF, emphasising in particular the potential synergies with the DAC Recommendation on the HDP Nexus. The EU stressed that the GRF should demonstrate that the DAC is truly committed to improving international responsibility-sharing for refugees and to enhancing the quality of asylum space at home and abroad. This means addressing the challenges that refugees and their host communities face and ensuring that refugees are supported in a way that allows them to rebuild their lives and contribute to the development of their wider communities both before and after a durable solution is found. The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework has already been a catalyst for change and has generated positive, concrete results both for host countries and communities and for refugees themselves. The EU strongly urged that work is as much as possible fully aligned with work to deliver SDGs in order to avoid multiple reporting channels. The DAC Chair closed the meeting with a call to members to encourage their capitals to contribute to the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees and to ensure high-level participation at the GRF. She emphasised the need to have joined-up discussions on engagement in the lead-up to the Forum. She asked the Secretariat to consider what recommendations, policies, and technical assistance could be presented at the GRF as pledges and contributions. She concluded by stating that she would be happy to attend the Forum, if invited.

Item 8. Humanitarian Perception Surveys

23. The Secretariat presented the main findings of a three-year project “lives in crises” surveying the perception of people affected by crises about the humanitarian aid they receive. Drawing from a series of surveys in seven crises countries and additional research, a report will be launched end June. The report’s main message is that people’s needs in crises are not all humanitarian in nature given the protracted nature of crises, and humanitarian assistance is not by default the best instrument to meet those needs. The report calls for operationalising the DAC Recommendation on the humanitarian–development–peace nexus.

24. Delegates expressed interest, reaffirmed commitments to operationalise the nexus in the most fragile contexts, and highlighted progress to date. The DAC Chair noted the degree of consensus and called for a dedicated, informal session on the nexus toward the end of the year.

Item 9. Summary of Conclusions

25. 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.

Item 10. Any Other Business

26. The Chair recommended that DAC meetings carve out at least an hour for each substantive item in the agendas in order to allow sufficient discussion and interaction among members. She commented that delegates should block the full day, even if the proceedings may end early and encouraged the Secretariat to try to secure meeting rooms in the Boulogne conference centre as they are very well lit.

27. The Chair then referenced the results of the DAC Facilitator Group on Major Policy Issues, which met earlier this week on the issue of debt relief. She expressed her understanding that some members are still awaiting instructions from capitals on the topic but that overall the Committee has asked that the Chair engage with the Paris Club at the highest level since the timing seems quite favourable, given that no major debt reorganisation is imminent. She then asked the Secretariat to help facilitate these arrangements and deliberations.

28. The representative from Italy reported to the Committee on the discussions held on 9 May in the DAC informal group on engagement. The DAC Chair recommended a session in an upcoming formal DAC meeting to discuss engagement priorities, including to decide on the status of Russia to attend DAC meetings.

29. The representatives from Austria, Finland, and Belgium then reported to the Committee on the results of the recent meetings of the International Network on Conflict and Fragility, the DAC Network on Environment and Development Co-operation, and the DAC Network on Governance. At the suggestion of the representative from Germany, the DAC agreed that these readouts from subsidiary bodies could be usefully shared in writing to the full Committee.

30. The representative from the Slovak Republic intervened to announce that his country has just submitted an action plan for the government's approval that is a legacy of the peer review and includes a commitment to allocate 0.33% of GNI to ODA. He expressed his gratitude to the Secretariat's participation in a peer review launch event held on 23 April in Bratislava, which helped lead to this great development. He then thanked the peer review examiners from Iceland and Finland.