

DACnews

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WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT DEVELOPMENT?

Many discussions around development today feature the rapidly changing nature of things. While these changes are very real, much can still be learned from decades of experience. Gathering lessons in development co-operation—for example through peer learning or evaluations—can lay the foundations for success, enabling development practitioners and policy makers to move ahead quickly and efficiently.



News from Erik Solheim, DAC Chair

Last week, the UN General Assembly elected me Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). I am deeply humbled and honoured. Global development and environment issues are entering a new phase. Many policies were laid down last year—in Addis, New York and Paris. The focus of 2016 and the coming period will be on delivery, on implementing! The next decade will be the one where we bring all humans out of extreme poverty while also reducing global warming and protecting ecosystems. There can be no room for failure. Also in my new function I am very much looking forward to working with the DAC and the OECD to achieve our common goals. With many thanks once again and very warm regards!

— Erik



The **World Humanitarian Summit** focused on the mounting complexity of crisis response and the intersection of humanitarian, development and conflict prevention issues and needs.

The OECD committed to support its members in:

- responding to the refugee crises: identifying and addressing the root causes of conflicts, forced displacement, and refugee flows; improving the consistency, comparability, and transparency of reporting of ODA-eligible, in-donor refugee costs; strengthening integration programmes for refugees and their children
- delivering on their commitments: monitoring

progress; sharing good practice; identifying the right finance, the right partnerships, at the right time; enhancing the effectiveness of humanitarian operations and humanitarian agencies; promoting closer collaboration on the ground

- analysing risk and vulnerability: using tools and frameworks (e.g. the OECD resilience systems analysis tool) to promote shared understanding; building coherence among development, humanitarian, and peace and state-building approaches to strengthen the resilience of individuals, households, communities and states.

The members of the [International Network on Conflict and Fragility](#) also confirmed their commitment to implement the [Stockholm Declaration](#).

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Peer learning can support SDG 16

The Effective Institutions Platform's (EIP) new [Guide to Peer Learning](#) offers an innovative approach to implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 16 and its call for accountable, effective and inclusive institutions. Moving away from providing top-down technical solutions, peer learning enables an exchange of 'tacit' knowledge among officials working on governance reform. This is vital in order to address the politics of change management, which are inherent in this type of reform. The EIP aims to put the peer learning guide into practice holding [peer learning alliances](#) on public financial management and accountability systems. Its 60 members include developing, emerging and developed countries, and civil society.

Feedback is welcome: effectiveinstitutions@oecd.org
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Lessons in sustainable forest management

[Read the full report](#)



Deforestation and forest degradation are among the leading causes of CO₂ emissions. Forests capture and store carbon, and are important storehouses for biodiversity. They also provide livelihoods for over a billion people worldwide, including many living in extreme poverty, and development assistance plays an important role in international efforts to halt deforestation. Evaluations of sustainable forest management highlight some key findings:

- Policies and strategies to halt deforestation must balance environmental, social and economic objectives.
- Policies and programmes should be holistic and address the drivers of deforestation; a cross-sectorial approach can increase effectiveness.
- Long-term commitment, strong leadership and political will to reduce deforestation are essential.
- Programmes need to be inclusive and country-driven.
- Benefits must be distributed equitably to ensure they accrue to local people.
- Partners should leverage their comparative advantages.



FEATURE ARTICLE

Let's get on with the new measurement framework

In a [recent post](#) on Brookings' Future Development blog, Homi Kharas and Andrew Rogerson consider the challenges of measuring development finance. In particular, they talk about the need to move beyond ODA to capture other forms of financing for development within "the big new landscape of public-private links". They take a close look at TOSSD—total official support for sustainable development—a proposal being developed by the OECD DAC to cover the full array of public financial support for sustainable development. This month's feature article by Brenda Killen, Deputy Director of the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate, continues the discussion.

A few years ago ("Once upon a time, long ago," as Homi Kharas and Andrew Rogerson state in their post), there was a strong call to end aid. Today, while aid opponents are still around, the call is more focused on fortifying and protecting aid to ensure that we are not diverting this scarce but precious anti-poverty resource to deal with other pressing challenges. ODA continues to be vital, in particular to the least developed countries. ODA can also play a key role in mobilising much-needed finance from the private sector, for example, through guarantees and other forms of blended finance. The OECD DAC continues to work with its members to ensure that this measure is refined, reviewed and redesigned to meet today's global development challenges.

I would argue, however, that it is not ODA that is synonymous with charity; it is, rather, the old development model – aligned with a North-South vision—that is outdated. ODA, used smartly, is synonymous with good business, and with business for good—business that leaves no one behind. The OECD *Development Co-operation Report 2014* looked at how to mobilise resources for sustainable development; the 2016 edition of that report focuses on the SDGs as business opportunities, demonstrating the key role that ODA needs to play in the implementation of the SDGs.

But what Homi and Andrew's article is really about is going beyond ODA to put in place a new measure for tracking the vast array of finance and effort that will be needed for the ambitious and global 2030 Agenda. They offer a convincing argument for the need for the new, complementary measure pioneered by the OECD DAC—currently referred to as total official support for sustainable development. We are the first to agree that this measure must take a developing country perspective, measure cross-border flows from all countries, and include contributions to global public goods needed to support development.

So where do we disagree? Certainly not on the difficulty of defining the precise terms of such a measure. Our experience with ODA—and our continuing work to review and redefine the rules that govern it—make this all too evident to us. Nor can we disagree on the elusiveness of going beyond direct mobilisation of funds to the more subtle canalisation effect of many development efforts—just where do you draw the line? That is why we are working with stakeholders across the board to come to a common understanding and agreement on terms and definitions of the new measure.

The real question seems to be one of who should manage this measure. And here, I can only paraphrase the authors: Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater. Nobody likes to be called

“globally unloved”, but then, doing a good job of measuring and monitoring—and of holding others to account—does not always make one popular. The OECD DAC has what it needs to do the job—and to do it objectively and robustly.

So why circumvent decades of experience? Why sidestep well-resourced technical capacity when choosing who should take on this task? Why not, rather—as the authors suggest—expand the group of countries working with the OECD, including through the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, for which, together with the UNDP, OECD provides the secretariat?

Finally, I must thank Homi and Andrew for introducing a bit of levity into these often burdensome debates. I couldn't agree more that TOSSD may be one of the most unfortunate acronyms on offer today. Either of the “wrappers” suggested by the authors would do just fine by us.

The important thing that we agree on is that we have the framework we need: the universally-agreed Sustainable Development Goals. And we have the will to make this work. Let's get on with it.

News in Brief



OECD Forum 2016, 31 May – 1 June

Development policy figures prominently at the OECD Forum 2016. Ministers, a wide range of policy makers, corporate leaders and NGO activists join the OECD in debating solutions to the global challenges facing the most vulnerable countries.

Follow live tweets via [@OECDlive](#) and [#OECDwk](#)

Find out more about the Forum at:
www.oecd.org/forum



Qatar becomes a DAC Participant

Qatar became a Participant in the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) on 22 April 2016. As a provider of substantial concessional finance for development co-operation and humanitarian assistance, Qatar has much to contribute to DAC discussions and work on these issues. Qatar's experience and perspectives will help strengthen the DAC's influence in shaping the international development debate. Qatar's Ambassador to France, Mr. Meshal Bin Hamad Al-Thani, noted that joining the DAC provides an “opportunity to ensure that development co-operation is even more effective”.



International Platform for Collaboration on Tax

A new Platform for Collaboration on Tax will formalise regular discussions among the OECD, IMF, UN and World Bank Group on the design and implementation of international tax standards. Building on the International Tax Dialogue, which expired at the end of 2015, the Platform will strengthen support to capacity-building, deliver jointly developed guidance, and share information and knowledge. This effort has been [welcomed by the G20 finance ministers](#) and will deliver 'toolkits' to help developing countries implement measures developed under the G20/OECD Base Erosion and Profit Shifting Project; the [first of these toolkits focuses on tax incentives](#). There will also be an important link to the new [BEPS implementation framework](#). Platform members will consult widely with developing countries, regional tax organisations, banks, donors, business and civil society.

For more information see the [Concept Note](#)



The SDGs and country-led evaluation

The DAC Evaluation Network agreed to place a new focus on support to capacity development for country-led evaluations at a recent meeting in Paris (26-27 April). They looked at how evaluation can best support country-led evaluation to inform implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Juha Uitto, Director of the Independent Evaluation Office of the Global Environment Facility, presented the technology used in a recent impact evaluation of the achievement of biodiversity objectives. Participants were informed of updates to the [Evaluation Plans Inventory](#) of members' evaluations plans; it complements the [DAC Evaluation Resource Centre](#), which contains over 3 000 evaluation reports in a searchable database.



A new DAC in a changing world

At the February 2016 OECD DAC High-Level Meeting, the committee agreed to make proposals and recommendations for enhancing its inclusiveness and representativeness, and maximising its relevance and impact so as to better support sustainable development efforts. To this end, DAC members supported the establishment of a high-level panel. This panel will elaborate proposals and recommendations for the committee.

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ODA in 2015 from OECD-DAC members:

USD 131.6 billion

This represents an increase of 6.9% over 2014 and 0.30% of DAC members' combined GNI.

For a detailed summary see <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/ODA-2015-detailed-summary.pdf>

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