



# THE 2015 ARAB-DAC DIALOGUE ON DEVELOPMENT

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## Strengthening the means of implementation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

This issues note provides background information on the framework of the global development agenda to be agreed by the United Nations in September 2015 and highlights issues of particular interest for Arab and DAC providers of development co-operation.

### *Key Issues for discussion:*

- What priority actions should Arab and DAC providers of development co-operation take to support implementation of the new sustainable development goals?
- How can DAC and Arab providers most effectively use the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation to get policies right and to discover new models and tools for partnership?
- What other initiatives supported by the OECD and/or Arab countries and institutions can play a valuable role in advancing implementation of the sustainable development goals?

### The emerging sustainable development goals

The new global development agenda to be agreed by the UN in September 2015 will shape development efforts for years to come. The agreement is expected to be based on the 17 goals and 169 targets proposed by the UN Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. The proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are much broader and more ambitious than the Millennium Development Goals. They include goals on poverty eradication, food security, health, education, gender, sustainable consumption and production, economic growth and employment, inequality, climate change and peaceful societies. There will also be a separate goal on means of implementation. The agenda will be universal: all countries, including developed nations, will be expected to achieve these SDGs and adjust policies accordingly.

### What are the means of implementation of the sustainable development goals?

In its outcome document, the UN Open Working Group highlighted five key areas for supporting implementation of the sustainable development goals:

- **Finance**, with actions on mobilising domestic resources, fulfilling commitments on official development assistance (ODA), mobilising additional resources for developing countries, supporting developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability as well as adopting and implementing investment promotion regimes for least developed countries.
- **Technology**, including by promoting knowledge sharing and technology development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion.
- **Capacity building**, focusing on enhancing international support for building capacity in developing countries to support their own national plans to implement the SDGs



- **Trade**, with the promotion of a multilateral trading system that is universal, rules-based, open, non discriminatory and equitable, the increase of exports from developing countries and the reduction of tariffs and quotas to improve market access to all least developed countries.
- **Systemic issues**, which cover actions to ensure policy and institutional coherence, establish multi stakeholder partnerships as well as improve data, monitoring and accountability.

Financing the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, maximising the quality and impact of development co-operation and forging multi-stakeholder partnerships will remain central issues for all providers of development co-operation. The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation can provide a platform to support implementation of the SDGs through ensuring high quality partnerships and monitoring progress made on attaining these new goals.

### What are the greatest challenges for implementing the sustainable development goals?

**The scale of the financing needs:** The report of the UN Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing assessed the financing needs to be of the order of several trillion US dollars globally per year. The financing needs for sustainable infrastructure alone are estimated to reach USD 5-7 trillion globally/year. The unmet need for credit by all micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries was USD 2.1-2.5 trillion/year in 2010. Over 670 million jobs will have to be created over the next 15 years to keep up with the growth of the global labour force, according to an estimate by the International Labor Organization. Meeting energy needs sustainably will require additional investments of about USD 2.4 trillion/ year until 2035.

**Co-ordination, coherence, effectiveness:** The breadth of the new global development agenda will require increased policy coherence both in developed and developing countries. Better and greater co ordination of efforts among different actors will be needed, primarily by strengthening global, multi stakeholder partnerships. The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation offers an important platform for inclusive dialogue on the coherence of policy and practice. This will facilitate collaboration among all development stakeholders to achieve 'best-impact' results on the ground in developing countries.

**Monitoring:** The monitoring of the proposed 169 SDG targets will be a challenge, given limited data availability and statistical capacities, particularly in developing countries. Statistical capacity enhancement in developing countries will be needed and data systems will have to be adjusted in developing and developed countries alike. The OECD is actively addressing these shortcomings through its support for the Paris21 initiative and is contributing to the greater efforts that the UN outlined in its recent report "A World that Counts".

The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation can also offer to the UN process its 'installed capacity' for monitoring, with concrete examples and lessons learned from its methodology and from its developing country led, multi-stakeholder consultation process that can help achieve the future SDGs. In particular, the Global Partnership can help focus on the quality and effectiveness of development co-operation. Its findings can inform on-going UN process such as the UNDESA's work on preparation of the Global Sustainable Development Report, the development co-operation accountability framework within the UN Development Co-operation Forum, as well as the monitoring and accountability work of the UN High-Level Political Forum.

**Policy Reforms:** Putting the agenda into practice will also require policy changes in areas such as access to technologies and trade. In order to meet the aim of environmentally sustainable development, an efficient technology transfer mechanism needs to be implemented, as called for in the 17th SDG. The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation is well placed to share, support and spread development success; it provides a platform for systematic sharing of policies to inspire replication, match-making and transfer of successful policies to developing country needs and contexts learning from examples from different regions and countries to learn what works and what doesn't.