

Unclassified**English - Or. English****17 March 2021****DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE****Summary Record of the 1086th DAC meeting – 19 January 2021 (Session 1) and
20 January 2021 (Session 2)**

The Draft Summary Record [DCD/DAC/M(2021)1] was approved at the 16 March 2021 DAC meeting with a minor modification to paragraph 23 and is now issued as FINAL. The Committee also agreed to declassify this final version.

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Summary Record of the 1086th DAC meeting – 19 January 2021 (Session 1) and 20 January 2021 (Session 2)

SESSION 1: Tuesday 19 January 2021

Item 1. Adoption of the Agenda and Approval of Draft Summary Record

1. The DAC Chair welcomed three new delegates (Australia, Germany, and the Slovak Republic) then invited the Committee to adopt the two-part draft agenda, which they did without modification. The Committee then considered the draft summary record from the DAC meeting held on 8–9 December 2020, which they approved without modification and agreed to its declassification.

Item 2. Briefing by the DCD Director and DAC Chair

2. The Chair and Director reported to the Committee on a number of developments, including through communications issued the previous day. The Chair announced that the next Tidewater has been set for the week of 14 June in Dublin in a hybrid setting. The Chair's Office and Secretariat are working to find an alternative date for the regular DAC meetings in June so as not to clash with Tidewater.

3. The Chair highlighted a number of important upcoming meetings, including an event on triangular co-operation with India (25 January); a series of events on private finance for sustainable development (1-4 February); a high-level roundtable on ending sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (2 February); the Arab–DAC Dialogue on Development (3 February); and the launch of the 2020 *Development Co-operation Report* (8 February). She commented that efforts will be scaled up to de-conflict meetings.

4. The Chair outlined her thoughts on a framework for taking forward work within the Committee in 2021. In this context, she drew Members' attention to a revised DAC roadmap for 2021 circulated the previous evening via email. Members are invited to provide written comments on this roadmap by close of business 25 January. She then invited Members' thoughts on whether a Senior Level or High Level Meeting should be convened by end 2021 or early 2022.

5. The Chair and Director then highlighted the themes of the upcoming (virtual) Arab–DAC Dialogue, which will focus on recovery from Covid-19 and how to facilitate vaccine access in developing countries. The Director highlighted the already-published and forthcoming policy papers on Covid-19, all available on the OECD Hub.

6. Members welcomed the strategic thinking behind the DAC roadmap and called for discussions and decisions within the Committee to develop common messaging and promote the DAC's work in advance of major international meetings. Members also shared their thematic priorities for the coming year and encouraged a sequencing of discussions on topics before arriving at decisions in a formal meeting.

Item 3. Follow-up to High Level Meeting and Forward Look to 2021

7. This session featured a number of speakers relating details on global processes of interest to the DAC, including the Minister Plenipotentiary from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (on G20 priorities); the Climate and Environment Director from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (on COP 26 priorities); the Head of Policy for the UK G7 Presidency 2021 (on G7 priorities); the Spanish Ambassador to the OECD (on Development Centre priorities for 2021); and the OECD Sherpa on OECD work supporting G7 and G20 processes.

8. Regarding G20 priorities, the Italian Minister Plenipotentiary highlighted:

- People – health and economic crisis, Covid-19 recovery
- Planet – essential to peace and security
- Prosperity – promoting a constructive discussion on health as a cross cutting issue

9. On sustainable development, the G20 will focus on two points: (i) innovative instruments for development finance to fill SDG funding gaps including through green, SDGs, and sustainability bonds and (ii) connectivity and territorial development, exploring the role of intermediary cities in localising the SDGs.

10. The United Kingdom highlighted that COP26 will be the first big test of the Paris Agreement. Despite Covid-19, good progress has been made. The COP26 priorities are threefold:

- Ambition in mitigation, adaptation, and finance
- Real world action on energy, electric vehicles, and nature
- Negotiations to resolve outstanding elements of the Paris Agreement

11. Through its G7 presidency, the United Kingdom will pursue the following objectives in the foreign and development track:

- Promoting openness: including an open societies charter, improving safety of journalists, freedom of religion and belief, and co-ordinated action on arbitrary detention
- Sustainable recovery: including gender, health, food security, climate, and new targets for girls' education
- Renewing global co-operation: including a renewed G7–Africa partnership

12. The Development Centre Governing Board Chair announced that the Centre is developing a new vision statement and that its priorities for 2021 are:

- more fiscal space, access to capital markets, debt, tax systems
- resilient production systems while leveraging quality infrastructure
- universal and gender social protection
- renewed international co-operation
- tackling the climate emergencies and a low-carbon transition

13. He referenced the 10 February Council session on *Development Work at the OECD: An Overview and Dialogue with the Chairs and Directors*, and he offered the Centre's expertise to enrich the work of the other components of the Development Cluster.

14. The OECD Sherpa highlighted the Organisation's work to support G7 and G20 processes, in particular on financing for development and Covid-19 recovery, which draws on contributions from across the OECD, including from DCD and DEV on the G20 development work. He commented that an extension and implementation of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) will be an important element of future reflections and that bringing non-Paris Club members closer will be key to success and will complement other G20 efforts to advance the Financing for Sustainable Development agenda and SDG alignment in a multi-year perspective.

15. In discussion, the Committee commented on the remarkable degree of consensus on the problems and the measures to be taken to address them, the convergence of themes in these international processes, and the relevance of DAC products and standards to support action. They encouraged future discussions on such international processes well in advance in order to support preparations. The Director highlighted

that G20 has been discussed in the DAC's External Relations Group and recommended continuing to raise these issues there.

Item 4. Summary of Conclusions

16. 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 5. Any Other Business

17. The representative from the Slovak Republic asked that the Secretariat circulate the timeline for reporting via the DAC advance questionnaire on preliminary reporting on main official development assistance (ODA) aggregates¹.

SESSION 2: Wednesday 20 January 2021

Item 6. Global Relations Strategy

18. The co-facilitators of the External Relations Group (formerly known as the Informal Group on Engagement) and the Secretariat presented an updated DAC Global Relations Strategy that incorporates Member and DAC Chair comments from formal and informal discussions over the past several months.

19. There was broad consensus among Members to approve the Strategy in its current form. Some Members encouraged more details on how the engagement with China and Africa would be taken forward in 2021 through this Strategy. Members suggested that the global meeting of development co-operation providers could be held on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the DAC in the fall of 2021 or be held back-to-back with a meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation in 2022.

20. In closing the session, the Chair concluded that the Committee had approved the Strategy on the understanding that greater details on engagement with Africa and China will be included in the 2021 Annual Outreach plan. The Committee asked that this be made explicit in the official summary record for this meeting. Now that the Strategy is approved and will be issued as final, the February DAC meeting will review the 2021 Annual Outreach Plan (taking on board notably the above-referenced issues surrounding engagement with Africa and China) as well as the list of Partners expected to be invited in 2021 to DAC and DAC subsidiary body meetings.

Item 7. Poverty and Inequalities Community of Practice

21. The DAC Chair introduced this item by noting that the COVID-19 pandemic had made discussions around poverty and inequalities more important than ever. She noted the potential scope of the work was vast and the DAC needed to identify clearly the added value of this new community of practice. The Director summarised the process so far and noted the importance of co-ordination across OECD, within DCD, and with external actors.

22. In response to the three guiding questions, members reiterated their support for this element of the 2021–22 PWB and welcomed an early discussion on the concept note. Members sought clarity and further discussion on a number of points. These include:

- the rationale for a hybrid structure – one closed to DAC members and one open to a broader set of stakeholders – and how that would work in practice; the option of open exchange that includes partner countries was raised.

¹ The Secretariat noted that this information is available at the bottom of the DAC roadmap.

- how to ensure a “deliberate overlap” with the DAC subsidiary bodies in an efficient way that avoids duplication.
- requests to revisit the focus in the concept note on SDGs 1 and 10, suggesting that a holistic approach to poverty and inequalities and the interface between poverty and inequality would be relevant across all SDGs; requests to clarify the approach to specific groups (disability, refugees, LGBTQI, etc.)
- request for reassurance that the Community of Practice (CoP), as an informal body, would not take on roles that should be in formal structures, e.g., forging shared DAC ambition, commitments, etc.
- several proposals for a broader scope that would include the broad set of issues covered in other parts of OECD (trade, tax, economic models, inclusive growth, inclusive societies, etc.) counterbalanced by some members cautioning against a broader scope.
- clarification on the proposed role of the co-chairs and the process for identifying co-chairs.
- clarification on how the CoP would work with UN structures and individual agencies dealing with similar issues and how the concept note has built on the solid foundations of the defunct DAC Network on Poverty Reduction (Povnet).

23. In relation to areas for focus, interventions supported a thematic discussion on the impact of COVID-19, as well as a request for concrete deliverables such as mapping, guidelines, work on a CRS statistical marker, and the decent work agenda. Germany informed the Committee that it would provide initial funding of up to EUR 100,000 for this Community of Practice in 2021.

24. The Secretariat responded on some of the points raised, noting that questions of scope, structures and ensuring an optimal complementarity with other DAC bodies would require further discussion once the Community of Practice has been convened.

Item 8. 2016 Council Recommendation on Managing the Risk of Corruption

25. The Secretariat provided Delegates with an update on the monitoring and reporting obligations resulting from the 2016 OECD Recommendation of the Council for Development Co-operation Actors on Managing the Risk of Corruption (‘the Recommendation’)². The DAC, jointly with the Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions (WGB), is responsible for reporting back to the Council by 2021 on the implementation, relevance and applicability of the Recommendation.

26. To meet these obligations, in 2018, the DAC developed a hybrid monitoring mechanism comprising the use of peer reviews, regular and dedicated meetings, and specific policy work. The WGB is also monitoring the Recommendation through the Phase 4 country evaluations of the Parties to the Anti-Bribery Convention since 2017. This combined monitoring work has provided valuable information on Adherent implementation of the Recommendation and emerging good practice examples, however, significant gaps remain in the baseline data required to meet the obligations of a report back to the Council.

27. Of the 44 Adherents to the Recommendation, 12 have been monitored through the DAC peer review process to date (likely 16 by the end of 2021 when the report is due to the Council), and 23 have been covered by the WGB peer review process, although with a focus on provisions 6–10 in relation to bribery only, as per WGB’s focus.

28. In order to address current data gaps and fulfil the DAC/WGB’s reporting obligations, the DCD and DAF Secretariats have jointly proposed to circulate a survey to all Adherents, covering provisions 1-10 of the Recommendation. On receipt of survey results, the Secretariat will convene four focused consultation meetings (one on each part of the Recommendation) so as to enable peer learning and

² [OECD/LEGAL/0431](https://www.oecd.org/legal/0431)

exchange on the insights emerging, including any good practice examples. Taken together, this process of data collation and consultation will deepen learning on implementation – including on good and innovative approaches to corruption risk management, and effective strategies to overcome implementation challenges – and will offer the opportunity to reflect on the continued relevance and applicability of the Recommendation as well as the need for any adjustments or amendments in light of the experience gained by Adherents.

29. Members broadly supported the monitoring activities proposed to fulfil the Committee’s obligations to the Council, while at the same time signalling the risks of survey fatigue, and the importance of adopting a streamlined approach to reduce the reporting burden on members. Members further invited the production of case studies to shed light on good practice approaches and counselled the Secretariat to make enhanced use of the DAC peer review process to deliver on the DAC’s monitoring responsibilities going forward.

Item 9. Summary of Conclusions

30. 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

31. The delegates from Germany and the United States intervened to request that the official summary record from the DAC High Level Meeting specify that the Communiqué is the negotiated outcome document and that the summary record reflects the discussion of the meeting proceedings.

32. The representative from the World Bank informed the DAC that part of her organisation’s response to the Covid-19 crisis includes an assessment with 100 partner governments of necessary steps to take in vaccine access.