

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

Summary Record of the 1139th DAC meeting held on 22 March 2024

The Draft Summary Record [DCD/DAC/M(2024)3] was approved under Item 1 of the Draft Annotated Agenda [DCD/DAC/A(2024)5], without modification, at the DAC meeting of 17 April 2024 and is now issued as FINAL.

The Committee also agreed to declassify this final version.

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

1. The DAC adopted the draft agenda as proposed. The Committee then approved the revised draft summary record from the January 2024 DAC meeting and agreed to its declassification. For the February 2024 draft summary record, one member requested a revision, which the Secretariat will integrate into a revised version for approval either via the written procedure or at the April DAC meeting. The DAC Chair commented that the revised summary record from the November 2023 High Level Meeting is still being reviewed and will be issued shortly for approval by Members.

Item 2. Briefing by the DCD Director and DAC Chair

2. The DAC Chair shared his views on the 1 March meeting of the OECD Network of National Focal Points for Policy Coherence and highlighted that the topic will likely return to the DAC at the April meeting to review the recommendation's implementation report. He referenced the 8 March Policymakers' Roundtable on Responsible Business Conduct and announced that this issue will also likely return to the DAC at the April meeting. The Chair then gave a readout of recent missions to Brussels and London and strongly encouraged DAC members to attend the upcoming Arab–DAC Dialogue (Kuwait City, 6–7 May 2024) at an appropriately high level. He also referred to the successful DAC Peer Review of Korea held earlier this week and strongly encouraged delegates to ensure their delegation's attendance at these very important meetings.

3. The Director informed delegates that the DAC Community Space has been updated with the latest information on voluntary contribution (VC) mobilisation for the PWB and that the Secretariat will issue the Committee Progress Report (covering the period January to December 2023) in time for discussion at the April DAC meeting, along with updates on the projected budget execution for 2024 and the funding status per Intermediate Output. This session will allow the Secretariat to brief members on workstreams that are anticipated to exceed their initial plans due to increased VCs and to address any queries that members may have.

4. The Director then shared her views on the outcomes from the Commission on the Status of Women held last week and G20 meetings in Brasilia (Development Working Group and Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty Task Force) being held this week.

5. In discussion, members congratulated Korea for its peer review and expressed their interest in rethinking the format, content, ambition, and the DAC's role in the Council's Regular Dialogue on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including to review relations between the OECD and UN. The DAC Chair and German hosts of Tidewater shared logistical details on the June event in Bonn, for which an agenda and invitations are expected to be issued next week.

Item 3. Development Co-operation Principles for Relevant / Effective Support to Media and the Information Environment

6. In a plenary session on 6 March 2024, the DAC Network on Governance (GOVNET) approved the Development Co-operation Principles for Relevant and Effective Support to Media and the Information Environment and agreed to transmit them to the DAC for approval and declassification. The six Principles set out what relevant and effective support to media and the information environment looks like.

7. The DAC thanked GOVNET and the Secretariat for the development of the Principles, emphasising the importance of preserving accurate information and their particular use in combatting rising challenges such as disinformation. The DAC also lauded and further encouraged the collaboration with the OECD Public Governance Directorate on this. Members expressed vocal support for the substance of the Principles and the process followed to develop them. On the substance, delegates highlighted the need to consider the broader information environment as relevant for development as well as the critical role public interest media play in politically constrained environments. Linked to this, several members welcomed the

attention paid to the safety of journalists. There was also appreciation for the short and actionable character of these Principles. The highly inclusive process followed to develop these Principles received accolades. This was an example of successful co-production by members, partners, and the Secretariat, reinforced by broad consultation processes.

8. The Committee approved the Principles and agreed to their declassification. GOVNET will undertake a lesson learned exercise on the Principles in their next plenary in November 2024. GOVNET members will also review implementation, based on voluntary member reporting every two years. The DAC Chair encouraged members to walk the talk on this issue and informed the Committee that UNESCO has invited him to present the Principles to their International Programme for the Development of Communication (IDPC) in November, at which time the IDPC might adopt them as well. He noted that Lithuania and the Netherlands are Bureau members to the IDPC and could be instrumental in supporting the approval and dissemination of the Principles in UNESCO. There is also keen interest from other international platforms such as the Media Freedom Coalition, the Team Europe Democracy Initiative, the Media Freedom Coalition, the Open Government Partnership and the International Partnership on Information and Democracy. The Chair also highlighted that 3 May is World Press Freedom Day and could perhaps be a good timing to soft-launch the Principles, in the margins of the OECD Meeting of the Council at Ministerial Level.

Item 4. Messaging for World Bank / IMF Spring Meetings

9. The Secretariat offered some key messages to support DAC members' participation at the World Bank / IMF Spring Meetings¹ scheduled to take place 17–19 April 2024 in Washington, DC. Discussions will centre around the broad theme “Vision to Impact”. The proposed messages revolved around effective multilateral action, financing for development, poverty and inequalities, fragility, gender equality, and the sustainable ocean economy. The representative from the World Bank provided additional context to the Meetings, previewing two public events that will take place (“Energising Africa: What will it take to achieve universal energy access?” and “Expanding Health Care Coverage for All: Rising to the Challenge”).

10. Members expressed their appreciation for the provided messages and echoed several points as critical, including effectiveness and the quality of development co-operation, reform of the multilateral development banks and the leveraging of other flows, domestic resource mobilisation and taxation reform, climate justice, the just transition, and education. Several members suggested that for future events the proposed messaging could be more selective and usefully focused on the most strategic issues.

Item 5. Network Update: INCAF

11. The vice-chair of the DAC International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) updated delegates on ongoing and upcoming work in the network, including on development in politically constrained environments. She made the case for investments in such complex situations and pointed to the usefulness of the nexus approach in framing responses of the co-operation community. She announced that the States of Fragility Report will be issued in February 2025, marking the 20th anniversary of the OECD's focus on fragility. For the first time, the report will focus on how fragile contexts perceive the fragility framework.

12. Members welcomed this update, appreciated the collaboration with GOVNET, lamented the drop in Official Development Assistance (ODA) to fragile contexts, and suggested that the climate dimension be further considered and that work be conducted on post-conflict reconstruction.

¹ See <https://www.worldbank.org/en/meetings/splash/spring/schedule>

Item 6. Monitoring Report on HDP Nexus Recommendation

13. Per OECD requirements, INCAF produced a report on the implementation, dissemination, and continued relevance of the DAC Recommendation on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus, which the Network approved in February, agreeing to its transmission to the DAC. In this session, the Secretariat presented the main findings from the report, which found that the Recommendation has played a crucial role in driving policy change, providing a powerful impetus for DAC members to incorporate the HDP nexus into operational and financing practices. Co-ordination across the nexus, however, remains uneven, and conflict prevention is still not prioritised, even if conflict sensitivity is increasingly understood and integrated into strategies.

14. The Committee thanked INCAF and the Secretariat for the report, underscored the challenges in operationalising the nexus and the need for more concrete advice, and recommended shifting focus onto country-level work as a priority.

15. In closing, the Chair announced that the DAC had agreed to the report's declassification.

Item 7. Update on MOPAN

16. The DAC Chair welcomed the Head of the MOPAN Secretariat to the DAC and affirmed the importance of MOPAN as a public good that promotes an effective, accountable, and inclusive multilateral system.

17. The Head of the MOPAN Secretariat provided an update on MOPAN's activities. She highlighted the challenges facing multilateral institutions, and the unique role of MOPAN in supporting the improved performance of the multilateral system. She informed the DAC of the new MOPAN vision and medium-term strategy, future plans for the Network, and welcomed the opportunity to discuss opportunities to strengthen collaboration between MOPAN, the DAC, and its subsidiary bodies.

18. During the discussion, Members congratulated MOPAN on the agreement of a new vision and strategy and stated their support for the Network. Members noted the opportunities for further collaboration between MOPAN and the DAC, including on topics such as principles for multilateral engagement; Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Sexual Harassment (PSEAH); locally led development; and the multilateral development finance workstream. MOPAN Members stated their support for the ongoing consultations regarding the future of the Network and encouraged other DAC Members to join MOPAN.

19. In response, the Head of MOPAN Secretariat thanked Members and affirmed her support for continuing with inclusive discussions on the future of MOPAN at the MOPAN Steering Committee. She welcomed the request from Members for MOPAN to return to the DAC on an annual basis, to collaborate further with the DAC and its subsidiary bodies, and to continue with MOPAN's outreach activities.

20. The DAC Chair thanked the Head of the MOPAN Secretariat and stated the importance of MOPAN Members deciding on the future of the Network at the MOPAN Steering Committee. In concluding the session, the DAC Chair stated his support for greater collaboration between MOPAN and the DAC and welcomed the Head of MOPAN Secretariat returning to the DAC in the future to provide an update on the Network.

Item 8. Programme of Work and Budget 2025–26

21. The DAC Vice Chairs provided an informational update on discussions within the Committee on the development of the 2025–26 Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) and the results of the survey. They shared the outcomes from recent informal discussions, including the consultation with the chairs and co-chairs of DAC formal and informal bodies.

22. They expressed their impression that the skeleton of the next PWB prepared by the Secretariat aligns with their approach. They are collaborating with the Secretariat to finetune the structure and cost the PWB. All comments from members and from co-chairs of DAC formal and informal bodies have been posted to the Community Space. Lastly, they announced that the informal session originally scheduled for 9 April will be pushed to either 18 or 19 April.

Item 9. Summary of Conclusions

23. The Secretariat read out an informal overview of the decisions, action points, and next steps emerging from the meeting proceedings. The Secretariat later circulated this overview to the Committee in electronic form.

Item 10. Any Other Business

24. In her capacity as co-facilitator for the DAC Working Party on Development Finance Statistics (WP-STAT), the delegate from Ireland reported to the DAC on the outcomes from the WP-STAT plenary the previous week. Discussions centred on in-donor refugee costs, the joint WP-STAT/ENVIRONET work on biodiversity, transparency commitments in the DAC declaration on climate, private sector instruments, the untying ODA recommendation, the World Bank's hybrid capital instruments, and the International Forum on Total Official Support for Sustainable Development.

25. The Greek delegate intervened to highlight a 15 February event on reconstruction of Ukraine² and to preview an ocean conference to be held in Athens on 16–17 April, with a youth leadership summit preceding the main event on 15 April³. She also intervened in her capacity as co-facilitator of the DAC External Relations Group (ERG) to share the outcomes from the ERG meeting on 12 March 2024, where participants discussed the Arab–DAC Dialogue, the UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC) to be held in Kigali in June, and the LAC Regional Programme meeting in July. She also informed the Committee that Croatia and Thailand have expressed their interest in DAC Participant status and that the next ERG meeting will be held on 24 May 2024.

26. In her capacity as co-facilitator for the DAC Network on Governance (GOVNET), the delegate from the United States reported to the DAC on the outcomes from the GOVNET meetings held on 6–7 March 2024. The meeting highlight was the approval of the media principles (see item 3 above). Participants also discussed follow up on the analysis of ODA per regime type as well as priorities for the next PWB including on development in politically constrained environments and digital technologies. The next GOVNET plenary is scheduled for 20–22 November 2024.

27. The delegate from France briefed the Committee about the Coal Transition Accelerator Initiative⁴. In support of this initiative, the OECD intends to develop guidance, in advance of COP29, for financial institutions on financing the transition towards decarbonisation. The ambition is that Council adopts the guidance and that OECD committees, including the DAC, are involved in its development. The French delegate also commented that the rules surrounding the reporting of in-donor refugee costs are still quite recent and recommended therefore that members be cautious.

28. The DCD Deputy Director announced that on Monday, 25 March 2024, the Secretariat would convene the Fifth Thematic Dialogue of the Community of Practice on Poverty and Inequalities on the topic “Scaling up impact and synergies for poverty and inequality reduction: bilateral and multilateral co-operation”. She added that on Tuesday, 26 March 2024, the Anti-Corruption Task Team will hold a briefing session.

² <https://hellenicaid.mfa.gr/en/conference-on-the-reconstruction-of-ukraine-february-15-2024/>

³ <https://www.ouroecean2024.gov.gr/about-the-9th-our-ocean-conference/>

⁴ <https://www.elysee.fr/admin/upload/default/0001/15/8e84aa8bb061ad20cfbe8df4fdc973a1a604274d.pdf>