

**Unclassified****English text only****13 May 2024****DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE  
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE****Summary by the Co-chairs from the 2024 Arab-DAC Dialogue****A Call to Action for More and Better Development Co-operation**

This document represents the summary from the 2024 Arab-DAC Dialogue, held in Kuwait City on 6-7 May 2024, issued jointly by the DAC Chair and the Chair of the Arab Coordination Group.

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# The 2024 Arab-DAC Dialogue on Development

Kuwait City, 6-7 May 2024

## Summary by the Co-Chairs of the Meeting

### A Call to Action for More and Better Development Co-operation

The 2024 Arab-DAC Dialogue gathered members of the Arab Coordination Group (ACG) and the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) in Kuwait on 6 and 7 May to discuss (1) Financing for Sustainable Development in a Changing Context and (2) Working Together for Better Results and Partnerships. It also benefitted from the participation of international experts and featured provocative panel and plenary discussions where participants converged around the importance of a dual focus on quantity and quality of all types of development co-operation to deliver long-lasting development results for people and planet.

The dialogue took place at a time when complex global challenges put new tests on our efforts to improve the relevance and impact of development co-operation to achieve our shared goals of sustainable development for all. Within this context, the relevance of strategic policy debate among Arab providers and DAC members was considered essential: forging effective partnerships and building trust with our partners to accelerate action towards our ambitious, shared policy priorities to fight poverty and inequalities and focus on those most left behind and in greatest need of our support.

Throughout discussions, a shared commitment of our two constituencies to the 2030 Agenda and a willingness to join forces in working together in order to influence global and country action together were palpable. The frankness of the discussions helped to challenge ourselves, to rethink and recalibrate how we deliver in support of our partners in diverse contexts. This is vital as we face tough choices and trade-offs amid broadening and widening vulnerabilities related to diverse issues, including climate, debt, youth unemployment, and others. Challenging questions also arose around how to promote inclusive country ownership and embed development effectiveness across everything we do.

We identified a number of practical ways forward to deepen our collaboration and align our priorities further to improve and scale up tested solutions and learn from our insights, including as shareholders of multilateral organisations. We also agreed to jointly influence the preparations and outcomes of upcoming global milestones on issues of common interest, including the Summit of the Future, COP-29, and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in 2025.

We discussed the need to use all means to mobilise additional financing and use it better, including by using evidence to inform ongoing learning and accountability to drive greater

effectiveness, and applying using good practice principles across all our efforts to blend and mobilise additional private finance. We also recognized the need to stay laser-focused on accelerating positive impacts of our climate-related efforts, looking beyond mobilization of finance to enhance tangible results on the ground.

Our discussions pointed to the need for a greater common understanding and renewed ambition around development effectiveness, through our bilateral and multilateral engagements. This includes matching our ambitions with concrete actions to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our development cooperation by charting new pathways and partnerships to promote local ownership, capacity and agency in accountability processes, notably on procurement procedures and on untying aid and on strengthening development co-operation systems and the ability to deliver positive outcomes.

Participants reiterated the benefits of using triangular co-operation more, as a modality which can help to strengthen trust among partners. Discussions also focused on the need to promote more evidence-based dialogue at country level with partner country governments and other local actors, noting that we can use the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC) and its ongoing monitoring round more proactively as an important dialogue platform and source of information for this, alongside other resources.

Participants welcomed the idea of a Strategic Arab-DAC Partnership on Blended Finance for Sustainable Development to build capacity and strengthen systems to operationalise, adapt and optimize existing blended finance instruments and bonds to scale up more development financing and ensure their development additionality. This mutual learning endeavour can build on the long-standing experience with blended and Islamic finance.

In addition, participants were open to explore other time-bound practical collaboration on specific areas of interest, which could include youth unemployment, results monitoring and evaluation, triangular co-operation, and partnerships for effective development co-operation amongst others.

Furthermore, all members of the Arab Coordination Group are invited to continue engaging actively in DAC subsidiary bodies and communities of practices to cooperate with OECD on the full array of topics covered, and to continue contributing more comprehensive data on development financing.

All these activities will be followed up on with the support of the Secretariats to ensure practical collaboration, including through voluntary support.

The Dialogue was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Bader M. Alsaad, Director General and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and Chair of the Arab Coordination Group, and Mr. Carsten Staur, Chair of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD-DAC). The event was attended by the members of the Arab Coordination Group (ACG) and the OECD-DAC as well as international experts, and was supported by the ACG Secretariat at the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD)

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