Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

DCD/DAC/STAT(2026)7

Unclassified **English - Or. English**

24 February 2026

Development Co-operation Directorate
Development Assistance Committee

DAC Working Party on Development Finance Statistics

Ways forward to pursue exploratory work on Catalysation

9-11 March 2026 meeting of the DAC Working Party on development finance statistics

This document presents the consolidated outcomes of the OECD Secretariat's research work on private finance catalysation.

It reflects progress achieved through member feedback and collaboration within the MDB–OECD DAC Working Group on Mobilisation, including convergence on a shared conceptual framework, alignment on a typology of catalytic interventions, and an update on the possible three 'pathways' forward for future research work.

This document is presented for DISCUSSION under item 4 of the draft annotated agenda [DCD/DAC/STAT/A(2026)1].

Callum Thomas (Callum.Thomas@oecd.org)
Cécile Sangaré (Cecile.Sangare@oecd.org)
Valérie Gaveau (Valerie.Gaveau@oecd.org)

JT03581537

This document, as well as any data and map included herein, are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

Ways forward to pursue exploratory work on Catalysation

Broader policy context

With the growing financing gap for implementing the SDGs, mobilising private finance towards sustainable development through blended finance interventions has become a strategic objective in development co-operation and climate action policies. In order to monitor progress in this area, the DAC Working Party on development finance statistics (WP-STAT) for more than a decade has been measuring mobilised private finance by official development finance interventions, including for climate action (see the online OECD Dashboard on Mobilisation).

As part of a broader basket of mobilisation operations, the importance of catalytic development finance interventions has become more pronounced as public budgets tighten and concessional resources come under increasing strain.

Introduction

1. While catalytic development finance interventions are not new, their importance has become more pronounced as public budgets tighten and concessional resources come under increasing strain. In this context, catalysation plays a critical role in maximising the impact of scarce public finance by strengthening enabling environments and unlocking private investment at scale, beyond what transaction-level de-risking instruments alone can achieve. This distinction is particularly relevant for the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance, where the USD 1.3 trillion ambition goes beyond traditional mobilisation metrics to encompass broader systemic drivers of private investment. Recognising catalytic interventions within the DAC statistical system is also well aligned with the objectives of the ongoing DAC review, as it reflects the evolving role of development finance in mobilising private capital at scale.

2. This note aims to update members on the status of work by the Secretariat on catalysation, including efforts to develop a definition and taxonomy of catalytic interventions. It further proposes an approach for members' consideration to advance this work and to update the Reporting Directives in order to enable the tracking in DAC statistics of interventions extended with the intent to catalyse private finance. The note also seeks to inform discussions on catalysation at the upcoming meetings of the MDB–OECD DAC Working Group on Mobilisation ("the Working Group") on 6 March and the WP-STAT on 9–11 March 2026.

3. **Section 1** summarises the state of discussions among members and participants of the Working Group on the topic of catalysation. **Section 2** presents a possible conceptual framework on catalysation and describes how it has been aligned with the MDBs' approach through the Working Group to improve

consistency across both systems. **Section 3** outlines three proposed pathways to move the WP-STAT's initial research on catalysation to a next stage.

4. **With a view to maintaining WP-STAT engagement on this topic and advancing work on catalysation, members are invited to consider and share views on the proposals in this document related to:**

- **Implementing in the Reporting Directives (Chapter 2) the now-aligned conceptual framework for catalysation, including the definition and typology of catalytic interventions. (See Section 2.)**
- **The proposed (non-exclusive) pathways for engaging with catalysation (Section 3),** aimed at striking a feasible and appropriate balance between consolidating learning, maintaining alignment with parallel MDB efforts, and advancing the potential operationalisation of private finance catalysation within DAC statistics. In practice, this would entail:
  - Implementing in 2027 (for reporting on 2026 flows) the new taxonomy of catalytic interventions as a dedicated CRS data item, enabling the reporting and tracking of interventions intended to catalyse private sector investment without necessary attached monetary amounts (taxonomy-based tracking). (See Paragraph 25.)
  - Pursuing further research on catalysation through new qualitative evidence and case studies, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders (e.g. OECD Directorates on Environment and Financial affairs, MDBs, DFIs, CSOs, and others). (See Paragraph 34.)
  - Launching a voluntary two-year Joint MDB-OECD Pilot programme on catalysation, to adequately anticipate and address future Members' needs. (See Paragraph 42.)

1. Summary of discussions and comments

5. This section summarises the key points raised by members on the topic of catalysation at and following the October 2025 WP-STAT meeting, reflecting areas of priority, recurring concerns, and guidance offered by members that has shaped the latest work.

6. **Broad support for continued catalysation research work.** Through both meetings, participants welcomed the structured and collaborative approach taken by the OECD and MDB Secretariats in co-developing work on catalysation. Members acknowledged:

- The value of aligning definitions and emerging typologies.
- The usefulness of expert calls for advancing technical clarity.
- The importance of maintaining close MDB–OECD coordination.
- Several members explicitly welcomed continued analytical work and supported piloting in a voluntary setting to consolidate learning prior to any formal implementation.

7. **Continued caution towards the quantification of monetary estimates.** A recurring theme in both meetings was the need for careful consideration before quantifying catalysation in monetary terms:

- Concerns were raised about potential inflation of figures, credibility of DAC statistics, and reputational implications if catalysation were introduced prematurely as an official indicator.
  - Attribution challenges were repeatedly highlighted, including the difficulty of establishing credible causal links between upstream interventions and downstream private investment.

  - One member underlined that emphasising 'intent' over demonstrable causality risks over-attribution and therefore strengthens the case for avoiding premature quantitative measures.
  - Members also warned of double counting risks.
  - One member reiterated its strong concern that adding quantitative catalysation to CRS could undermine the credibility of DAC statistics and argued that methodological and ODA policy issues (including the ongoing DAC review) should be resolved before considering quantitative inclusion in DAC reporting.
- Several members noted institutional and resource constraints, emphasising the need to keep reporting burdens manageable. One member highlighted the technical complexity and workload for national reporting officers, stressing that any pilot should remain voluntary, simple, and that results remain non-public unless members collectively decide otherwise.
- There was broad agreement that work on catalysation should remain methodological and exploratory at this stage, rather than be integrated immediately into the DAC statistical system. One member asked the Secretariat to prioritise concrete strategies to mitigate incentive distortions and to assess whether sufficient reporting capacity exists across members before advancing further.

8. **Strong support for case studies and evidence-building.** There was broad agreement that further work should build on practical evidence:

- Members supported expanding and refining case studies [see Annex 1 in [DCD/DAC/STAT(2025)51] to ground conceptual discussions in real examples.
  - One member recommended drawing further on work by MDBs and the World Bank ("private capital enabled" concept) to test robustness of the approach.
  - Several members called for additional case studies (beyond the four presented at the October 2025 WP-STAT Meeting), particularly:
    - Advisory/technical assistance (TA) cases,
    - Environment Social and Governance-related catalytic interventions,
    - Policy-based operations, similar to the AFD's DPL case [see Annex 1, case study 1 in [DCD/DAC/STAT(2025)51].
- Participants emphasised that case studies should strengthen methodological clarity before any move toward formal tracking.
- There was broad recognition that MDB experience could be leveraged to deepen understanding of catalytic effects prior to statistical integration. Several members encouraged the Secretariat to incorporate the MDB causality gradient and the MDB distinction between policy/advisory and investment categories when refining case study templates and analytical guidance.

9. **Support for taxonomy-based tracking as a pragmatic next step.** Several Members explicitly supported progressing with taxonomy-based tracking.

- Members expressed support for tracking catalytic activities as a useful intermediate step (e.g. to indicate the volume of resources allocated by official providers for catalytic purposes, without quantifying the catalysation effect). In operational terms, this could entail providers flagging – at the project level – interventions that were designed with explicit catalytic intent and expected downstream impacts. Over time, institutions could report the share of their portfolio deemed catalytic, thereby enhancing transparency without assigning monetary values or estimating mobilised private finance.

- The taxonomy was viewed as a means of improving visibility while avoiding risks associated with monetary aggregation. Members favoured close alignment with – if not adoption of – the MDB taxonomy to maximise coherence and minimise duplication of effort.
- At the same time, several members stressed that taxonomy-tagging must be accompanied by clear operational safeguards to avoid undue broadening that could inadvertently imply quantitative claims.

10. **Future work consideration**. Participants emphasised that any further work on catalysation must be grounded in high levels of transparency and coherence, while keeping in mind institutional constraints and to avoid excessive reporting burden. Key, recurring asks from members that should guide next steps include:

- Prioritising additional and diversified case studies before any quantitative roll-out.
- Ensuring that any quantification remains strictly voluntary, experimental and non-binding, with pilot results kept for learning and research purposes.
- Designing explicit safeguards to minimise double counting, over-inflation and perverse incentives.
- Anchoring methodological experimentation, where possible, in established operational approaches (e.g. the World Bank Group's "private capital enabled" concept and the MDB causality gradient) to enhance comparability and credibility.

2. Joint OECD – MDB conceptual framework for Catalysation

11. Drawing on expert calls, informal hands-on sessions and continued member feedback, the work on a conceptual framework has converged around three main outcomes. First, the proposed **definition of catalysation** remains broadly aligned with the MDB definition. Second, full alignment has been achieved on a common **typology of catalytic interventions.** Third, while this conceptual convergence represents a significant milestone for advancing exploratory work within the WP-STAT, it does not imply agreement on quantification and integration into DAC statistics. Important questions remain for future reflection regarding whether, when and how catalysation should be measured in practice.

12. A clear definition and typology are necessary to first *qualify* what constitutes a catalytic intervention and safeguard statistical credibility, a major concern consistently raised by members in survey findings and consultations. Establishing a shared framework enables structured qualitative tracking and institutional learning, ensuring that catalytic interventions are identified consistently even when no monetary values are attached. It also upholds conceptual alignment with the MDBs, ensuring that both communities maintain coherence and comparability in their approaches, and preventing divergence should one system advance its methodological work more rapidly than the other.

2.1 Definition of Catalysation

13. A working definition of catalysation was first developed in the November 2024 WP-STAT Workshop [see DCD/DAC/STAT(2024)37], revised cautiously to avoid a strict time measurement in the March 2025 WP-STAT Workshop paper [see DCD/DAC/STAT(2025)23], and then finally updated in the October 2025 WP-STAT Workshop to further align with the MDB definition to include a three-year time boundary (while still caveating that flexibility remains for projects in frontier or nascent markets where catalytic effects may take longer to materialise), along with avoiding a negative framing of causality i.e.

recognising that causal links in catalysation do exist but are more complex and harder to evidence than for mobilisation [see DCD/DAC/STAT(2025)51].

14. The evolution of definitions as seen above was a result from insights gathered from a 'Capturing Catalytic Interventions' survey[1], further research on the topic in the form of the WP-STAT & CoP-PF4SD paper *'The Role of Catalytic Technical Assistance in Unlocking Private Sector Capital,'*[2] along with members' feedback and discussions in the joint Working Group, helping to shape a revised formulation over time.

OECD definition:

15. At their October 2025 WP-STAT meeting, members agreed to refine the DAC working definition of Catalysation to better align with the MDBs as follows:

> "Private finance catalysation is defined as the indirect and downstream private investments enabled by public interventions, generally within a maximum period of three years after the completion of a project (in some cases, e.g. for projects in nascent or frontier markets, the catalytic effects may however take longer to materialise). Catalytic activities are conducted by official development actors with the intent to create an enabling environment conducive to private investment. For such activities, a tangible causal link with the resulting private investments is more difficult to be established."

16. For reference, the MDB definition at the time of writing for this paper was as follows:

MDB Definition:

> *Catalyzation estimates the private financing made available because of an MDB financed or advisory activity. The financing is made available after the MDB-financed or advisory activities are partially or fully complete*

2.2 Typology of catalytic interventions

17. Building on exchanges within the joint Working Group – during expert calls and Plenary meetings – the initial typology of catalytic interventions developed by the Secretariat and presented at the March 2025 WP-STAT workshop on Mobilisation [see DCD/DAC/STAT(2025)23] has evolved to better align with the emerging one developed in the context of the MDB Task Force (see Figure 1). As exchanges progressed, and following the October 2025 WP-STAT meeting [see DCD/DAC/STAT(2025)51], divergence between the two taxonomies on Catalysation had reduced, leading participants of the Working Group to conclude that both frameworks could implement a common classification of catalytic interventions. The Secretariat has, therefore, updated its emerging typology to fully align with the MDB – with still adjusted wording to fit the broader scope of DAC statistics in terms of official providers (MDBs only vs. official providers – see Table 1). In specific, compared to the previous version presented to members in October 2025, the revised version presented in Figure 1 differs as follows:

- The previous version of the OECD typology [see DCD/DAC/STAT(2025)51], was organised between *policy-related* and *project-related* interventions, whereas the MDB taxonomy splits first into Advisory/Policy-Based and Investment-Based categories. Alignment therefore required restructuring the OECD taxonomy to reflect this *advisory* vs. *investment* logic rather than a *policy* vs. *project* lens.
- The earlier OECD version differentiated macro-level financial support and macro-level technical assistance but did not explicitly distinguish between *funded* and *unfunded* advisory interventions. The MDB taxonomy formalises this distinction (with funded macro/micro

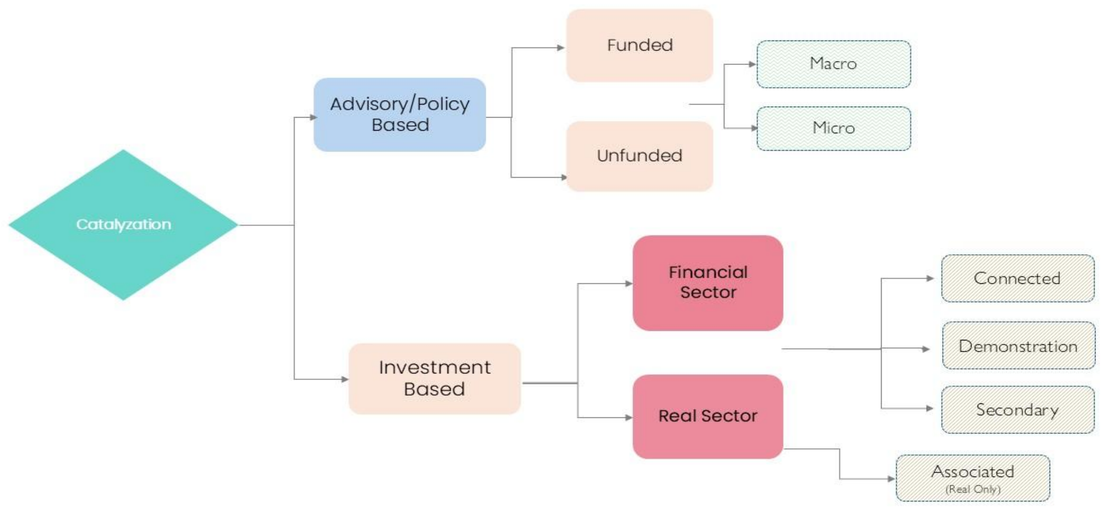
[1] See survey findings presented in the July 2025 joint Working Group Plenary & WP-STAT workshop here DCD/DAC/STAT(2025)37.

[2] See DCD/DAC/STAT(2025)29.

advisory and unfunded advisory), requiring the OECD structure to clarify how unfunded advisory activities are treated within DAC reporting.

- While Micro-TA had been incorporated into the OECD project-related category, the MDB taxonomy embeds *micro* interventions systematically under Advisory (funded macro vs. funded micro). Alignment required repositioning micro-level activities conceptually, rather than treating them primarily as a project-level sub-category.
- The OECD typology did not differentiate catalytic effects by economic area, however the MDB taxonomy introduces a split between Financial Sector and Real Sector catalysation. This distinction will be captured in providers' reporting to the OECD through the CRS purpose code.
- The previous OECD typology distinguished between *related downstream investments* (within the same project) and *follow-on investments* (beyond the project). The MDB taxonomy instead uses catalytic categories [by causality strength – which was mapped against previous OECD sub-categories, [see DCD/DAC/STAT(2025)51] such as Connected, Demonstration, Secondary, and Associated (applicable to real-sector only investments). Alignment therefore required mapping the OECD categories onto the MDB causality-gradient logic.

Figure 1. MDB emerging typology of catalytic interventions



Source: MDB Task Force Secretariat & Presentations at the expert calls and Plenary meetings for the Joint Working Group

18. Figure 1 illustrates the MDB emerging typology for capturing catalytic interventions, structured around two primary categories through which public interventions can enable downstream private investment:

- **Advisory and policy-based interventions**, capturing catalytic effects arising from technical assistance, policy reforms, institutional strengthening, and capacity-building activities. This category is further differentiated by:
  - *Funded*: advisory interventions accompanied by financial support intended to implement or incentivise reforms (e.g. development policy financing, budget support, funded reform programmes).

  - *Unfunded*: which covers advisory, policy dialogue or technical assistance activities not accompanied by a dedicated financial instrument/investment.
  - Each may operate at
    - Macro level (economy- or sector-wide reforms), or
    - Micro level (firm-, institution-, or project-specific constraints).
- **Investment-based interventions**, capturing the catalytic effects of investment-based interventions occurring in the financial sector (e.g. using intermediaries or instruments such guarantees, credit lines, equities, etc.) or in the real-economy sectors (infrastructure, firms, or productive assets), differentiated by:
  - *Associated*: complementary capital expenditures necessary for real-sector project viability – such as auxiliary infrastructure or connecting assets – that would not be undertaken absent the initial supported investment.
  - *Connected*: subsequent phases, tranches or closely linked transactions that are able to proceed because the initial intervention establishes the financial, operational or risk conditions required for planned follow-on investments.
  - *Demonstration*: ‘copycat’ or replication effects in which the initial supported transaction provides a verified proof-of-concept that reduces perceived market risks, thereby prompting comparable investments in the same market, sector or instrument class further downstream.
  - *Secondary*: downstream investments enabled indirectly through intermediaries, structured vehicles or layered financing arrangements channelled via funds, credit lines, risk-sharing facilities or other financial structures beyond the original transaction.

19. The Secretariat is of the view that this structure has the advantage of strengthening the analytical logic of the harmonised taxonomy by clarifying:

- **How catalysation originates**, through a distinction between advisory and investment-based activities.
- **Where and at what level it operates**, using macro/micro and financial/real economy distinctions.
- **How catalytic effects materialise downstream**, through dedicated catalytic sub-categories.

20. In Table 1, the Secretariat presents in detail what could be a common MDB-OECD taxonomy of catalytic interventions. It is organised by type category, sub-category, CRS code, description and sample products, providing a structured framework for classifying catalytic activities.

Table 1. Proposed CRS taxonomy of catalytic interventions

Category	Sub-category	CRS code	Description	Sample Products
Policy / Advisory based	Funded	1	Advisory or policy-oriented interventions accompanied by funding that supports, incentivises or implements the recommended policy, regulatory or institutional reforms.	- Development Policy Financing - Policy-based Lending
	Unfunded-macro	2	Unfunded[1] advisory and technical assistance activities targeting economy-wide, sectoral or multi-recipient reforms to improve enabling conditions and unlock financing across a sector or economy.	- Technical assistance - Business environment reform - Project preparation - Entrepreneurial support - SME credit facilitation - ESG standards/training
	Unfunded-micro	3	Unfunded advisory and technical assistance activities targeting a single firm or a small group of firms, aimed at enabling financing for a specific project or set of closely related investments.	- Technical assistance - Business environment reform - Project preparation - Entrepreneurial support - SME credit facilitation - ESG standards/training
Investment based	Associated	4	Additional investments in real-economy sectors required to make a project viable and that would not occur without the official investment in such sectors.	An investment in a pipeline to connect a refinery supported by an official provider to a port
	Connected	5	Follow-on phases, tranches or issuances within a multi-phase investment programme in which official support in the initial phase enables subsequent phases to proceed.	Planned series of bond offerings Multi-phase infra project
	Demonstration	6	Follow-on investments that replicate or are inspired by a transaction previously supported by official development finance intervention, where the initial investment demonstrates viability and spurs similar deals.	Other similar green bonds after a first in a market Other utility-scale solar farms built after the first one.
	Secondary	7	Cases where an official provider invests in or supports a financial structure, intermediary or instrument that subsequently enables downstream investments and attracts additional investors. (Excludes second-level mobilisation through funds).	Manufacturing plant built using energy from a power plant having benefited from an official development intervention.

[1]: Although the term “unfunded” is not standard WP-STAT terminology, its use here aligns with common practice in the banking and accounting sectors to distinguish advisory activities that do not involve a direct financial outlay from those accompanied by funding.

21. At the October 2025 WP-STAT meeting, the Secretariat was in the view that implementing a taxonomy of catalytic interventions in the DAC statistical system would enable tracking those activities, without attaching monetary estimates. Identifying activities conducted with the intent to catalyse private finance would increase their understanding and visibility and, over time, allow for analysing patterns, such as where catalytic interventions are most frequently deployed, in which sectors or country contexts, and by which types of development finance providers.

22. In practice, this would require introducing a new CRS field for capturing the qualitative characteristics of providers’ catalytic interventions in a structured and comparable manner, using the proposed taxonomy presented in Table 1.

23. Members did note during the October WP-STAT meeting [see DCD/DAC/STAT(2025)51] that, while taxonomy-based tracking would improve visibility of catalytic activities, its usefulness is constrained in the absence of harmonised indicators on downstream impact. Without common parameters, such as agreed time boundaries, causal assumptions, or data evidence and sources, there is a risk that a wide range of activities could be labelled as “catalytic”, reducing analytical clarity and comparability across providers. Nevertheless, taxonomy-based tracking offers a low-risk and practical intermediate step: it

improves recognition of catalytic efforts, builds a structured qualitative evidence base, and lays the groundwork for future methodological development.

24. It is important to note that while alignment has been achieved at the level of a shared conceptual taxonomy of catalytic interventions, discussions from the Working Group reaffirmed that conceptual alignment does not entail agreement on quantification. Members expressed differing views on whether, when, and how catalysation should be quantified, reflecting concerns around attribution, double counting, political interpretation, and reporting burden. Consequently, the purpose of implementing the taxonomy in the CRS would be limited to tracking the qualitative aspects of providers' catalytic interventions for reporting to the CRS.

25. **Members are invited to consider:**

- **the inclusion in Chapter 4 of the Reporting Directives [see DCD/DAC(2024)40] of the concept of Catalysation, notably the definition (paragraph 15) and related taxonomy (paragraph 18).**
- **the implementation of the taxonomy of catalytic interventions in the CRS, reportable – on a voluntary basis – through a new CRS field 'Catalysation' (separate from mobilisation). If approved, this field will be introduced and become effective in 2026 for reporting on 2025 flows.**

3. The three (non-exclusive) pathways moving forward

26. At the October 2025 WP-STAT Workshop [see DCD/DAC/STAT(2025)51], the Secretariat presented for discussion three potential pathways for advancing work on catalysation, with each reflecting different levels of methodological ambition and institutional readiness, while importantly remaining non-exclusive. These pathways included:

- **Research work building on evidence and case studies**: Invite institutions to share case studies for review and analysis of their downstream impacts to better understand what truly makes an intervention catalytic, with a view to build evidence and best practice guidance.
- **Taxonomy-based tracking: Use the OECD proposed taxonomy** to track and classify catalytic activities in members' CRS reporting, focusing on qualitative features of activities concerned, geographic and sector allocations etc. rather than assigning a monetary catalysation value at this stage. To collect this information, a new CRS item would be introduced to capture the specific characteristics of activities established with the intent to catalyse downstream private finance for development as defined in the proposed taxonomy.
- **Joint MDB-OECD Pilot programme for testing approaches to quantify the catalytic impact**: Allow providers to report ex-ante estimates and ex-post validations of catalysation on a pilot and voluntary bases (with methodological notes). Results from this pilot would be shared for WP-STAT peer learning and continued collaboration with the MDBs, and not for publication.

27. This section provides an update on the three tracks. Moving forward on catalysation as suggested above would help inform decisions in several ongoing international processes examining this issue (DAC review process, NCQG, etc.), while also taking into account the reputational risks associated with potentially inflated figures that could result from efforts to quantify the actual impact. The Secretariat is in the view that the WP-STAT, as a statistical norm-setter, is best positioned to undertake such work, in collaboration with experts from the MDB/DFI and climate communities.

3.1 Research work building on qualitative evidence and case studies

28. During the October WP-STAT meeting and Working Group Plenary, there was strong support for continuing to ground future work on catalysation in qualitative evidence, including structured case studies. This builds on important insights that were gathered from the *'Capturing Catalytic Interventions'* survey and presented during the July 2 Plenary [see DCD/DAC/STAT(2025)37], including four comprehensive case studies matching to each sub-category, which included AFD's Just Energy Transition (JET-P) Development Policy Loan to South Africa's government *(Macro-level financial support),* IFC-SECO's Ukrainian Crop Receipt Program *(Macro-level technical assistance)*, PIDG's project grant to the Kenyan PPP Directorate *(Project-related catalytic intervention - Intended to catalyse related downstream)*, and IDB's investment guarantees in Ecuador's social housing financing sector *(Project-related catalytic intervention – Intended to catalyse follow-on investments beyond the project itself).*

29. These case studies, which were developed in close collaboration with the joint Working Group, provided concrete examples of how development finance providers currently identify, design and classify catalytic interventions in practice. Each of the four case studies demonstrated strong catalytic intent, reinforcing intentionality as a central criterion for identifying catalysation. They also showed that quantification methods for measuring catalytic impacts were more prominent in MDB-led case studies, while highlighting that qualitative indicators likewise play a key role in understanding the full range of catalytic effects.

30. Further work on this would require inviting providers (members, DFIs and MDBs) to continue sharing documentation on specific cases of catalytic interventions for review and analysis of their downstream impacts to better understand what truly makes an intervention catalytic and what additional indicators - beyond quantification - could be considered. This option would allow members to document catalytic impact without the risks associated with premature quantification and provides an important learning function for peer-learning opportunities.

31. Building on this qualitative evidence base, members noted that further exploratory work on catalysation would benefit from a more structured institutional setting to consolidate learning, compare practices and test ideas in a safeguarded manner.

OECD collaborative approach

32. The Secretariat strongly considers that the WP-STAT should not pursue work on catalysation in isolation, as the topic spans multiple areas of expertise—ranging from development co-operation to private sector investment (including FDI) and climate finance, particularly in relation to the New Climate Quantitative Goal (NCQG). As such, future work could involve bringing in technical experts from various OECD bodies (including the Development Co-operation Directorate, but also for example the Environment and Financial Affairs' directorates), as well as from MDBs, DFIs and CSOs (e.g. Publish What You Fund), building on previous analytical and methodological work undertaken across these institutions. Such work could involve pooling statistical, financial-instrument and sectoral expertise to refine methodological guidance on capturing catalysation, consolidate case studies and pilot exercises into a central evidence base, and address data comparability and attribution challenges identified in earlier analyses. This cross-cutting approach would help ensure coherence with related international processes and statistical reviews, while progressively strengthening the analytical foundations and practical feasibility of work on catalysation.

33. Qualitative evidence and case studies provide a low-risk, yet still policy-relevant pathway for deepening collective understanding of catalysation, while respecting Members' concerns around attribution, double counting and premature quantification. This pathway therefore offers a natural foundation for continued learning and peer exchange and can be pursued independently or in parallel with other approaches.

34. **Members are invited to share their views and comments on the continued research work by the Secretariat on catalytic case studies and other qualitative evidence, following a collaborative approach with a broader range of experts. Additionally, any future collaborative OECD work on catalysation would be intended to draw on insights generated through the Joint MDB–OECD Catalysation Pilot Programme (see Section 3.3).**

3.2 Taxonomy-based tracking (see Section 2)

35. As discussed in Section 2, taxonomy-based tracking of catalytic interventions – through the implementation of new CRS field for 'Catalysation' – would enable identifying those interventions designed with the intent to catalyse private investment.

3.3 Joint MDB–OECD pilot programme on Catalysation

36. Building on the exploratory discussions on quantification, members noted that any further work in this area would benefit from a structured joint setting to consolidate learning, compare emerging practices and test methodological approaches in a coherent and coordinated way. In this context and following positive support at the 14 September Working Group's expert call on Catalysation, participants generally supported the Secretariat's suggestion to conduct a Joint MDB–OECD Pilot on Catalysation, which could support research-oriented work on tracking the catalytic effect of interventions.

37. The proposed approach would allow interested institutions that have developed internal methodologies to voluntarily and experimentally test, on a pilot basis, the quantification of monetary estimates for private-finance catalysation. The Secretariat notes and fully acknowledges the strong and recurring feedback from members expressing concerns regarding the quantification of catalysation—particularly in relation to attribution, risks of double counting, and potential political interpretation. Accordingly, the proposed pathway is explicitly framed as analytical and peer-learning oriented, and any quantification examples are intended solely to inform understanding of feasibility and limitations, rather than to signal premature integration into DAC statistics.

38. This could be organised around methodology-based categories aligned with the newly harmonised joint taxonomy, supported by detailed documentation of assumptions, safeguards, and methodological notes. Given that the MDB Taskforce is keen to advance work on quantifying catalysation—although full consensus within the Taskforce has not yet been reached—illustrative examples of how private-finance catalysation could be captured and reported may provide valuable insights into what is feasible and credible. Accordingly, several examples developed by MDBs (see *Annex. Illustration of MDB proposed catalysation attribution methodologies*) are presented as conceptual demonstrations intended to support shared understanding, clarify attribution challenges, and inform ongoing discussions on feasibility, safeguards, and comparability.

39. A Joint MDB-OECD Catalysation Pilot Programme could run over 2027-28, with the following aims:

- **Test feasibility** by assessing the practical feasibility of identifying, estimating and documenting catalytic effects across the different categories of catalytic interventions set out in the proposed taxonomy, with a view to generating credible quantitative estimates.
- **Strengthen peer learning** across MDBs, DFIs and DAC members to share examples aiming at piloting quantification approaches.
- **Compare measurement approaches**, assess the strengths, limitations and data needs of recipient-estimated versus methodology-based approaches, including when each may be appropriate.

- **Advance methodologies** by exploring methods to capture indirect and downstream catalytic effects, including demonstration, secondary and macro-advisory effects, potentially through econometric approaches, ensuring transparency of assumptions and attribution logic.
- **Build a shared evidence base** through the compilation of a repository of catalytic interventions that combines quantitative results, qualitative insights and methodological documentation to inform future work.
- **Generate practical guidance** on how catalysation could be captured in ways that are rigorous, scalable and policy-relevant.
- **Produce a joint MDB–OECD DAC report** summarising pilot findings, methodological insights and options for next steps, to inform decisions on the potential operationalisation of catalysation beyond the pilot phase.

40. So far, discussions on quantification confirms that while exploratory work may yield useful methodological insights, significant concerns remain regarding attribution, double counting, incentives and interpretability. As such, any engagement with quantification would remain optional, research-oriented and complementary to qualitative and taxonomy-based approaches, with no presumption of progression toward formal inclusion in OECD DAC statistics.

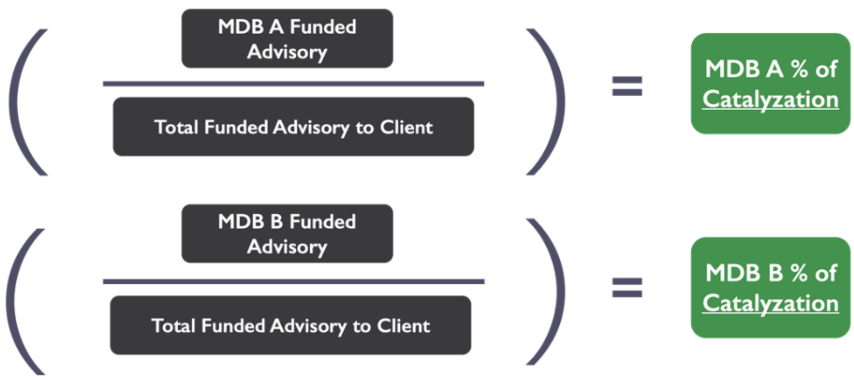
41. The proposed pathways to move forward on Catalysation sets out a potential approach to consolidate, test and, where appropriate, advance the research work on catalysation. Spanning 2027–28, it is designed to move deliberately from conceptual consolidation to piloting targeted catalytic intervention case-study collection and analysis, and the gradual consolidation of a robust evidence base. Recognising catalysation through this process will be critical to better reflecting how development finance actors increasingly unlock private investment indirectly, in a context where traditional mobilisation metrics alone provide an incomplete picture of donor effort and impact.

42. **Members are invited to share their views and comments on the proposed three pathways described in this section, in particular on the proposed Joint MDB–OECD Catalysation Pilot Programme (see Section 3.3) and Research work building on qualitative evidence and case studies (see section 3.1).**

Annex. Illustration of MDB proposed catalysation attribution methodologies

This Annex provides illustrative examples of attribution methodologies presented by MDB representatives during Joint Working Group expert calls and Plenary discussions. These examples aim to clarify how catalysed amounts could be allocated in situations where multiple official providers contribute within a single project. By setting out proposed allocation formulas and scenarios, the Annex supports a clearer understanding of intended methodological assumptions and potential constraints.

Figure 2. Proposed Catalysation Allocation Methodology

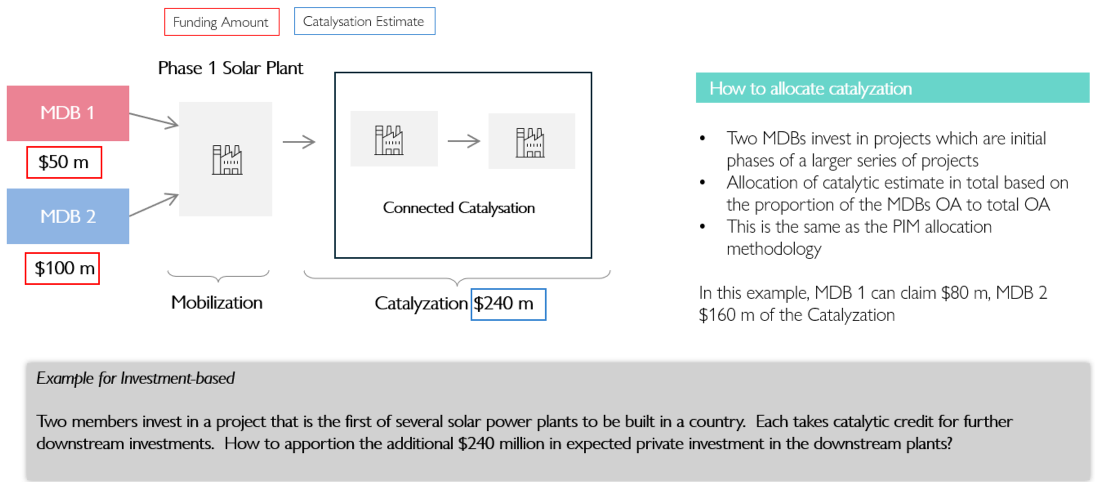


Source: Presentations at the expert calls and Plenary meetings for the Joint Working Group

This Annex provides illustrative examples of attribution methodologies presented by MDB representatives during Joint Working Group expert calls and Plenary discussions. These examples aim to clarify how catalysed amounts could be allocated in situations where multiple official providers contribute within a single project. By setting out proposed allocation formulas and scenarios, the Annex supports a clearer understanding of intended methodological assumptions and potential constraints.

43. Figure 2, as seen above describes a proration formula that can be used to distinguish the catalysation allocation when multiple MDBs are involved in the same project. Where joint or parallel operations from MDBs result in catalysation, prorating to each institution will be based on the commitment amount of each institution in the case of investment operations and funded advisory. In case of unfunded advisory, the resulting catalysation will be distributed equally among all MDBs. Where funded and unfunded advisory occurs at the same time, the distribution should be negotiated by individual MDB teams, based on the specific case. Within the same institution, where joint or parallel interventions lead to catalysation through different instruments and practices, the catalytic estimates should be distributed equally where feasible.

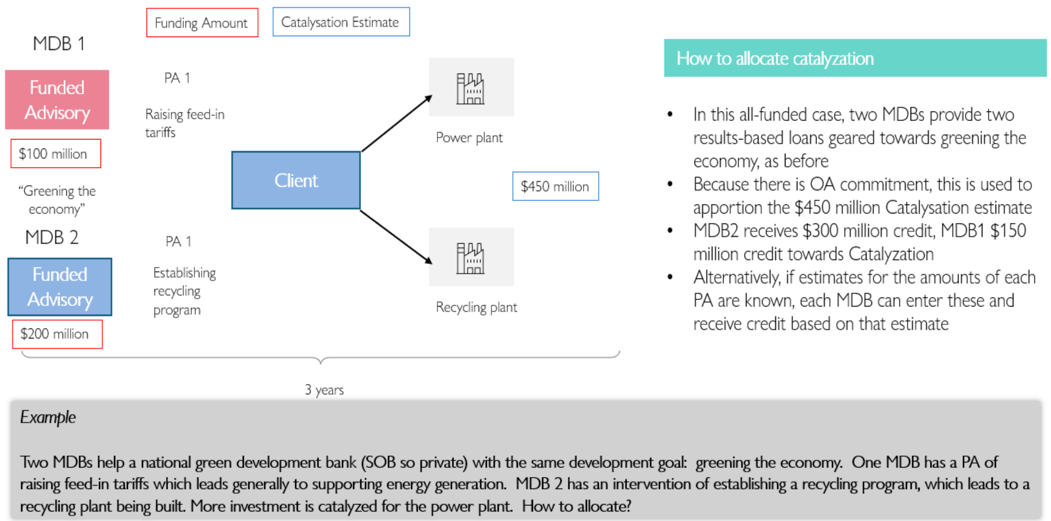
Figure 3. Allocation Example - Investment-based



Source: Presentations at the expert calls and Plenary meetings for the Joint Working Group

44. Figure 3 illustrates an investment-based *connected catalysation* case, where two MDBs co-invest in the first phase of a multi-phase solar programme that unlocks further downstream investments. MDB 1 invests USD 50 million and MDB 2 invests USD 100 million in Phase 1, jointly mobilising the initial project and creating the conditions for subsequent solar plants to proceed. The downstream catalytic effect is estimated at USD 240 million, representing additional private investment in later project phases enabled by the initial MDB-supported project. Attribution of this catalytic amount is allocated proportionally based on each MDB's share of official financing, resulting in MDB 1 claiming USD 80 million and MDB 2 USD 160 million of the total catalysation

Figure 4. Allocation Example - Advisory, Funded

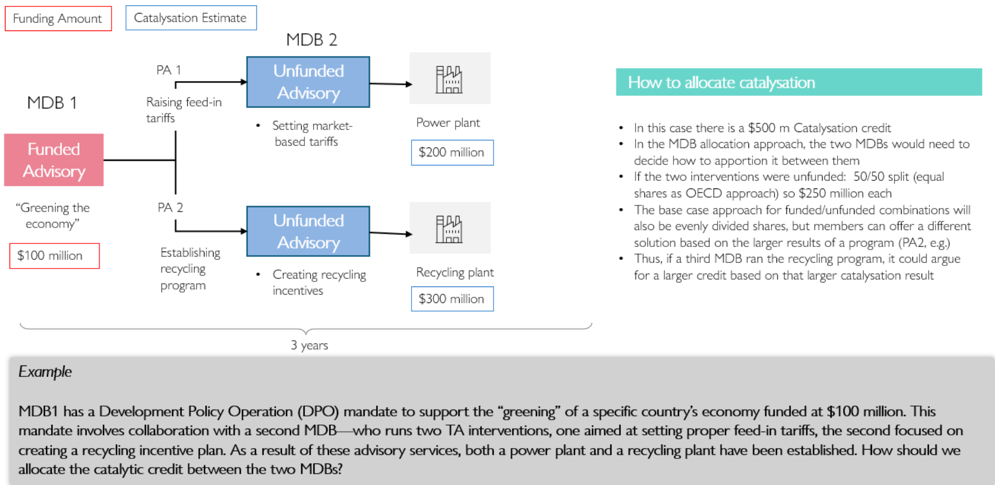


Source: Presentations at the expert calls and Plenary meetings for the Joint Working Group

45. Figure 4, as seen above highlights a policy/advisory-based funded catalysation case, where two MDBs support the same client through distinct funded advisory interventions with a shared objective of

greening the economy. MDB 1 provides USD 100 million to support the introduction of feed-in tariffs, while MDB 2 provides USD 200 million to establish a national recycling programme, both of which enable downstream private investment in power and recycling plants. Together, these policy actions catalyse an estimated USD 450 million in private investment over a three-year period. Attribution of catalysation can be done proportionally based on each MDB's official commitment—resulting in USD 150 million attributed to MDB USD 300 million to MDB 2—or, where available, based on intervention-specific estimates linked to each policy action.

Figure 5. Allocation Example – Advisory, Funded and Unfunded



Source: Presentations at the expert calls and Plenary meetings for the Joint Working Group

46. Figure 5 illustrates a case where two MDBs contribute to downstream catalytic outcomes solely through advisory interventions, without providing direct financing to the resulting investments. MDB 1 delivers a funded policy-based advisory operation supporting the greening of the economy, while MDB 2 provides two unfunded advisory interventions—one establishing market-based feed-in tariffs and another creating recycling incentives—which together enable the construction of a power plant and a recycling plant within three years. The total downstream catalysed investment amounts to USD 500 million, but attribution is challenging because no official account (OA) financing anchors the allocation. In this context, catalytic credit could either be split evenly between the MDBs or differentiated based on the relative scale or perceived impact of each advisory intervention, highlighting the need for agreed allocation principles for unfunded, advisory-driven catalysation.