

# DAC CHAIR'S PRIORITIES 2019-2020

June 2019



**SUSANNA MOOREHEAD**  
OECD DAC Chair

“

*Time is running out to achieve the SDGs and the international community needs to raise its game. I want the DAC's contribution to be energetic, focussed and effective. We need a more compelling development cooperation story, relevant in 2019, and to reinvigorate development effectiveness by putting impact and outcomes first. The DAC needs to listen more and to more people - other donors, partners, civil society and the private sector; and to work more effectively with other parts of the OECD and the multilateral system. The unique contribution of the DAC to the SDGs is “what does this mean for ODA and how can ODA help”? It is potentially an infinite agenda, and we need to prioritise three areas and spend 70% of our time on them.*

## 1 FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT THROUGH AND BEYOND ODA

ODA is stable and a declining proportion of total public and private finance for development. We are not delivering on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to finance the SDGs. The DAC must focus on making the cake bigger and changing the recipe to stimulate more and more diverse finance for development. The DAC is custodian of the rules, data and monitoring of ODA and a leading voice on new financial instruments. This puts us in pole position to steer the conversation about how to maximise flows (including domestic resources), how to use them creatively and effectively, what role ODA should play in the mix and to argue the case for ODA going to those most in need.

## 2 STIMULATING DEBATE AND INNOVATION ON GETTING THE BALANCE RIGHT:

**A) BETWEEN PREVENTION AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE:** We have to deliver the conflict prevention, development and humanitarian nexus recommendation agreed this year. Humanitarian needs, driven by conflict and climate change, are on the rise. It is imperative to save lives and alleviate human suffering, but we need to reverse the trend away from short-term spending towards more investment in prevention and development to address the root causes, and to get better at joining up the work of humanitarian and development communities.

**B) BETWEEN INVESTING IN SUCCESS AND INVESTING IN FRAGILITY AND FAILURE:** 80% of the poorest people in the world will live in fragile and conflict-affected states by 2030. We must work harder to prevent conflict and invest in stability. We must also encourage those countries and governments that are poor, but trying to deliver the SDGs with effective pro-poor policies. Countries that make good policy decisions should be supported and incentivised until they are able to raise sufficient domestic resources. Investing in success also means having frank conversations with governments that do not prioritise development and the well-being of their citizens.

**C) BETWEEN SHORT AND LONG-TERM OUTCOMES:** Climate change and development are inextricably linked. For SDG success, these agendas need to merge. Unintended consequences of the focus on results have been to over-emphasise short-term wins and reduce risk appetite, often at the expense of harder, longer-term investments and policies. We need to ensure policy coherence in the use of ODA and other flows, and to blend resources in innovative ways, if we are to make progress towards sustainable development.

**D) BETWEEN GENERATIONS:** ODA rightly focusses on human development, particularly health and education. But the success in reducing infant and child mortality and improving access to primary education since the MDGs means that those children who are alive and educated are now 20 and need jobs. The private sector, not ODA, will generate the desperately needed jobs in developing countries. The DAC needs to work creatively and constructively with the private sector and support a range of instruments to respond to the demands of young people for decent work.

### 3 GENDER EQUALITY: LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

Women and girls continue to be discriminated against across the SDGs, despite overwhelming evidence that progress on reducing gender inequality delivers better development outcomes, from conflict prevention through to more open societies and inclusive growth. Societies that successfully tackle gender inequality are also ahead in battling other forms of exclusion. The SDGs commit us to leaving no one behind, but ODA falls woefully behind in delivering the single most transformative investment in over 50% of the population. Only 4% of ODA is directly targeted on gender equality. If we are going to attack inequality, the DAC needs to get serious about gender.

