



Sharing knowledge and working together to put the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) back on track

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Issue Note

Session 1 - Working together to respond to multiple crises and put the SDGs back on track

2023 marks the mid-point of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Even before COVID-19, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were off-track. A combination of conflict, COVID-19 and climate change increased the annual SDG financing gap in developing countries by 56 percent to USD 3.9 trillion in 2020.¹ Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has put the SDGs further out of reach. It has exacerbated global inflationary pressures, contributing to soaring food and energy prices, hitting vulnerable populations the hardest, and reducing fiscal space in advanced economies for development spending. The compounding nature of successive shocks has left developing countries struggling with mounting debt, while inflation and shortages are driving hunger and poverty. In this context, development co-operation has a crucial role to play in supporting partner countries to respond to immediate pressure while resetting progress towards the 2030 Agenda.

Since the turn of the Millennium, more countries have become active contributors to the global development system, working in varied ways and with different types of implementing partners. Increasing numbers of development co-operation providers are implementing projects on the ground and have established development co-operation institutional frameworks, with an agency or a dedicated department or unit engaging in related activities.

Given the scale of the development challenges faced by partner countries, it is arguably the right moment for development co-operation providers to come together and more closely cooperate to support progress to the SDGs. To do this we need to:

- exchange experiences, share knowledge, build trust and new partnerships;
- improve co-ordination and alignment with national strategies of partner countries, and use co-ordination structures to ensure cross-sector coherence;
- identify gaps and challenges in measuring the implementation, programming, monitoring and evaluation of contributions to SDGs through sharing data, information and analysis;

¹ OECD (2022), Global Outlook on Financing for Sustainable Development 2023: No Sustainability Without Equity, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/fcbe6ce9-en>. Taking into consideration the expected tightening of global financing conditions, projections by the UN Conference on Trade and Development suggest that the SDG financing gap could reach USD 4.3 trillion per year from 2020 to 2025, an increase of USD 400 billion over OECD estimates in 2019-20 (UNCTAD, 2022).



- deliver on the development effectiveness principles agreed by the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC);
- advance international best practices and standards of development co-operation; and
- explore strategies to overcome institutional barriers that hamper building inclusive partnerships at the global, regional, national and local levels.

This first session will offer an opportunity for providers to share the challenges they face in times of crises, including how they manage multiple and competing priorities, and how they co-ordinate efforts and promote real-time knowledge-sharing to adapt to evolving needs.

Questions to guide session 1

- (i) How are providers adapting their financing, programming and ways of working in the face of the multiple crises in developing countries?
- (ii) How are providers co-ordinating their efforts and sharing knowledge to maximise our collective impact on achieving the SDGs?

Session 2 – Working together to respond to SDG 13 (climate action)

The climate crisis is existential and closely linked to environmental and ecosystem degradation, desertification and biodiversity loss. The effects of climate change are increasingly taking a toll on economies and livelihoods and urgent action is needed to address its impacts. The Development Assistance Committee (DAC) has taken action through the adoption of the 2021 OECD DAC Declaration to align development co-operation with the goals of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Through the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda, governments around the globe have expressed their commitment to protecting the planet and tackling climate change. To ensure resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth, the global community of development co-operation providers must join efforts. Various stakeholders, including civil society organisations, legislators, scientists, private sector representatives and private citizens need to collaborate more effectively.

In terms of financing climate action, COP15 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Copenhagen in 2009 spelt out the annual goal for developed countries to provide and mobilise USD 100 billion per year for climate action in developing countries by 2020, which has been extended until 2025. In 2019, total climate finance provided and mobilised by developed countries for developing countries was USD 79.6 billion in 2019, an increase of 2 percent from 2018. A minimum of USD 20 billion of additional funding per year would be required to meet the USD 100 billion goal.

The climate crisis impacts us all, but the least developed and most vulnerable countries are feeling the heaviest impact today. Partner countries tell us that they need support to achieve their climate goals which



includes transitioning towards net zero emissions and making their economies more climate-resilient. Transitions to net zero are necessary for achieving sustainable development and at the same time are an enormous challenge for countries undertaking them. Not least because developing countries often lack the ability to unlock the large-scale financing that is required to have a systematic and transformative approach to climate adaptation and mitigation.

Development co-operation providers can play an important role in helping partner countries achieve just transitions. For example, providers can help build the technical capacity to unlock climate finance at scale, or finance development co-operation projects on infrastructure and energy, technology, and technical assistance to manage the transitions.²

In this second session, development co-operation providers will discuss efforts undertaken toward SDG 13 (take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts). Examples of how partners are already working together will guide the discussion. Participants will look at what steps might be taken to ensure that climate action is implemented in line with the development effectiveness principles and share views on measuring progress, evaluating impact and scaling up partnerships.

Questions to guide Session 2

- I. How can providers support partners to achieve just green transitions and adapt to the consequences of climate change?
- II. How can providers work better together to support partners achieve SDG13, and measure the impact of work in partnership?

² The OECD-DAC Results Community, for instance, is preparing guidance on how to design results frameworks for climate adaptation, as well as how to support partner country monitoring and evaluation efforts.