

OECD – Paris, 19 February 2016

### **Better aid for more effective development**

The members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) met in Paris 18-19 February 2016 to modernise the way official development assistance (ODA) is measured and to incentivise better mobilisation of private investments for development. Reaffirming their commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, they stressed that in implementing these ambitious universal goals, ODA must encourage private investment strategically and effectively.

DAC members recognised the particular challenges of investing in poor countries and agreed that such efforts should be appropriately credited. They also reaffirmed their ODA commitments and agreed to reverse the declining trend of development assistance to the least developed countries.

DAC members agreed to update the definitions of when expenditures for peace and security may be reported as ODA. This includes making small adjustments to make development assistance work more efficiently in countries affected by fragility and conflict, for example the use of military aircraft for the delivery of medical help in health emergencies such as the recent Ebola crisis.

The multiple refugee crises in the world have applied pressure in countries and regions of origin, transit and destination. OECD and non-OECD countries at all income levels are struggling to address the resulting humanitarian, budgetary, security, political and development challenges. Over the long term, development will be key to addressing the root causes of these movements, and development efforts will have to play a central role. DAC member countries also agreed to work together towards a long-term solution that will improve the consistency, comparability, and transparency of the reporting of in-donor refugee costs as ODA.

Participants agreed to launch a process to transform the DAC, ensuring that it is representative and maximising its relevance and impact in supporting the 2030 Agenda. The participants in the High Level Meeting included representatives from the 29 DAC member countries, as well as many non-member countries, international organisations, and civil society and private sector stakeholders. An important part of the discussion focused on how to open up the DAC to bring in new member countries, including recipients of development assistance.

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