

Statement of Progress on Integrating Climate Change Adaptation into Development Co-operation

**ADOPTED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE AT THE
DAC HIGH LEVEL MEETING,
PARIS, 21 MAY 2008**



Statement of Progress on Integrating Climate Change Adaptation into Development Co-operation

In 2006, we OECD Development Co-operation Ministers and Heads of Agencies, together with OECD Environment Ministers, met to identify ways to address our common challenges. We agreed jointly on that occasion that climate change is a serious and long term challenge that has the potential to affect every part of the globe. Developing countries, especially the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, are particularly vulnerable. This is because many poor people in developing countries are particularly dependent on climate sensitive natural resources for their livelihoods and because they have very limited capacity to cope with the adverse consequences of current climate variability, much less the additional effects from climate change.

To help us tackle these challenges, we developed with environment colleagues, the 2006 OECD Declaration on Integrating Climate Change Adaptation into Development Co-operation. In this OECD Declaration, we:

- Agreed to harness the combined expertise of our environment and development co operation Ministries and agencies to develop and apply coherent approaches to integrating climate change adaptation into development co-operation, in collaboration with relevant partners and bearing in mind other international initiatives.
- Emphasised that adaptation to climate change is not a “stand-alone” agenda but needs to be integrated into development policy-making and planning, including in the context of national plans, such as Poverty Reduction Strategies. Responses to climate change should be co-ordinated with social and economic development in an integrated manner.
- Committed to assist developing country partners in their efforts to reduce their vulnerability to climate variability and climate change, to identify and prioritise adaptation responses, and, where necessary, to help integrate such considerations within a wide range of sectoral interventions and projects, in line with the principles and objectives of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.
- Requested the OECD to promote meaningful co-ordination and sharing of good practices with the aim of developing guidance for integrating climate change adaptation in the context of development co-operation.

Since the 2006 OECD Declaration, further research results and international expert publications, as well as a series of key events such as the UN Security Council Debate in April 2007 and the Award of the Nobel Peace Prize in October 2007 to the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), have emphasized serious development challenges caused by climate change, underlying that adaptation to climate change and its adverse effects is of high priority for all countries.

Progress made by donors

We note that much progress has occurred since the 2006 Declaration to implement these commitments:

- Many development co-operation agencies and Multilateral Development Banks have taken formal commitments to integrate climate change concerns as part of their operations.

- Donor agencies and International Financial Institutions have made considerable progress in raising awareness among their staff of the risks posed by climate change and the importance of integrating climate change into development activities. Several donor agencies have also made special efforts to discuss these issues with their partners in the context of policy dialogues at various levels.
- Many donor agencies and International Financial Institutions have begun to systematically assess the climate vulnerability of the various activities which they support, with a view to building in corrective precautionary measures as needed.
- Some donors have begun working with vulnerable communities to build resilience into development projects and encourage integration of National Adaptation Plans of Actions (NAPAs) with Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs).
- Detailed assessments of climate change-related vulnerabilities have been conducted in many developing countries.
- Donor agencies have developed tools and methodologies to assess climate vulnerabilities and to identify adaptation options in development policies, plans, programmes and projects. These tools, which build on existing approaches such as Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), should be shared to reduce redundant efforts.

Key challenges ahead

We recognise that much more remains to be done, especially in the light of the Bali Action Plan. In particular:

- Donors should play a more active role in bringing climate change related risks and possible opportunities to the attention of developing country policy-makers and seek entry points for climate change-related dialogue.
- Donors must work towards harmonized approaches for assessing and integrating climate risks in the projects and programmes which they support.
- Donors and partners need to move from identifying the risks posed by climate change to ongoing projects to reducing those risks in a pro-active and strategic manner, starting from the early stages of policy and programme formulation. Current trends towards providing development co-operation support at the level of policies, programmes and plans open up new opportunities in this regard, as well as avenues for enhanced policy dialogue on policies and strategies which can support “climate-resilient” long-term development.
- Donors also need to recognise that traditional knowledge may offer experience and insights to building resilience, which may help develop and implement locally-appropriate and situation-specific approaches.
- Donors should support methodologies for assessing climate risks that are based on scientific data, including observed climate data and climate model projections, as well as provide tools to enable developing countries to access information to inform their own development decisions, e.g. through regional earth observation and climate projection tools.

- In all these areas, donors should focus on:
 - **Sectors which are most vulnerable to climate change risk and variability.** These include health, agriculture, water resources management, land use planning, coastal zone management and tourism. There is also a need to better integrate disaster risk management with climate risk management.
 - **Local communities and vulnerable social groups.** Assessment at the community level is extremely important as adaptation measures should be tailored to local conditions and cultures and should aim to enhance the resilience of individuals, in particular those who are socially disadvantaged, and of communities vulnerable to climate risks.
 - **Region-specific approaches.** Approaches to adaptation should consider taking account of the differences of each targeted area in terms of scale of impact and type of risks, capacity to adapt and vulnerability.

We encourage the work in the OECD with donors, to develop policy guidance in all these areas. In line with the principles and objectives of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the focus is on supporting our developing country partners' efforts to identify and address climate change risks within their own policy making and planning systems and procedures and helping develop the necessary capacities.