Expert Reference Group Meeting

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BACKGROUND PAPER No 1

Gearing up for the post-2015 development financing strategy: Modernising the Development Assistance Committee's statistical system[1]

The international community is engaged in work to develop the agenda and set of goals that will steer and benchmark global development efforts in the post-2015 era. This framework will require a financing strategy that identifies sources of finance and options for matching needs, timeframes and access/availability possibilities with different developing country realities. In turn, the financing strategy will need to have reliable, pertinent and robust statistical systems to facilitate measurement, monitoring and accountability.

There were similar objectives, similar steps, and similar processes undertaken in 2000 and 2001 when the Millennium Development Goal framework was established. But much has changed in the interim, and nowhere more dramatically than the global context for financing development, as the following trends affirm:

- **Today there are new sources of finance, new actors and new financial instruments to choose from – and a growing variety of economic trajectories in the developing world, where many countries are increasingly able to diversify their funding base. Private capital in the form of equity, bonds, debt, non-concessional loans, risk mitigation instruments (including guarantees) and voluntary contributions is playing a greater role – and could be a transformative source of development finance in the future.**

- **New financing priorities have emerged: to address global public goods such as climate change and disease control; to boost progress in agriculture and health; and to ramp up investment in national and regional infrastructure. Innovative international financing mechanisms have been devised and successfully implemented in all of these areas.**

[1] The ideas expressed in this working paper do not necessarily represent views of the OECD, the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC), or their member countries, or the endorsement of any approach described therein.

- **Southern partners and countries beyond Development Assistance Committee (DAC) member countries are playing a stronger and more visible role, actively sharing their development experience and providing useful know-how, expert services and technologies. They are also offering fully integrated financing "packages" and delivering turn-key infrastructure in many countries.**

- **Official Development Assistance (ODA) – concessional public finance provided to developing countries in order to promote development -- remains a primary source of development finance in both least-developed and a number of low-income countries, and it is an important source of financing for other countries. But non-concessional flows – official and private -- are playing a growing role, especially in middle-income countries facing the challenge of boosting economic growth and job creation. And ODA is declining as a share of total external resources for development.**

- **Statistical measures tracking financing for development have not kept pace with specialised financial instruments and arrangements that have emerged in international capital markets over the past three decades, such as innovative debt and equity instruments, insurance schemes, guarantees and other risk mitigation products. The use of these instruments could be greatly increased to mobilise additional financial flows to developing countries – particularly private capital from institutional investors, corporate entities, and private citizens.**

The OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) is attentive to this rapidly evolving global context for development finance -- in particular to how public development finance from all sources will best contribute to the emerging post-2015 development framework. As a result, in collaboration with other key international actors, it is working on a "root and branch" reform of its reporting systems – which are important drivers of strategic planning processes and play a key role in decisions about ODA allocations, delivery channels and the financial mechanisms utilised.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. PREPARING FOR THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The international community is currently at work to develop and agree the successor framework to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). A United Nations High Level Panel has recently issued a comprehensive report [HLP, 2013] outlining a bold vision for eradicating extreme poverty and creating a new development paradigm based on inclusive, sustainable growth.

Work is being undertaken by a special United Nations intergovernmental committee of experts to develop a financing strategy to underpin the post-2015 development agenda. This strategy will draw on the diverse array of resources and financing options that are on offer today, identifying different kinds of finance – with corresponding differences in terms of "cost", availability, risks and timeframes – and matching them to the countries, the sectors and the key "development enablers" where greatest impact can be achieved.

Big questions loom: how best to identify needs, priorities, gaps and constraints? Where should scarce concessional resources be focused – on the poorest countries, or on fragile states, or to finance global public goods such as climate stability? What types of development finance can middle-income countries readily access to address the rising tide of poverty and inequality that many of them face? How can public finance most effectively catalyse additional development finance? Where and how can private capital play a constructive role?

These questions will be addressed in the course of elaborating and quantifying the post-2015 financing strategy. But fundamental groundwork is needed now to ensure that supporting systems necessary for successful implementation are up to the job – or if not, that they are retooled and revamped. The emerging strategy will require a monitoring system which covers public and private financing, provides a framework for efficient allocation of resources, and ensures accountability. Reporting systems and methodologies will need to be adapted accordingly – and the DAC is hard at work on this, as described in the remainder of this brief.

II. MODERNISING THE DAC STATISTICAL SYSTEM

The DAC statistical system has provided high-quality, reliable and comparable data on concessional[2] and non-concessional public development finance from OECD countries to the developing world for more than 50 years. It has been the international reference in monitoring progress towards the objective of allocating 0.7 % of GNI to development assistance, and it has played a key role in maintaining the integrity and relevance of the ODA definition. The system also covers a range of private financial flows (market-based and philanthropic) and resources provided by the multilateral system and an increasing number of non-OECD providers of development finance.

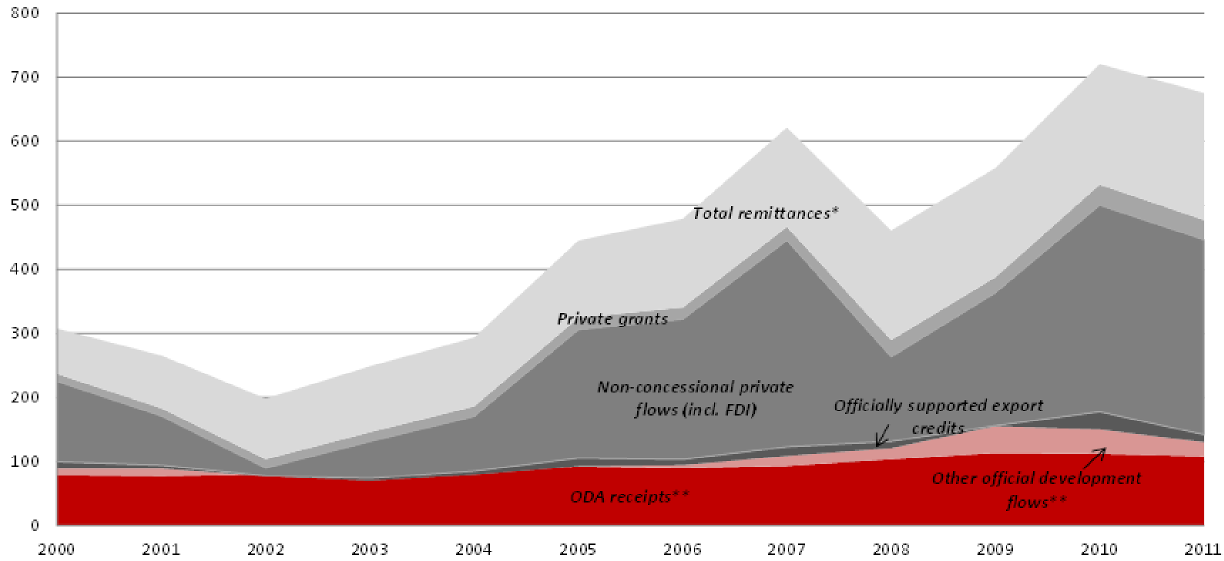
Work to improve DAC statistics – to enrich, upgrade and broaden them – and to make them readily available to the public in formats that are meaningful and easy to access and manipulate has been constant over time. This is important: statistics are essential in order to understand how many resources are available, where they are allocated, and how they are channelled. They are indispensable for ensuring accountability – against pledges, international targets, and agreed standards and disciplines

[2] Concessional finance includes i) grants and ii) loans that have a specified grant element.

among DAC members to improve aid quality (such as untying[3] ODA and increasing the grant element of loans). And statistics are a vital source of information for analytical work carried out by international organisations, research institutions, and civil society watchdogs. Today, however, the DAC is embarking on a wide-ranging rescaling and restructuring of measures, statistical categories and reporting systems that relate to development assistance and financing. Why is this necessary?

Sweeping change has transformed the development finance landscape over the past decade. New and growing sources of finance -- from foreign, portfolio and institutional investors, workers' remittances[4], philanthropic institutions, and emerging and re-emerging donors -- have appeared. This has progressively diminished the relative importance of ODA as a source of finance: its share in total net resource receipts by developing countries (excluding remittances) has fallen from around 50% in the 1960s to 20% in recent years. While ODA steadily increased by 63% in real terms over the past decade, its share vis-à-vis other financial flows to the developing world has declined (see graph below)[5]. At the same time, a range of new financial instruments and innovative financial mechanisms have been devised and are increasingly employed to mobilise and channel international finance.

Developing countries' net resource receipts from DAC countries and multilateral organisations in 2000-2011, constant 2010 USD billion



* Total remittances estimated from DAC members to developing countries.
** Includes bilateral and multilateral outflows to developing countries.
Sources: DAC statistics and World Bank statistics for Remittances.

[3] Tied aid describes official grants or loans that limit procurement to companies in the donor country or in a small group of countries. Tied aid therefore often prevents recipient countries from receiving good value for money for services, goods, or works. Untying aid [means] removing the legal and regulatory barriers to open competition for aid funded procurement" (OECD, n.d. a).
[4] Money sent home by migrant workers.
[5] The "ODA receipts" measure depicted in the graph counts bilateral aid from countries plus the outflows of multilateral institutions, and so differs slightly from the traditional measure of "ODA flows", which counts bilateral aid from countries plus those countries' contributions to multilateral institutions.

Further, any post-2015 commitments and targets aimed at providing global public policies or goods – such as those that have been elaborated recently to address climate change challenges in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change context -- will likely call for efforts and resources across the renewed “Global Partnership”, which includes government at all levels and a range of private actors such as civil society, local businesses, international corporations, philanthropies and individual citizens. This will create additional data and monitoring needs, going beyond official flows to include private finance from a range of sources deployed through a variety of financial instruments and intermediation arrangements.

It’s essential now to update and modernise the system so that it is adapted to these changes and to new dynamics in international capital markets more broadly. It is also necessary to upgrade the quality and scope of reporting on non-ODA finance – including consulting more broadly with other government agencies (e.g. export credit entities) and private actors -- and to present data in ways that are relevant to the perspectives of other providers of development finance and the countries that receive funding. In the post-2015 development finance architecture, it will be important to ensure that statistical definitions, measures and reporting are relevant and reflect the full spectrum of financial flows contributing to development.

III. WHAT IS THE ROLE OF STATISTICS?

Why is it important to measure resource flows and ensure the quality of these measures? How can statistics play a role in improving international support for development?

Statistics are an essential tool to understand “where we are coming from – and where we are going”. They ensure accountability against pledges and commitments, facilitate comparisons across the donor community, and measure DAC member “compliance” with the disciplines and standards they have agreed to implement. DAC statistics are an indispensable tool for promoting constructive peer pressure, the hallmark of OECD work – and considerable effort is expended to ensure the system produces accurate, comparable data (see Box 1). They also permit analyses of aggregate patterns of financial flows that in turn identify trends and financing gaps that help providers and recipients of development finance set priorities, reallocate spending and increase impact. Good data and statistics are central to accountability and improved decision-making – and their importance will likely feature prominently in the post-2015 development framework in line with the UN High Level Panel’s call for a “data revolution” (HLP, 2013).

More fundamentally, statistics – categories, measures, targets, indicators – can be powerful drivers of systems, creating incentives and shaping choices. The ODA concept, for example, is deeply embedded in most DAC members’ approach to development co-operation, influencing allocation patterns, delivery channels and financial instrument choices. It is the leading concept that has defined the DAC’s relationship with the international community for 50 years. But other concepts – and measures – could spur the international community to explore more proactively instruments and delivery modes for official support that will leverage additional resources and catalyse new partners and initiatives. In turn, this could help to optimize the allocation of total resources for development by enabling more concessional resources to be targeted to countries or sectors/projects that cannot be readily financed by market-based instruments.

Recent innovations in DAC statistics -- for example the Country Programmable Aid (CPA) measure[6] and the DAC Forward Spending Survey[7] — are geared to helping donors respond affirmatively and concretely to new imperatives for improving aid effectiveness, such as providing assistance that supports a developing country's own priorities and increasing its predictability and overall transparency. They are also geared to providing more useful information to countries receiving ODA e.g. clarifying the crossborder resource flows over which they have greater latitude to programme. Any new measures – such as those described later in this text – can be expected to create incentives for donors to "rethink" the ways in which development finance can be sourced and delivered.

Concessional finance today could play a much more catalytic role – in combination with different financial instruments and actors – in mobilising development finance. The credit enhancement and risk management tools (e.g. guarantees, hybrid debt/equity instruments, insurance schemes, securitisation, etc.) that have transformed international capital markets have started to be deployed to mobilise development finance for the developing world. But there's scope for much more to be done: there are massive pools of global savings to be tapped e.g. for example, the US$70 trillion per year managed by institutional investors and US$5 trillion per year invested by sovereign wealth funds. Finance is available for development, but we need to be smarter about how to catalyse, mobilise, and leverage it – and to maximise its effectiveness.

Box 1 Stats on stats: Key facts about DAC statistics

The DAC statistical system collects and processes data from 27 DAC members, 19 non-DAC countries, 30 international organisations and one foundation. It is a massive, complex and intricate system for identifying, reporting, verifying and tabulating statistics. Some 250 000 records – many of which are aggregates of multiple operations -- are processed each year. Each ODA activity record has 53 entries that need to be filled out. Countries supplying the data need to harvest it from a great many national data points: for example, for ODA alone there are anywhere from 6 to almost 30 different ministries or agencies who need to fill out reporting forms in line with specific definitions, formats, rules and timelines. Reporting on non-ODA flows such as export credits, foreign direct investment, and portfolio operations brings in additional data sets that – for reasons of commercial confidentiality – can only be presented on a semi-aggregated basis. These inputs are collected at a centralised point in reporting countries/entities, and then forwarded to the DAC Secretariat for verification and aggregation. The top 90% by volume of the statistical records received are carefully scrutinised by Secretariat staff to ensure they are complete, correct, and contain adequate descriptive information for quality control and crosscheck purposes. Many records require one-on-one discussions with reporting countries and entities to verify the information provided e.g. clarify the classifications used, amounts provided, tying status, loan terms, and so on [see http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/].

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[6] CPA, or "core aid", is much closer than ODA to capturing the flows of aid that actually go to partner countries and over which they could have a significant say. The CPA measure excludes aid that i) does not involve cross-border flows (such as donor administrative costs, refugee costs and student exchanges), ii) is unpredictable (such as debt forgiveness and emergency aid), and iii) does not form part of co-operation agreements between governments (such as food aid or core funding to NGOs).

[7] The annual Forward Spending Survey provides information on the future spending plans of most bilateral and multilateral institutions, helping to improve predictability and identify potential aid gaps resulting from donors' allocation decisions.

IV. WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE CURRENT STATISTICAL SYSTEM?

A number of definitional, structural and conceptual problems with DAC statistical categories and measurement systems have surfaced over recent years:

- **The ODA definition[8]: Is it too broad? Is it not broad enough?** Four conditions determine whether flows are official development assistance: they must be i) official, ii) motivated for developmental purposes, iii) concessional and iv) provided to eligible countries and agencies. Some argue that this definition is too broad because it includes items that are do not give rise to cross-border resource flows. Others consider it isn't broad enough, omitting or undercounting some official and effective efforts in support of development. This ambiguity is compounded by more recent divergence across the DAC membership regarding how to interpret concessionality. Still others are critical of the DAC list of ODA-recipient countries, arguing that the criteria[9] for "graduating" from the list are too generous – which results in countries remaining eligible to receive concessional public finance despite having achieved significant development progress and improved living standards.

- **Measuring resources on a "cash-flow" basis creates disincentives to use guarantee and equity instruments**. Key statistics of the DAC reporting regime measure net financial flows – which discourages the use of some "market-like" financial instruments such as guarantees and equity investments, since no "credit" towards ODA targets can be given to the donor country involved. More concretely, in a cash flow measurement system:
    - Mechanisms such as guarantees or callable capital[10] that do not immediately generate a flow are not covered at all, and
    - Net figures give little or no "credit" to successful investment projects, since repayments on loans and proceeds of equity sales count as negative flows.

  The implications are particularly acute given the current international development context, where urgent and massive infrastructure investments are needed in many regions -- investments where private and public capital in the form of loans, guarantees and equity stakes could play a major financing role.

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[8] The DAC defines ODA as "those flows to countries and territories on the DAC "List of ODA Recipients" and to multilateral institutions which are i) provided by official agencies, including state and local governments, or by their executive agencies; and ii) each transaction of which:

> a) is administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective; and
> b) is concessional in character and conveys a grant element of at least 25 per cent (calculated at a rate of discount of 10 per cent)."

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[9] The DAC list is revised eve three years, and countries are only removed from the list after they have exceeded the "high-income country" threshold for three consecutive years at the time of review.

[10] Callable capital is that portion of subscribed capital stock subject to call only as and when required by a bank to meet its obligations. In the event of a call, payment must be made by the shareholder in the currency required to discharge the obligation of the bank for which the call was made.

- **There's a need to better identify actual resource transfers to developing countries.** ODA includes some in-donor expenditures – such as educational support for developing country nationals, refugee costs, technical assistance and development awareness programmes – that, while requiring budgetary effort, do not give rise to cross-border flows. It's important for planning purposes for developing countries to readily "see" the amount of ODA that actually crosses borders. The CPA statistical measure devised in 2007 to address this gap was a step in the right direction. But more work is needed to present data capturing "recipient receipts" (actual cross-border resource flows), including better coverage of non-ODA flows.

- **Development finance institution (DFI) operations are not accurately recorded.** Efforts to better capture country receipts also apply to DFI activities. As a group, bilateral DFIs[11] accounted for approximately US$ 7.5 billion of development finance in 2011 – but the resources they provide to developing countries are imperfectly captured in DAC statistics. There are differences in interpretation as to what to report and how, and more importantly there are gaps in capturing the full measure of public resources being used in these operations. This rises from the "market-like" instruments commonly used by these institutions, which go beyond loans to include equity (direct and portfolio investments) and risk mitigation instruments (e.g. guarantees, hybrid debt/equity instruments) that play an important role in "crowding in" the private sector.

- **How best to measure donor "budgetary effort"?** DAC statistics have historically been collected and presented from the perspective of donors. "Budgetary effort" – official concessional flows that are financed from the providers budget -- has always nominally been the underlying concept underpinning ODA. But the concept is under strain. With the post-crisis historically-low interest rates that prevail on many DAC member capital markets, it has become possible – within the strictures of the ODA definition – to provide loans to developing countries at preferential rates for these countries, but on terms that permit providers to receive net income on the operation. DAC members are currently working to establish a clearer, quantitative definition of "concessional in character" that aligns with prevailing financial market conditions. At the same time, other ways of capturing budgetary effort in presenting DAC statistics are being contemplated by the DAC, such as how to capture callable capital (provided to specific development finance institutions) and/or the imputed costs of sovereign guarantees, or measuring ODA as the sum of grants plus the grant element (as opposed to the face value) of loans.

V. WHAT IS "UNDER CONSTRUCTION", WHY AND WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS?

These problems have given rise to a range of workstreams that are described below. Some of this work is well advanced and is based on fairly straightforward technical solutions. Other tasks involve both political and technical inputs and are still at an exploratory stage – and thus the descriptions that follow sketch the preliminary outlines of possible solutions. A concerted effort will be undertaken to consult broadly with other development actors on this work – including exchanging ideas with non-DAC and South-South providers of development co-operation -- on concepts and definitions that could facilitate greater convergence across different international statistical metrics and systems.

[11] Development finance institutions promote development by providing credit in the form of higher risk loans, equity positions and risk guarantee instruments to private sector investments in developing countries

A. Broaden the coverage of development finance statistics

Work is in hand to capture the full spectrum of resource flows by i) improving the coverage and categorisation of non-ODA finance in the DAC statistical system, ii) enhancing reporting by philanthropic institutions and non-DAC providers of ODA and other development finance (including South/South co-operation), and iii) mapping innovative finance initiatives and mechanisms. On-going pilots are assessing the benefits of accessing more comprehensive and high-quality OECD and World Bank databases regarding export credits, foreign direct investment and remittances.

B. Explore new ways of presenting statistics (recipient and provider perspectives)

The DAC statistical system has historically been configured and presented from the perspective of the donor community: it shows resources flowing from DAC member countries and multilateral development agencies to developing countries. This is largely a function of the source of the data: virtually all of the statistical records in the DAC data repository are drawn from donor data reports. New work is exploring how these data could better be presented from the perspective of recipient countries by more accurately reflecting actual cross-border resource flows or "recipient receipts" -- whether they are concessional, non-concessional, official or mobilised from the private sector. Work is also proceeding on ways to identify, measure and aggregate provider "budgetary effort". One of the challenges here will be to find realistic, effective ways of "capturing" budgetary effort that will create incentives for DAC members to work with instruments (such as guarantees) that can leverage additional resources. Both of these workstreams will make it possible for new datasets, tables and charts to be produced to enhance transparency, facilitate comparison and ultimately enhance the effectiveness of ODA and other public finance motivated by development objectives.

C. New statistical categories and reporting: guarantees, equity, and other market-based financial instruments

More fundamental changes – such as creating new statistical categories -- are also being contemplated. The DAC is reconsidering how to measure and report on market-like financing instruments – including equity operations, guarantees, and reimbursable grants – and assessing related leveraging impacts. This is particularly important in view of the scope these instruments create for catalysing more private sector participation in development finance, including for climate change-related investments. The outcome of this inquiry could mean new data collection on contingent liabilities[12] to supplement the present flow statistics. The priority will be to ensure that the new categories are based on consistent and analytically sound principles of statistical recording – and that the required data collection work is cost-effective and logistically feasible.

D. Develop new measures of official effort

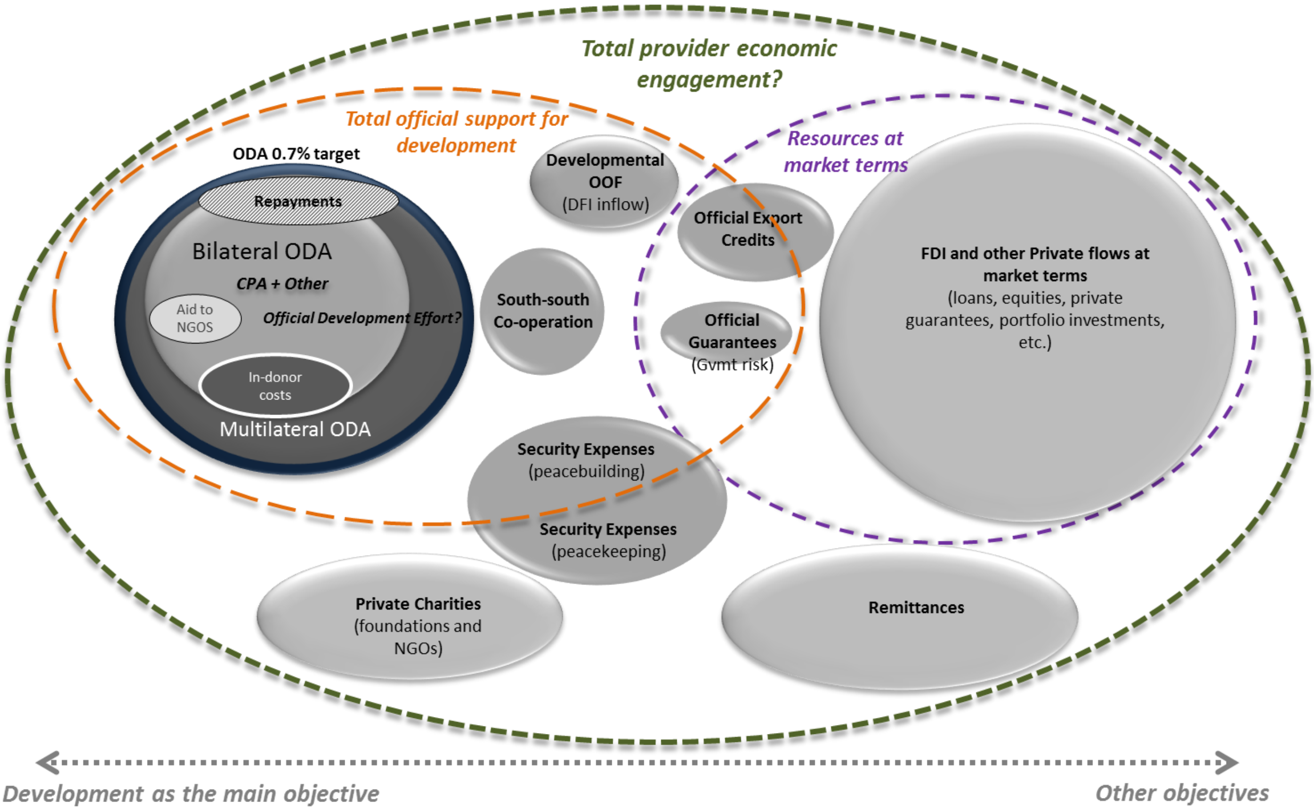
The following two conceptual images capture current thinking about the different types of development finance available – from a provider's perspective (Figure 1) and the recipient country's perspective (Figure 2). These sources of finance will be the building blocks upon which a possible new measure of **"Total official support for development**" could be elaborated. This measure would aim to capture all types of official support provided for development purposes that called for a budgetary effort by a donor country – and it would be measured primarily on a gross basis, without deduction of loan repayments or equity

[12] A contingent liability is a potential liability: it depends on whether a future event occurs or does not occur.

sale proceeds. The measure would likely include ODA and specific "other official flows" (OOF)[13] and bilateral security expenses – so long as they were provided for developmental purposes[14].

An even broader measure of "**Total provider economic engagement**" could also be considered, but there is considerable controversy over whether remittances in particular should be scored as part of the source country's engagement with development.

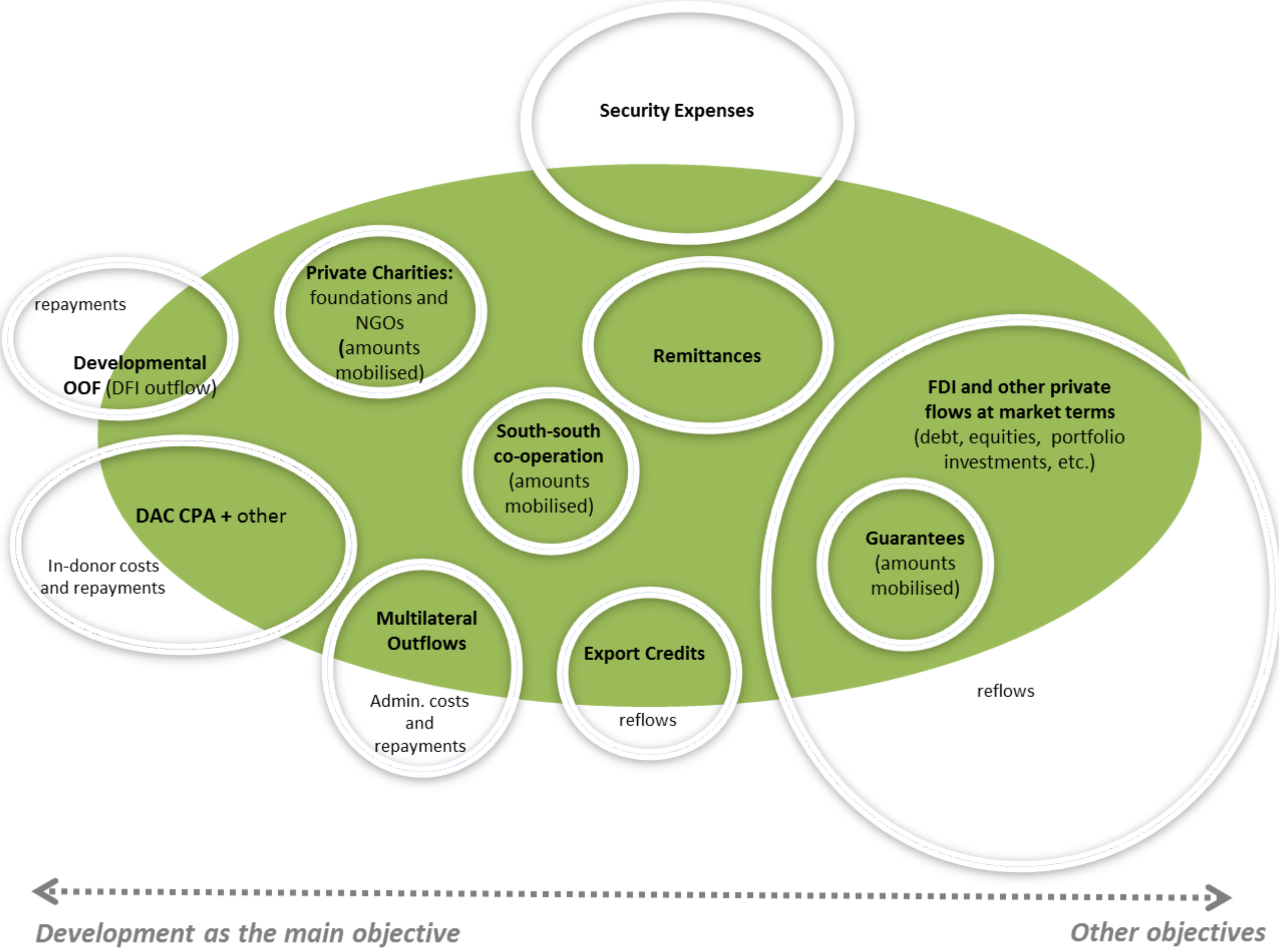
Figure 1: External development finance: emerging concepts – provider's perspective



Note: CPA: country programmable aid; DFI: development finance institution; FDI: foreign direct investment; NGOs: non-governmental institutions; OOF: "other official flows".

[13] Other Official Flows are defined as "transactions by the official sector with countries on the DAC list of ODA recipients which do not meet the conditions for eligibility as Official Development Assistance, either because they are not primarily aimed at development, or because they have a grant element of less than 25 per cent."
[14] "Developmental purposes" refers to the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries: see ODA definition in footnote 7 above.

Figure 2: External development finance: emerging concepts – recipient's perspective



Note: CPA: country programmable aid; DFI: development finance institution; FDI: foreign direct investment; NGOs: non-governmental institutions; OOF: "other official flows".

E. Possible modernisation of the ODA concept

On the basis of all of the work being done to modernise the DAC statistical system described above – measuring "donor budgetary effort" and "recipient receipts", facilitating the inclusion of market-like financing instruments, clarifying and quantifying "concessional in character", clarifying how risk should be valued in loan operations – DAC members will explore whether, and how, the ODA concept may need to be modernised. Ministers have agreed not to make any adjustments before 2015 in order to ensure accountability for outstanding ODA commitments. But there may be a need to modernise the concept to facilitate greater use of market-like financial instruments and increase its relevance to today's international development finance context, while at the same time ensuring the fundamental principles of the ODA definition. On the other hand, there may also be a case to consider proposals that have been made for a more narrow ODA measure that would exclude concessional funding that doesn't give rise to cross-border resource transfers – and thus respond to frequent critiques from the wider development community.

VI. WHAT OTHER OPTIONS ARE BEING CONSIDERED THAT WILL INCREASE THE RELEVANCE, INCLUSIVENESS AND REACH OF DAC STATISTICS?

Additional on-going efforts to retool and upgrade the DAC statistical system include:

- reinforced efforts to reach out to other providers of development assistance -- including OECD non-DAC donors, the Arab donor community, and emerging non-OECD donors – to explore the scope for statistical reporting in line with the DAC system. This may include using classifications or categories that are more relevant to their financing approaches and data parameters such as South-South co-operation modalities, Islamic finance principles, and so on;
- ensuring that i) the DAC statistical system continues to provide a reference point for the international community regarding any new international commitments in the environmental sector, and ii) the DAC "Rio markers"[15] are improved to better capture development finance supporting climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity and desertification;
- exploring the scope for developing new metrics that enable statistical comparison across a wider range of entities providing development assistance, including South-South co-operation e.g. deflating development assistance values by purchasing power parities, and
- assessing how any forthcoming post-2015 goals, targets or indicators could be supported by the DAC statistical system, in particular any measures or data presentations that could capture global "enablers" or global public goods (e.g. biodiversity protection, peace and security, climate stability, etc.).

VII. CONSULTING WITH OTHER DEVELOPMENT ACTORS IN CARRYING OUT THIS WORK

The DAC will carry out exploratory work throughout 2013 and 2014 on statistical reforms and possible new measures in close collaboration with other interested international agencies (in particular the IMF, the World Bank and UN system). A large number of outreach and consultation processes will take place in an inclusive effort to share thinking and findings with other development actors and stakeholders, including:

- enhanced engagement with key UN bodies working on the post-2015 development framework and its financing strategy;

- establishment of a special development finance "Expert Reference Group" composed of leading financial and development policy experts from academia, think tanks, civil society, and developing countries around the world. This group will provide insights on strategic issues linked to the proposed statistical reform agenda and continuous feedback on emerging proposals;

- discussions with a range of development actors and political leaders in the context of Ministerial and/or Steering Committee meetings of the Global Partnership for Development Effectiveness;

[15] The developed countries that signed the three Rio Conventions in 1992 committed themselves to assist developing countries in the implementation of these Conventions. Since 1998 the DAC has monitored aid targeting the objectives of the Rio Conventions through its "Creditor Reporting System" (CRS) using the so called "Rio markers". Every aid activity reported to the CRS should be screened and marked as either (i) targeting the Conventions as a 'principal objective' or a 'significant objective', or (ii) not targeting the objective.

- engaging more broadly with developing and emerging country stakeholders in a reciprocal dialogue on their strategies for profiting from all available sources of development finance, and how this might affect measurement of development finance, and

- creating dedicated webpages to permit widespread public access to briefs and analytical papers exploring different aspects of the reform agenda, with social media features enabling interactive feedback from interested publics.

Recommendations for possible reforms, including additional statistical categories, classifications and measures and any steps to modernise the ODA concept will be submitted to Ministers at the end of 2014. This timetable may change in order to accommodate any measurement issues raised by on-going international processes to establish the post-2015 development agenda – and its associated development finance strategy.

Finally, as part of the wider modernisation effort, by end-2013 advanced visualisation features will be added to the DAC's statistical website (see http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/) – which has been completely revamped and redesigned over the past year to simplify its structure, enhance user-friendliness and expedite data access.

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