



INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY AND PARTNERSHIPS TO ADDRESS GLOBAL CHALLENGES

DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION FUNDAMENTALS

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Countries face numerous common challenges and opportunities: climate change, environmental protection, global health, trade and finance, peace and security, migration...

Global inter-dependence and the scale of these issues mean that **going it alone is neither realistic nor desirable**. Only together can countries unlock the benefits of common rules and tackle cross-border issues that threaten sustainable development.

To manage these issues effectively we need strong institutions, rules and norms to support trust and enable co-operation.



Advocacy puts issues **on the international agenda**.



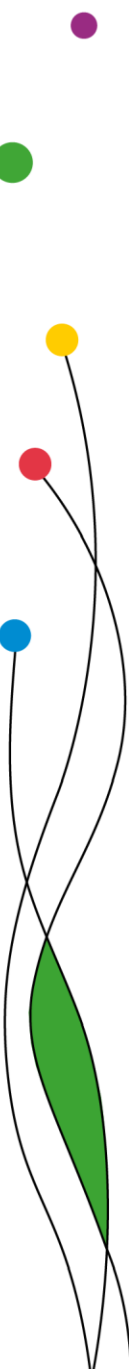
States help create, promote and adjust **collective frameworks**, together with stakeholders.



States lead by example, mobilising **resources**, **supporting debate**, encouraging others to take action.



States and stakeholders **follow-up** on collective agreements and monitor their implementation.



BASIC STANDARDS

Countries have general and specific commitments to collaborate for sustainable development.

The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) sets out a common agenda for individual and collective action, building on collaborative partnerships involving all countries and all stakeholders. [SDG 17](#) contains specific objectives to ensure that a global partnership for sustainable development supports developing countries.

Binding and non-binding international frameworks also set out objectives and concrete measures for collaboration and exchange in numerous policy areas, including [climate](#), [public health](#), [biological diversity](#), [migration](#) and [refugees](#), [trade](#), [tax](#), and [combatting money laundering and terrorist financing](#).

Pillar I.1 of the [Peer Review Analytical Framework](#) sets out the DAC's expectations for how members use a strategic approach in their global and domestic engagement to achieve the 2030 Agenda, including by supporting global public goods and addressing global challenges. This includes **advancing international debate**, helping to agree or enhance **collective frameworks**, and using **evidence and leadership to encourage others** to implement them.



GOOD PRACTICES



Defining clear priorities and action for international advocacy and collaboration

Countries define actions for international leadership in key policy areas according to their areas of strength. They also identify stakeholders, determine responsibilities and set out how to measure progress.

- Japan [champions disaster risk reduction and recovery](#), sharing its domestic expertise, advancing dialogue in global fora, and making it a focus of development co-operation.
- The United States' [Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad](#) sets out clear actions to be taken domestically and in global fora, including an obligation for agencies to develop strategies and implementation plans for integrating climate considerations into their international work.
- Ireland's third [action plan on women, peace and security](#) sets out actions for each lead department for international funding, multilateral diplomacy and peace-keeping as well as domestic activities. The plan features a detailed monitoring framework.
- Norway's [Ocean strategy](#) includes a dedicated chapter on how Norway will work in a broad range of international fora to promote the protection and sustainable use of maritime resources.



GOOD PRACTICES



Supporting multilateral frameworks for global sustainable development

Governments enable the effective functioning of multilateral frameworks, mobilising quality funding, taking active responsibility in their governance and strengthening their focus on global sustainable development.

- Korea used its presidency to launch a [G20 development workstream](#), while Portugal's presidency of the EU Council helped [forge common positions](#) on development co-operation issues.
- Through [very long-term and innovative financing](#) for Gavi, development co-operation partners have provided key support for the development and efficient distribution of vaccines that save children.
- France not only helped achieve the adoption of the Paris Climate Agreement, but also played a major role in [promoting, implementing and encouraging accession](#) to the agreement.
- [Thanks to joint board membership by its environment and foreign ministries](#), Denmark actively supports the Green Climate Fund, for instance on its Indigenous Peoples' policy.



GOOD PRACTICES



Mobilising international allies and domestic expertise

Governments build coalitions with key stakeholders and help reflect the views of developing countries. Domestic expertise within line ministries, sub-national entities, the private sector and civil society can be mobilised to help tackle international challenges.

- The United Kingdom [joined forces](#) with Kenya and the International Disability Alliance to organise a Global Disability Summit. Strong diplomatic outreach helped secure commitments that will be tracked by a Partnership Forum, in collaboration with Norway.
- Sweden's work on [antimicrobial resistance](#) relies on the co-ordinated efforts of 25 Swedish agencies and Italy has advanced international support for the [protection of cultural heritage in conflict](#), drawing on substantial domestic expertise.
- Germany offered its facilities to and supported Fiji as the first small island developing state (SIDS) to preside over the international climate conference, COP 23.
- The United States' [diplomatic efforts](#) secured important contributions by other states at the Leaders' Summit on Refugees.



GOOD PRACTICES



Promoting research and evidence to inform advocacy and shape debates

Research, evidence and learning, including from the member's own approaches, inform its actions and international advocacy, enabling it to promote high-quality responses by other stakeholders.

- The European Union mobilises significant [research financing](#) for global goods, including in the fight against climate change.
- The Netherlands actively promotes responsible business conduct (RBC) in international fora and domestically. To inform its work, it has conducted evaluations of its [international RBC policy](#), including Dutch engagement in international initiatives, and on [Dutch RBC agreements](#).
- The United Kingdom is a strong advocate of gender equality and has spearheaded efforts on the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment in development co-operation. Its efforts on violence against women are bolstered by [learning from its bilateral co-operation](#).
- The International Development Research Centre in Canada [supports the research and capacity of knowledge institutions in developing countries](#) on key challenges such as global health and climate.



MEASURING SUCCESS

Countries are effective in advancing international collaboration for global sustainable development when:

- ▶ International debate progresses on (new) issues or challenges.
- ▶ Collective frameworks or commitments are agreed or strengthened to address an issue, and backed up by resources.
- ▶ Other states and stakeholders adhere to, actively engage in and follow up on collective frameworks.
- ▶ Joint international action leads to measurable progress in tackling the common challenge.



RESOURCES

This United Nations [website](#) provides an overview of global issues that transcend national boundaries and cannot be resolved by any one country acting alone, with links to additional resources on each.

The [OECD](#) serves as a forum for exchange and collaboration to establish evidence-based international standards in response to global challenges.

The [Group of 20 \(G20\)](#) is an international forum bringing together major economies every year since 1999, with the participation of the respective heads of state and government.

Relevant evaluations can be found at the [DAC Evaluation Resource Centre \(DEReC\)](#).

Relevant topics in this series

[***Policy coherence for sustainable development***](#) is important for advancing coherent policies jointly.

Effective [***multilateral partnerships***](#) are essential to support multilateral responses to global challenges.



DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION FUNDAMENTALS

This series unpacks development co-operation standards and illustrates how DAC members are applying them. Applying standards can help all actors to fulfil their ambitions and commitments.

Each *Fundamentals* document introduces a key aspect of effective development co-operation, sets out *basic standards*, offers *good practice* examples, and identifies *relevant resources*.

Other topics in this series, which will be expanded and updated over time, can be found on the [Development Co-operation TIPs • Tools Insights Practices](#) peer learning platform. For comments, contact DCD.TIPs@oecd.org.

