

## **Open letter to Carsten Staur, chair of the OECD Development Assistance Committee.**

Dear Mr. Staur,

We write to you today as current and former coordinators of a diverse coalition of civil society organizations from the global south and north, calling for a fundamental overhaul of the global development architecture — one that prioritizes the voices, leadership, and experiences of countries in the global south.

The current system has allowed the slashing of official development assistance budgets and the abandonment of long-standing aid and development commitments across the donor landscape without warning or recourse, putting countries in the global south in a perilous situation. This is why this system must be replaced.

Our message comes to you as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development meets at the Ministerial level on June 3-4, less than one month before the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, or FfD4, set to take place in Seville, Spain. It anticipates the new international development cooperation paradigm that the OECD's Development Assistance Committee and its members will offer to the FfD4 outcome and follow-up.

DAC chair, you have [suggested](#) most recently, when addressing the Development Committee of the European Parliament, that there is a need for “increased transparency and accountability, and on the governance of the DAC, addressing how we take decisions going forward. DAC has been entrusted as the ‘custodian’ or ‘guardian’ of ODA — but this guardianship must be managed in an inclusive way, involving both other providers and partner countries in the process in a much more profound way than before.”

We agree. But we cannot wait for the DAC with its exclusive membership to embark on another closed-door reflection exercise, as it did back in 2008. There is an urgent need for a transparent, inclusive, and democratic process to redefine the principles, objectives, and governance of international development cooperation.

We have previously suggested and make this call again: The redesign of a new development cooperation paradigm must be conducted under the auspices of the United Nations, the only fully inclusive and representative space where countries in the global north and south have an equal say.

“Our long-standing call for a U.N. Convention on International Development Cooperation remains as relevant and urgent as ever.”

We urge you to listen to what global south countries are saying right now in the context of the FfD4 negotiations — and heed their calls.

We strongly support the Group of 77's call for FfD4 to strengthen and reinforce the norm-setting role of the U.N., to initiate a multilateral process to build consensus on a shared understanding of ODA parameters, and to develop a new framework that ensures equity, effectiveness, and accountability.

Civil society remains deeply concerned by the lack of ambition and blockage of any real progress shown in the current negotiations, particularly by rich countries.

Our long-standing call for a U.N. Convention on International Development Cooperation remains as relevant and urgent as ever. Such a convention would enshrine clear commitments, foster coherence, and anchor development cooperation in the principles of justice and mutual accountability.

In this moment when countries must commit to multilateralism, the DAC and its members must not stand in the way of an FfD4 outcome that empowers the U.N. to lead in setting global norms, fostering dialogue, and advancing coherence in international development cooperation.

### **DAC CSO Reference Group**

The DAC CSO Reference Group is a coalition of civil society organizations with a rich history of engagement on international cooperation policy and governance at the local, national, and global levels, across all types of institutions, and in particular the OECD-DAC.