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# **Trade union engagement with the DAC:**

**Trends and challenges for ODA arising  
from the multiple crises**

# Trade unions at the DAC SLM



## **Access to vaccines:**

- Vaccine donation complemented with other policies
- Need for safeguards

## **Covid recovery:**

- Investments in decent climate-friendly jobs and formalising the informal economy
- Just Transition in the fight against climate change
- Universal social protection systems and a GSPF

## **Financing for sustainable development:**

- More ODA
- Debt relief and debt cancellation
- Progressive taxation
- Private finance aligned with the SDGs and labour standards

## **DAC's work with other development actors:**

- Role of trade unions and support to social dialogue in development cooperation.

# Climate finance

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- Challenges to reach consensus on climate
- Strong focus on the private sector
- References to Just Transition are included in the DAC documents
- DAC's proposal to the COP (references to Just Transition, limit ODA investments in fossil fuels, blended finance)

## **Trade union priorities:**

- Ensure a meaningful implementation of a Just Transition: decent work creation and private sector accountability
- Increase resources for climate finance and Just Transition (reach the USD 100 Billion a year and increase funding for adaptation and loss and damage)

# Private Finance

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- Impact Standards for Financing Sustainable Development 2022
- Discussion on how to account for PSI: including loans to the private sector, guarantees and equity.

## **Trade union concerns:**

- Impact financing should contribute to decent work creation, guarantee labour rights, social dialogue and collective bargaining.
- Clear safeguards need to be put in place for PSIs

# Access to vaccines



Discussions on the counting of excess vaccines from domestic supply donated to developing countries.

DAC members could not reach an agreement on criteria and so a guidance note was issued, settling for an agreed price of USD 6.72 per donated dose

## Trade Union concerns:

- Donors should not be rewarded for vaccine hoarding which lead to increased prices and reduced access to vaccines for developing countries.
- Counting excess vaccines donated artificially inflates ODA: in 2021 USD 2.3 billion (1.3% of total ODA) was for donated doses left over from domestic supplies.
- vaccine donations need to go hand in hand with: TRIPS waiver for COVID-19 vaccines and treatments, sharing of technology and knowledge, investments in regional vaccine hubs, strengthening country health systems and ensuring equitable roll-out of diagnostics and therapeutics.
- Clear safeguards need to be established: consideration of expiry dates and the delivery of supplies to guarantee adequate storage conditions and ensure their administration.

# DAC's work with Civil Society



## Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society in Development Cooperation and Humanitarian assistance, July 2021

### 3 pillars:

- 1) Respecting, promoting and protecting civic space.
- 2) Supporting and engaging with civil society;
- 3) Incentivising CSO effectiveness, transparency and accountability

### **Trade union priorities in the Recommendation:**

- References to ILO C87 and 98 and the Centenary Declaration
- Reference to support to trade unions
- Promoting social dialogue in private sector engagement

# The multiple crises and the role of ODA



- ODA budgets have increased over the last two years: 179 billion in 2021 (+4,4%)
- USD 6.3 billion spent on providing COVID-19 vaccines to developing countries, equivalent to 3.5% of total ODA.
- Excluding vaccines, ODA went up by 0.6% in real terms from 2020.
- In-donor refugee costs were at USD 9.3 billion in 2021 (5.2%) and will surely largely increase in 2022.
- A lot of uncertainty and growing demand: the climate crisis, the COVID-19 crisis and the war in Ukraine.