

Glossary of Key Terms and Concepts

(Cross-references are given in CAPITALS)

AID: The words “aid” and “assistance” in this publication refer only to flows which qualify as OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA).

AMORTISATION: Repayments of principal on a LOAN. Does not include interest payments.

ASSOCIATED FINANCING: The combination of OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, whether GRANTS or LOANS, with other official or private funds to form finance packages. Associated Financing packages are subject to the same criteria of concessionality, developmental relevance and recipient country eligibility as TIED AID credits.

BILATERAL: See TOTAL RECEIPTS.

CLAIM: The entitlement of a creditor to repayment of a LOAN; by extension, the loan itself or the outstanding amount thereof.

COMMITMENT: A firm obligation, expressed in writing and backed by the necessary funds, undertaken by an official donor to provide specified assistance to a recipient country or a multilateral organisation. Bilateral commitments are recorded in the full amount of expected transfer, irrespective of the time required for the completion of DISBURSEMENTS. Commitments to multilateral organisations are reported as the sum of: i) any disbursements in the year in question which have not previously been notified as commitments, and ii) expected disbursements in the following year.

CONCESSIONALITY LEVEL: A measure of the “softness” of a credit reflecting the benefit to the borrower compared to a LOAN at market rate (cf. GRANT ELEMENT). Technically, it is calculated as the difference between the nominal value of a TIED AID credit and the present value of the debt service as of the date of DISBURSEMENT, calculated at a discount rate applicable to the currency of the transaction and expressed as a percentage of the nominal value.

DAC (DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE): The committee of the OECD which deals with development co-operation matters. A description of its aims and a list of its members are given at the front of this volume.

DAC LIST OF ODA RECIPIENTS: For statistical purposes, the DAC uses a List of ODA Recipients which it revises every three years. The “Notes on Definitions and Measurement” below give details of revisions in recent years. As at 1 January 2007, the List is presented in the following categories (the word “countries” includes territories):

- **LDCs:** Least Developed Countries. Group established by the United Nations. To be classified as an LDC, countries must fall below thresholds established for income,

economic diversification and social development. The DAC List is updated immediately to reflect any change in the LDC group.

- **Other LICs:** Other Low-Income Countries. Includes all non-LDC countries with per capita GNI USD 825 or less in 2004 (World Bank Atlas basis).
- **LMICs:** Lower Middle-Income Countries, i.e. with GNI per capita (Atlas basis) between USD 826 and USD 3 255 in 2004. LDCs which are also LMICs are only shown as LDCs – not as LMICs.
- **UMICs:** Upper Middle-Income Countries, i.e. with GNI per capita (Atlas basis) between USD 3 256 and USD 10 065 in 2004.

DEBT REORGANISATION (also: **RESTRUCTURING**): Any action officially agreed between creditor and debtor that alters the terms previously established for repayment. This may include **forgiveness** (extinction of the LOAN), or **rescheduling** which can be implemented either by revising the repayment schedule or extending a new **refinancing** loan. See also “Notes on Definitions and Measurement” below.

DISAGGREGATED MONITORING: Means breaking down results from statistical monitoring by sex, sub-national region, ethnic and social groups.

DISBURSEMENT: The release of funds to – or the purchase of goods or services for – a recipient; by extension, the amount thus spent. Disbursements record the actual international transfer of financial resources, or of goods or services valued at the cost to the donor. In the case of activities carried out in donor countries, such as training, administration or public awareness programmes, disbursement is taken to have occurred when the funds have been transferred to the service provider or the recipient. They may be recorded **gross** (the total amount disbursed over a given accounting period) or **net** (the gross amount less any repayments of LOAN principal or recoveries on GRANTS received during the same period).

EXPORT CREDITS: LOANS for the purpose of trade and which are not represented by a negotiable instrument. They may be extended by the official or the private sector. If extended by the private sector, they may be supported by official guarantees.

FRAGMENTATION OF AID: Describes aid that comes in too many small slices from too many donors, creating unnecessary and wasteful administrative costs and making it difficult to target aid where it is needed most.

GRACE PERIOD: See GRANT ELEMENT.

GRANTS: Transfers made in cash, goods or services for which no repayment is required.

GRANT ELEMENT: Reflects the **financial terms** of a COMMITMENT: interest rate, MATURITY and GRACE PERIOD (interval to first repayment of capital). It measures the concessionality of a LOAN, expressed as the percentage by which the present value of the expected stream of repayments falls short of the repayments that would have been generated at a given reference rate of interest. The reference rate is 10% in DAC statistics. This rate was selected as a proxy for the marginal efficiency of domestic investment, i.e. as an indication of the opportunity cost to the donor of making the funds available. Thus, the grant element is nil for a loan carrying an interest rate of 10%; it is 100% for a GRANT; and it lies between these two limits for a loan at less than 10% interest. If the face value of a loan is multiplied by its grant element, the result is referred to as the **grant equivalent** of that loan (cf. CONCESSIONALITY LEVEL). [Note: in classifying receipts, the grant element

concept is not applied to the operations of the multilateral development banks. Instead, these are classified as concessional if they include a subsidy (“soft window” operations) and non-concessional if they are unsubsidised (“hard window” operations)].

GRANT-LIKE FLOW: A transaction in which the donor country retains formal title to repayment but has expressed its intention in the COMMITMENT to hold the proceeds of repayment in the borrowing country for the benefit of that country.

IMPUTED MULTILATERAL FLOWS: Geographical distribution of donors’ core contributions to multilateral agencies, based on the geographical breakdown of multilateral agencies’ disbursements for the year of reference.

LOANS: Transfers for which repayment is required. Only loans with MATURITIES of over one year are included in DAC statistics. The data record actual flows throughout the lifetime of the loans, not the **grant equivalent** of the loans (*cf.* GRANT ELEMENT). Data on net loan flows include deductions for repayments of principal (but not payment of interest) on earlier loans. This means that when a loan has been fully repaid, its effect on total NET FLOWS over the life of the loan is zero.

LONG-TERM: Used of LOANS with an original or extended MATURITY of more than one year.

MATURITY: The date at which the final repayment of a LOAN is due; by extension, the duration of the loan.

MULTILATERAL AGENCIES: In DAC statistics, those international institutions with governmental membership which conduct all or a significant part of their activities in favour of development and aid recipient countries. They include multilateral development banks (*e.g.* World Bank, regional development banks), United Nations agencies, and regional groupings (*e.g.* certain European Community and Arab agencies). A contribution by a DAC member to such an agency is deemed to be multilateral if it is pooled with other contributions and disbursed at the discretion of the agency. Unless otherwise indicated, capital subscriptions to multilateral development banks are presented on a **deposit basis**, *i.e.* in the amount and as at the date of lodgement of the relevant letter of credit or other negotiable instrument. Limited data are available on an encashment basis, *i.e.* at the date and in the amount of each drawing made by the agency on letters or other instruments.

NET FLOW: The total amount disbursed over a given accounting period, less repayments of LOAN principal during the same period, no account being taken of interest.

NET TRANSFER: In DAC statistics, NET FLOW minus payments of interest.

NEW DEVELOPMENT LENDING: This refers to actual payments on ODA lending operations, excluding rescheduling and forgiveness. Gross new development lending is the total value of new ODA loans extended by a donor country in a given year. Net new development lending is the gross amount minus total loan principal actually repaid by the borrowing country in the same year on all existing loans.

OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA): GRANTS or LOANS to countries and territories on the DAC List of ODA Recipients and multilateral agencies that are undertaken by the official sector at concessional terms (*i.e.* with a GRANT ELEMENT of at least 25%) and that have the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as their main objective. In addition to financial flows, TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION is included in aid. Grants, loans and credits for military purposes are excluded. For the

treatment of the forgiveness of loans originally extended for military purposes, see “Notes on Definitions and Measurement” below.

OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE (ODF): Used in measuring the inflow of resources to recipient countries: includes: a) bilateral ODA; b) GRANTS and concessional and non-concessional development lending by multilateral financial institutions; and c) those OTHER OFFICIAL FLOWS which are considered developmental (including refinancing LOANS) but which have too low a GRANT ELEMENT to qualify as ODA.

OFFSHORE BANKING CENTRES: Countries or territories whose financial institutions deal primarily with non-residents.

OTHER OFFICIAL FLOWS (OOF): 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%.

PARTIALLY UNTIED AID: Official Development Assistance for which the associated goods and services must be procured in the donor country or among a restricted group of other countries, which must however include substantially all recipient countries. Partially untied aid is subject to the same disciplines as TIED AID credits and ASSOCIATED FINANCING.

PARTNER COUNTRY: Refers to countries that receive development assistance provided by other countries to support their own development.

PARTNERSHIP PRINCIPLES: The Paris Declaration contains 56 partnership commitments. These are organised around five key principles:

- **Ownership:** Developing countries set their own development strategies, improve their institutions and tackle corruption.
- **Alignment:** Donor countries bring their support in line with these objectives and use local systems.
- **Harmonisation:** Donor countries co-ordinate their action, simplify procedures and share information to avoid duplication.
- **Managing for results:** Developing countries and donors focus on producing and measuring results.
- **Mutual accountability:** Donors and developing country partners are accountable for development results.

PRIVATE FLOWS: Consist of flows at market terms financed out of private sector resources (i.e. changes in holdings of private LONG-TERM assets held by residents of the reporting country) and private grants (i.e. grants by **non-governmental organisations** and other private bodies, net of subsidies received from the official sector). In presentations focusing on the receipts of recipient countries, flows at market terms are shown as follows:

- **Direct investment:** Investment made to acquire or add to a lasting interest in an enterprise in a country on the DAC List of ODA Recipients. “Lasting interest” implies a long-term relationship where the direct investor has a significant influence on the management of the enterprise, reflected by ownership of at least 10% of the shares, or equivalent voting power or other means of control. In practice, it is recorded as the

change in the net worth of a subsidiary in a recipient country to the parent company, as shown in the books of the latter.

- **International bank lending:** Net lending to countries on the DAC List of ODA Recipients by banks in OECD countries. LOANS from central monetary authorities are excluded. Guaranteed bank loans and bonds are included under OTHER PRIVATE or BOND LENDING (see below) in these presentations.
- **Bond lending:** Net completed international bonds issued by countries on the DAC List of ODA Recipients.
- **Other private:** Mainly reported holdings of equities issued by firms in aid recipient countries.

In data presentations which focus on the outflow of funds from donors, private flows other than direct investment are restricted to credits with a MATURITY of greater than one year and are usually divided into:

- **Private export credits:** See EXPORT CREDITS.
- **Securities of multilateral agencies:** This covers the transactions of the private non-bank and bank sector in bonds, debentures, etc., issued by multilateral institutions.
- **Bilateral portfolio investment and other:** Includes bank lending and the purchase of shares, bonds and real estate.

SCALING UP: This term, used with reference to aid, refers not only to increased aid flows, but also to an increase in the impact and effectiveness of aid through several measures: better distribution of aid according to recipient country needs/priorities; wider coverage of aid to populations and geographic/thematic areas that receive proportionally too little; wider application of lessons learned for more effective aid delivery and management; greater follow through on commitments (in terms of amounts of aid, as well as improved mechanisms for delivery and management of aid); greater levels of ambition in overcoming recognised obstacles to aid effectiveness.

SHORT-TERM: LOANS with a MATURITY of one year or less.

TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION: Includes both: a) GRANTS to nationals of aid recipient countries receiving education or training at home or abroad; and b) payments to consultants, advisers and similar personnel as well as teachers and administrators serving in recipient countries (including the cost of associated equipment). Assistance of this kind provided specifically to facilitate the implementation of a capital project is included indistinguishably among bilateral project and programme expenditures, and is omitted from technical co-operation in statistics of aggregate flows.

TIED AID: Official GRANTS or LOANS where procurement of the goods or services involved is limited to the donor country or to a group of countries which does not include substantially all aid recipient countries. Tied aid loans, credits and ASSOCIATED FINANCING packages are subject to certain disciplines concerning their CONCESSIONALITY LEVELS, the countries to which they may be directed, and their developmental relevance so as to avoid using aid funds on projects that would be commercially viable with market finance, and to ensure that recipient countries receive good value. Details are given in the **Development Co-operation Reports** for 1987 (pp. 177-181) and 1992 (pp. 10-11).

TOTAL RECEIPTS: The inflow of resources to aid recipient countries includes, in addition to ODF, official and private EXPORT CREDITS, and LONG-TERM private transactions (see PRIVATE FLOWS). Total receipts are measured net of AMORTISATION

payments and repatriation of capital by private investors. **Bilateral** flows are provided directly by a donor country to an aid recipient country. **Multilateral** flows are channelled via an international organisation active in development (*e.g.* World Bank, UNDP). In tables showing total receipts of recipient countries, the outflows of multilateral agencies to those countries is shown, not the contributions which the agencies received from donors.

UNDISBURSED: Describes amounts committed but not yet spent. See also COMMITMENT, DISBURSEMENT.

UNTIED AID: Official Development Assistance for which the associated goods and services may be fully and freely procured in substantially all countries.

VOLUME (real terms): The flow data in this publication are expressed in US dollars (USD). To give a truer idea of the volume of flows over time, some data are presented in constant prices and exchange rates, with a reference year specified. This means that adjustment has been made to cover both inflation in the donor's currency between the year in question and the reference year, and changes in the exchange rate between that currency and the United States dollar over the same period. A table of combined conversion factors (deflators) is provided in the Statistical Annex (Table 36) which allows any figure in the Report in current USD to be converted to dollars of the reference year ("constant prices").



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