

## III-D. Profile of OECD

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### 1. Overview

The **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** is an influential multilateral body that addresses economic and governance cooperation among 30 member countries. OECD members are among the richest countries in the world. It has currently 30 members including most of the European states, in addition to Australia, Canada, Japan, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand and the USA.

OECD undertakes research and produces instruments that would help in fostering cooperation among the 30 member states and between its members and other states. The organisation's work in the area of environment and security attempts to help governments develop policies in this area and to better understand the complexities and linkages between environment and security.

### 2. DAC Network on Conflict, Peace and Development Co-operation (CPDC)

The DAC Network on Conflict, Peace and Development Co-operation (CPDC)<sup>1</sup> is the international forum that brings together conflict prevention and peace-building experts from donor governments, the UN system, European Commission, IMF and World Bank. These experts meet to define and develop common approaches in support of peace. The CPDC is a subsidiary group of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC).<sup>2</sup>

The CPDC's objective is to continue to increase and improve efforts to help prevent violent conflict and build sustainable peace. Drawing on operational and policy-oriented experience, and working alongside with the DAC Fragile States Group<sup>3</sup> and the DAC Network on Governance,<sup>4</sup> the CPDC develops and promotes good practice on helping to prevent and respond to the outbreak and recurrence of conflict. In support of this goal, the CPDC Network is producing a "Manual of Issues and Entry Points" containing concise and accessible Issues Briefs on a range of conflict, peace and development topics.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The main page of the OECD DAC CPDC on Environment, conflict and peace at [http://www.oecd.org/document/44/0,2340,en\\_2649\\_34567\\_35527980\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/44/0,2340,en_2649_34567_35527980_1_1_1_1,00.html) includes issues briefs with an overview of the links between the environment, conflict and peace and specific briefs on land, water, valuable minerals and forests as well as a number of documents that have been published by CPDC participant countries and international organizations. See also: The DAC Network on Conflict, Peace and Development Co-operation (CPDC) at: [www.oecd.org/dac/conflict](http://www.oecd.org/dac/conflict)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.oecd.org/department/0,2688,en\\_2649\\_33721\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/department/0,2688,en_2649_33721_1_1_1_1_1,00.html)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.oecd.org/document/32/0,2340,en\\_2649\\_33693550\\_35234336\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/32/0,2340,en_2649_33693550_35234336_1_1_1_1,00.html)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.oecd.org/department/0,2688,en\\_2649\\_34565\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/department/0,2688,en_2649_34565_1_1_1_1_1,00.html)

<sup>5</sup> The complete 140 page manual is available at:

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/26/3/35785584.pdf>

See also: "Issues briefs on preventing conflict and building peace" at:

[http://www.oecd.org/document/53/0,2340,en\\_2649\\_34567\\_34538357\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/53/0,2340,en_2649_34567_34538357_1_1_1_1,00.html)

### 3. The DAC Conflict Prevention Guidelines

The DAC Guidelines "[Helping Prevent Violent Conflict](#)" address the importance of conflict prevention as an integral part of poverty reduction efforts. The publication contains the 1997 conflict prevention guidelines and the 2001 supplement to that work. Together they explore ways for donor governments to honour their commitment to help prevent conflict and promote peace.<sup>6</sup>

The Guidelines cover key issues including:

- Integrating a conflict prevention "lens"
- Security and development
- Supporting regional co-operation and consultation
- Peace processes, justice and reconciliation
- Engaging in partnerships for peace
- Working with business
- Countering negative economic forces, where powerful groups acquire a vested interest in sparking or perpetuating violent conflict.

### 4. Security Sector Reform

At the DAC High Level Meeting in April 2004 Ministers and Agency Heads endorsed a policy statement and paper entitled "[Security System Reform and Governance: Policy and Good Practice](#)". The 2004 DAC publication follows on from work conducted by the CPDC's precursor, the DAC Informal Task Force on Conflict, Peace and Development Co-operation, "Security Issues and Development Cooperation: A Framework for Enhancing Policy Coherence", published in 2001.<sup>7</sup>

The 2004 publication on Security Sector Reform (SSR) highlights the changes that are taking place in the way that donors think about security and offers and sets out concrete examples to help guide donors who engage in SSR. The paper emphasises that whole-of-government approaches to Security System Reform should be the goal both in donor and developing countries. The importance of SSR, and its key concepts, must be understood throughout the foreign affairs, development and the defence establishments so that comprehensive reform is promoted by their officials at all levels.

### 5. CPDC work on Environment and Conflict

Addressing the links between the environment, conflict and peace is highlighted as an area of collaboration between the DAC ENVIRONET<sup>8</sup> and the CPDC, and is moreover one of the priorities of the CPDC work programme 2005-2006.

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<sup>6</sup> "Helping Prevent Conflict" is available at:

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/57/55/33920283.htm>

<sup>7</sup> The 141 page SSR document is available at:

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/8/39/31785288.pdf>

See also "Conflict Prevention and Development Co-operation Papers - The Influence of Aid in Situations of Violent Conflict Security Issues and Development Co-operation: A Conceptual Framework for Enhancing Policy Coherence", Off-print of the DAC Journal 2001, Volume 2, No. 3, 72 pages at: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/31/24/1843044.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> ENVIRONET's mandate is to contribute to the formulation of coherent approaches to sustainable development in the context of the OECD cross-sectoral approach to sustainable development. It formulates specific guidance for development co-operation efforts in support of environment and sustainable development. The Network also provides its members with a policy forum for sharing experience and disseminating good practice with regard to the integration of environmental concerns in development cooperation.

This work focuses on the link between the environment, conflict and peace and the relevance of these issues to development programming.

The intended audiences of the output from this work are both conflict prevention policy professionals and environmental professionals.

The outputs are intended to help **conflict prevention policy professionals** to address the natural resource-related factors that cause, trigger or fuel conflict. This should mainly occur by identifying the entry points through which tools and approaches related to the environment can be used to strengthen conflict prevention and peace-building programming.

The aim is also to help **environmental professionals** within development agencies engage positively with the conflict prevention and peace-building agenda.

In order to move the CPDC work on Environment and Conflict ahead, a workshop was hosted by Sida in Stockholm on 16 February 2005 on 'Managing the environment to prevent conflict and build peace'. The workshop was attended by representatives of the CPDC and ENVIRONET Members, UN agencies, several international and non-governmental institutions and the CPDC and ENVIRONET secretariats.

The aim of the Workshop was to look at what practical steps can be taken by development actors to help improve the way that they identify and respond to critical issues linking the environment, conflict and peace and strengthen environmental management approaches to prevent conflict and build peace.

Discussions at the workshop centred around three key issues:

- Where can donors set priorities when addressing the links between environment, conflict and peace?
- How to integrate environment-and-conflict-links in programme methodologies?
- Which operational implications may one draw from the current state of knowledge on environment and conflict?

The CPDC commissioned the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) to conduct research into the links between environmental issues, conflict and peace.<sup>9</sup>

Drawing on that research and the discussion during the workshop, the CPDC produced the very useful issues brief on called "**Overview of Links between the Environment, Conflict and Peace**". The document notes that "the way that we access and use natural resources can cause, trigger or drive violent conflict within states and across sub-regions. But the natural environment can also provide a constructive avenue for conflict prevention and peace-building."

The issues brief is available at: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/26/49/35785489.pdf>

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<sup>9</sup> See also the IISD's web pages on Environment and Security at:

<http://www.iisd.org/security/es/>

The site includes a link to "State-of-the-Art Review on Environment, Security and Development Co-operation, a concise review (114 pages) on the links between natural resources and conflict, written in 1999 for the Working Party on Development Co-operation and Environment OECD Development Assistance Committee:

[http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2002/envsec\\_oecd\\_review.pdf](http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2002/envsec_oecd_review.pdf)

## 6. Emerging Issues and Crisis Countries

The Fragile States Group ([www.oecd.org/dac/fragilestates](http://www.oecd.org/dac/fragilestates)) is a unique forum that brings together experts on governance, conflict prevention and reconstruction from bilateral and multilateral development co-operation agencies to facilitate co-ordination and share good practice to enhance development effectiveness in 'fragile states'.<sup>10</sup>

While there are few specific references to the relationship between environment and security in the documents of this part of the work of the OECD, the need to address environmental concerns along with development and security issues in these countries cannot be ignored.

According to the web page of the Fragile States Group:

"Sustained development in fragile states will save lives, reduce violent conflict and the appeal of radicalism, and bolster the ability of states to deal with threats before they cause real harm. It is particularly essential to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, as, while estimated to make up about one seventh of the world's population, people who live in fragile states constitute:

- one third of those living on less than \$1/day
- half of all children dying before the age of five
- over one third of maternal deaths
- one third those without drinking water
- over one third of people suffering from HIV/AIDS - proportionally four times higher than elsewhere in the developing world.

In addition, the human and financial costs of state fragility are not limited by national boundaries. Research indicates that fragile states have an estimated negative impact of 1.6% on economic growth for neighbours, and, where instability and violent conflict occurs, this can often spill across regions. State failure can also have global ramifications on security and prosperity."

Elsewhere the OECD quotes the UN Secretary General's remarks in March 2005 when he said "*Prevention, in particular, must be central to all our efforts, from combating poverty and promoting sustainable development*".

The CPDC adds that "Unless the factors that cause or fuel conflict and instability are more effectively addressed, there is little prospect of reducing poverty, sustaining development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Violent conflict leads to widespread human suffering, civilian casualties, and population displacement. Moreover, instability and conflict have highly adverse effects on production, investment, infrastructure, the environment and, therefore, livelihoods, both within countries and across sub-regions."

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<sup>10</sup> For information about the OECD's Fragile States Group, see: [http://www.oecd.org/document/32/0,2340,en\\_2649\\_33693550\\_35234336\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/32/0,2340,en_2649_33693550_35234336_1_1_1_1,00.html) and [http://www.oecd.org/department/0,2688,en\\_2649\\_33693550\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/department/0,2688,en_2649_33693550_1_1_1_1_1,00.html)