

Research Material
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Analysis on OECD DAC's Progress in Implementing Its Strategy to Strengthen Partnerships

This paper reviews the Global Relations Strategy(GRS) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development(OECD) Development Assistance Committee(DAC), and its current implementation status. The DAC's Global Relations Strategic Direction(GRSD), finalized in August 2023, presents a framework for strengthening cooperation among the DAC members, non-DAC countries, even including various development cooperation stakeholders. In 2011, the DAC first introduced the GRS to enhance the effectiveness of development cooperation and broaden its global influence. The strategy has been revised in 2016, 2018 and 2020, to reflect the changes in the landscape of international development cooperation.

The DAC's strategy focuses on enhancing policy dialogue and knowledge-sharing in development cooperation, promoting greater inclusivity in the DAC's decision-making process, and building a more effective development cooperation system. To achieve these goals, the DAC has extended its partnerships with non-DAC countries, international organizations, and the private sector, encouraging broader participation from various stakeholders. Notably, the DAC has been striving to strengthen cooperation with major emerging economies among non-DAC, aiming to either extend DAC membership or invite them to observe the organization's thematic meetings and activities. In 2021, with the release of the OECD's 60th Anniversary Vision Statement, the OECD's Global Relations Strategy was published as an umbrella strategy to the existing Global Relations Strategies of the Directorates. Hence the DAC revisions

followed in 2022, aligning more closely with the OECD's strategy and its direction.

The DAC has recognized the growing need for closer engagement with non-DAC countries, particularly as many of these countries experienced significant economic growth since the 2000s. Accordingly, the DAC's GRS was introduced in 2011 to provide a platform for strengthening cooperations with a wide range of stakeholders in development cooperation and extending its influences. Since 2016, the strategy has been revised every two years. The 2016 revision expanded stakeholder participation by introducing terms like "OECD Key Partners" and "Members and Associates." The 2018 revision, meanwhile, set out plans for more comprehensive cooperation, while by 2020, updates focused primarily on a collaborative response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the 2022 revision, adapting the OECD's strategy, it was renamed to Global Relation Strategic Direction, and restructured it more aligning to the overarching strategy and its objectives. These changes lead DAC's policy dialogue and knowledge sharing to be further inclusive, contributing to reaffirming the importance of collaboration in development cooperation.

The DAC has consistently made significant efforts to strengthen global partnership, recognizing the importance of international cooperation for sustainable development and poverty reduction. These efforts have been vital in addressing geopolitical tensions and navigating shifts in development cooperation policies. Additionally, the interviews indicate positive views on the GRSD for improving cooperation with non-DAC countries and expanding both the scope and depth of policy dialogue. Furthermore, some respondents highlighted the need for additional measures to further encourage participation of non-DAC countries.

The GRSD has evolved into a crucial tool for the DAC to navigate the changing global development landscape. With regards to these changes, Korea could also seize an opportunity to play a pivotal role in the international community, by shaping development cooperation strategy

more inclusive and collaborative; efforts to enhance policy dialogue and cooperation with diverse stakeholders will be crucial. Drawing on the experiences as the DAC, it would also include continuous revisions and amendments to the relevant policies and strategies, to keep the pace and move forward in an evolving global landscape.