

Fingo's observations, as a CS observer, on the OECD DAC Peer Review report, 2.10.2024

Chair Ambassador Staur, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The umbrella organisation, Finnish development NGOs Fingo thanks the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland for the opportunity to participate as an observer team member in the peer review of Finland's development policy. Fingo views this as a demonstration of transparency and trust. We encourage other DAC member countries to follow suit.

Fingo appreciates the DAC review team's open and friendly collaboration throughout the peer review process. Fingo has been able to participate in all sessions of the team. Participating in it has been an educational, interesting and important experience.

We find that the conclusions of the report and its recommendations align well with the data collected and the analysis conducted during the review process.

As the report indicates, Finland's development policy is in transition. The coming years will reveal the results this ongoing change will lead to. It is crucial that Finland commits to the recommendations of this peer review, as they will guide Finland's development policy in a more sustainable and coherent direction.

We are concerned about the globally shrinking space for civil society, even in Finland, which has been partly experienced in the development policy context as well, as highlighted in the peer review report.

Therefore, we emphasise the importance of the fifth recommendation, which concerns maintaining high public support for international development engagement. This can be achieved by partnering with diverse civil society actors, maintaining and promoting transparency and securing adequate resources for development communication, advocacy and raising awareness among Finns.

Equally crucial is also the second recommendation: Finland should concretely commit to the 0.7% and 0.2% targets. Currently, substantial cuts are moving Finland away from its commitments.

The current government emphasises the role of Finnish companies and commercial relations in development policy. As pointed out in recommendation eight, it is crucial to focus here on additionality, development impact and a human rights-based approach.

Regarding risk management, we particularly emphasise the need to ensure that the risk analysis is grounded in context, as highlighted in recommendation nine.

The foundation of Finland's development policy should be overall policy coherence and long-term commitment. This necessitates clear, far-reaching goals for development policy, which are unfortunately not currently present in the documents guiding the Finnish development policy.

Nevertheless, Finland has the potential to carry out effective, evidence-based and human rights-based development cooperation. The recommendations from this peer review provide solid support for Finland

in this task. Finnish CSOs are committed to promoting Finnish development cooperation, acting as implementers, public communicators, and critical friends.