

THE FUTURE OF DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION

Charting strategic directions

11-12 May 2026 | OECD, Paris



Conference session note – 11 May 2026, 16:45-17:45

Charting strategic directions for the future of development co-operation

Description

Development leaders and high-level decision makers will present new models of development co-operation in response to a changing global landscape. This session will explore the opportunities and risks of mutually beneficial partnerships; examine the ‘soft’ and ‘hard’ power of development co-operation; reflect on the role of solidarity; and consider the shared frameworks and standards needed to chart strategic directions for transformational change.

Additional background material can be found on the [Resources page](#).

Key takeaways

- **Confront the global shifts** that are redefining the space in which development takes place.
- **Outline visions for the future** of international development co-operation, including opportunities and risks.
- **Strategically position development co-operation**, highlighting its unique contributions and support to multiple policy objectives.
- **Gain insight into the diversity of development co-operation models**, including domestic drivers, partner expectations and complementarities across models.
- **Understand how different actors** balance solidarity, mutual interest, and strategic objectives.
- **Explore what “soft power” looks like** in a more transactional environment.
- **Identify common ground**, emerging risks, and areas where shared standards and dialogue are needed.

Speakers

- Amitabh Behar, Executive Director, Oxfam International
- Steven Collet, Vice Minister for International Co-operation, Netherlands
- Abdullah Eren, President of TİKA, Türkiye
- Eva Granados, State Secretary for International Co-operation, Spain
- Shohei Hara, Senior Vice President of JICA, Japan
- Marjeta Jager, Deputy Director-General INTPA, EU
- Kalpana Kochar, Interim President, Global Policy and Advocacy, Gates Foundation

Moderator

- David Pilling, Africa Editor, Financial Times

Speaker Bios



Amitabh Behar, Executive Director of Oxfam International, is a global civil society leader, with decades of experience in human rights, economic inequalities, governance accountability, philanthropy, democracy, social justice and building citizen participation. Prior to this role, he was the Chief Executive Officer of Oxfam India. Mr. Behar was the Vice Chair of the Board of CIVICUS, a global alliance of civil society organisations and activists dedicated to strengthening citizen action and civil society across the globe. He has also served as the Chair of Navsarjan (Ahmedabad) and the President of Yuva in Mumbai, and board member of the Global Fund for Community Foundation. He currently serves on the boards of several other organizations, including the International Civil Society Centre and the Norwegian Human Rights Fund, and also holds the position of Chair at the International Civil Society Centre. Prior to Oxfam, Mr. Behar was the Executive Director of National Foundation for India and served as the Convener of National Social Watch Coalition and the Co-Chair of Global Call to Action Against Poverty, a network of over 11,000 civil society organisations.



Steven Collet is Vice Minister for International Co-operation of the Netherlands. He is a change maker, with a passion for both international and organizational development. He has been working on economic development, trade and investment throughout his career, active in multilateral, bilateral and private sector arena's. He served as a diplomat in Tanzania and Vietnam. He was Chief of Staff and Director for Sustainable Economic Development at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was Executive Board member of IDH, the Sustainable Trade Initiative, making the business case for sustainable global value chains. Steven studied Social Sciences in Brussels and Nijmegen. He is alumnus of THNK, the School for Creative Leadership.



Abdullah Eren, President of TİKA, Türkiye. Having held various top-level positions in the private sector, Abdullah Eren later served as Chief Advisor to the President following his tenures as Deputy Chief of Staff of the Prime Minister and Advisor to the Prime Minister. Abdullah Eren was appointed the President of Turks Abroad and Related Communities following the Presidential Decree dated 27.10.2018. Throughout his term as the President of Turks Abroad and Related Communities, he led programs catering to the diaspora of Turkish citizens abroad reaching a population of 7 million, Turkic groups and related communities spread across a broad area spanning the Balkans, Central Asia, Middle East and North Africa embodying elements from the Ottoman legacy, and international students from all around the world who study in Türkiye. With an active presence in civil society activities as well, Eren is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Can Sağlığı Foundation and the Chairman of the Kültür ve Medeniyet Foundation. Abdullah Eren was appointed the President of the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency following the Presidential Decree dated 11.07.2025.



Shohei Hara is Senior Vice President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), where he provides strategic leadership on development cooperation, operational policy, and partnerships. With more than 30 years of experience in official development assistance and development finance, he has worked extensively on economic development, infrastructure, and private sector engagement across Asia, the Middle East, and fragile contexts. He began his career at the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) and later served in senior roles at the Japan International Cooperation Bank (JBIC) and JICA following institutional integration. His

overseas assignments include serving as OECF Representative in New Delhi and as Chief Representative of the JICA Iraq Office. Prior to his current role in 2024, he led several key departments at JICA, including the South Asia Department, the Private Sector Partnership and Finance Department, and the Operations Strategy Department. He holds a BA in Economics from Keio University and an MSc in Economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and is committed to policy dialogue and capacity building.



Eva Granados Galiano was appointed State Secretary for International Cooperation at the Council of Ministers held on 5 December 2023. Spokesperson for the Socialist Parliamentary Group in the Senate from 2021 to 2023, member of the Catalan Parliament (from 2010 to 2021), member of the National Secretariat of the UGT of Catalonia (from 2002 to 2010), where she served as a representative on the Labour, Economic and Social Affairs Council of Catalonia and Spain. She has worked in the area of corporate

social responsibility at Alstom (2007-2010) and has been on leave of absence since then. Her political work has focused on improving social protection, promoting employment and building the Spanish common project. At university, she was a driving force behind the Fundació Solidaritat-Universitat de Barcelona for the defence of human rights. She holds a degree in Political and Administrative Science from the University of Barcelona and an Executive Master in Public Management from ESADE.



Marjeta Jager is currently Deputy Director-General for the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA). Ms JAGER has been working in the European Commission since 2005, starting as Director for Security in DG Energy and Transport and later being Director for international energy and transport files and coordination, as well as being Head of Cabinet of the Transport Commissioner. Before joining the Commission Ms JAGER was more than a decade working on the accession of Slovenia to the EU for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and she was the first Deputy Permanent Representative (Coreper I) of Slovenia to the EU.



Kalpana Kochhar leads the foundation's work in international political and economic affairs, overseeing relationships with governments, intergovernmental organizations, advocates, and philanthropic partners worldwide. Kalpana previously served as director of the Development Policy and Finance team, a group of economists and development finance experts working to ensure that the foundation's global policy and advocacy work is informed by strong economic and financial analysis and insights, resonant with emerging trends, and connected to key decision-makers. Before joining

the foundation in 2021, Kalpana spent 33 years at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), where her most recent position was director of the Human Resources Department. She also served as deputy director of the Asia and Pacific Department, working on programs and issues related to India, China, Korea, Japan, and several other Asian countries, and as deputy director of the Strategy, Policy, and Review Department, where she launched the IMF's work on gender and women's economic empowerment. From 2010 to 2012, she was seconded to the World Bank as its chief economist for the South Asia region. Kalpana's research interests and publications have focused on emerging markets, including India and China; jobs and inclusive growth; gender and inequality issues; structural reforms; and regional integration in South Asia. She has an M.A. and Ph.D. in economics from Brown University and an M.A. in economics from the Delhi School of Economics in India. She has a B.A in economics from Madras University in India.



David Pilling is the Africa editor and a columnist at the Financial Times. He covers business, politics and development on the continent and writes a regular column on topics from Africa. Before that he was the Asia editor and assistant editor. Previous roles include Tokyo bureau chief, pharmaceuticals correspondent, deputy features editor and correspondent in Buenos Aires and Santiago. He is the author of two books - *The Growth Delusion* (2018), shortlisted for the Orwell Prize, and the highly acclaimed *Bending Adversity: Japan and the Art of Survival* (2016). He is a regular moderator and speaker both for the FT and for organisations including the World Bank, OECD and ADB. In 2023 he briefed a G7 meeting

in Kamakura, Japan on the ideas behind his book, *The Growth Delusion*.