

2020 annual session of the Executive Board

Virtual session

Ms S. Moorehead, Chair of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD-DAC)

Ms S. Moorehead, Chair of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD-DAC): Good morning, everybody. Mr President, Executive Director, friends, colleagues, let me also thank you for giving me this opportunity to address you and actually hear David's (Beasley) fantastically useful and empowering read-out of where we are, which I will feed directly back into my committee.

My initial brief was to make the case for adherence to the nexus, so let me just say a huge thank you to both our teams for having done that job for me and to say how delighted I am that WFP has signed up to this critically important instrument that is legally binding for Development Assistance Committee members, who together at the moment are providing more than 85 percent of WFP funding. I would also just like to acknowledge the huge effort that UAE and others are putting in. It is not just DAC members; the whole world needs to pull together to help finance this crisis.

The nexus, it is not a catchy title, but it is not rocket science. Essentially, what it means is that the multilateral system, the bilateral system, which is often funded by the same members, including the DAC members, needs to work better on the ground. We need to promote collaboration between United Nations agencies and between multilaterals and bilaterals. We need better programming. We need to think about the short-term crisis that is normally WFP's focus, but also the much longer term development crisis and all those critical steps in between. And probably most important of all, we need better financing strategies that are predictable, multi-year and that help countries to plan as well as they can for the crises that hit them.

WFP is uniquely placed, in my view, to pivot into this nexus space and the very ambitious and exciting change agenda that David (Beasley) set out shows that you are already in many ways, operating within the nexus mind-set framework. Long ago, you recognized that food security was an intrinsic part of conflict prevention and stability and long ago there needed to be a very close link between humanitarian responses and longer term development.

There is always scope to do more. I think you could strengthen the context and conflict and analytical capacity, and to work with others to programme for longer term resilience. There is always more to be done in talking to peace actors and other players in the conflict space. I think all of us know that coordination practices in the field can always be done better.

The tragedy of this nexus is its prescience. All of this was decided well before COVID-19 hit the world. Let me close by saying I think it is hard to imagine a moment when this joining up of humanitarian development and conflict prevention is more important. The figures that David (Beasley) spoke of are terrifying. I am sure Mark (Lowcock) too will add flesh to the spectre coming. I began my professional career in the famines of the mid-1980s and it is hard to believe that we seem to be going full circle. Poverty is going to rise exponentially and, with all this, official development assistance and other forms of development finance and humanitarian finance are scarce. We know this, so we have to make every single euro or dollar that we have work harder and we have to demonstrate to all our constituents, both in partner countries and in donor countries, that we are doing everything we can to maximize the development and humanitarian effectiveness and impact of all our work.

One thing that we all need to do is to make the case now for the resources that you so desperately need and there is probably no better way of doing that than demonstrating to everybody that the nexus makes good sense. I am struck by when we look at how DAC member countries have responded to the crisis, they have used the nexus approach. They have dealt simultaneously with the immediate health crisis, like

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the humanitarian part of it, but at the same time protecting the economy, protecting jobs, protecting the most vulnerable people. The nexus, and your adherence to it, will help us to make that approach global.