



RELEASE IN FULL

The Chairman
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

BA(2012)48

19 June 2012

Dear Hillary,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve the development community as Chair of the OECD Development Committee (the DAC). I write to inform you that I will complete my second term as Chair at the end of this calendar year and that I have decided not to seek re-election for a third term. I will return to the University of Minnesota Humphrey School where I have a tenured professorship.

With your support, we have managed to bring the DAC into a new era of development cooperation. The agreement we reached in Busan, Korea represented a major breakthrough. We have now established the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, a global structure that will oversee a new system of country ownership, better coordination between providers of assistance from the North and the South, a more rational and effective international architecture for assistance and a new whole-of-government approach to development. Your participation in this effort and your support for the follow-on work was crucial as it enabled us to engage many more actors including other government departments, civil society and the private sector.

The DAC itself is today a stronger institution. When I came here the changing global environment raised serious questions about the relevance of the "donors club." However, we immediately reached out to the emerging economies, endorsed a new "Global Relations" strategy of engagement and made commitments at Busan that will enable donors to lower transaction costs and achieve results with our newly empowered partners. We have restructured the committee and re-energized subsidiary bodies that are contributing to better policies in conflict and fragility, sustainable development, democratic governance and statistical measurement and transparency. We have made a major contribution to the OECD's Strategy on Development, an initiative that you announced during the 2011 OECD ministerial. This will encourage more cross-committee work of the type that created the Tax and Development Initiative which you and the USG so effectively promoted.

I have been in this position at an exciting time and I feel that I was able to use my experience as a former Administrator of USAID to promote real change. The next period will be a time of consolidation, equally important, but of less interest to me. I will do all in my power to assure that my successor has the experience and capacity to carry on. On the top of my agenda is a book on the institutions that effect American foreign policy—congress, the media, the foundations, think tanks, universities and the people of the State Department and USAID. At some point I may ask for an interview with you on this subject, but that is for later.

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Ms. Hilary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
United States of America

Direct line

2, rue André-Pascal

www.oecd.org/dac

Tel.: +33 (0) 1 45 24 90 70



Again, I thank you for giving me another opportunity to serve. It is time for me to reflect, to teach young public policy students and to give my fifteen year old daughter a chance to go to one of the better universities (she has your note on her bureau!). I gather that after four highly successful years in a grueling job, something like that may sound attractive to you as well. Thank you for your outstanding service to our country. I hope after a few years of reflection that you will be back in some capacity. You will always have my support!

Best personal regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Brian'.

J. Brian Atwood