Research for Development –

Tackling Global Challenges to Leave No One Behind

This bilingual (English/French) side event to the OECD CSTP Ministerial meeting is a **gathering of international public funders of research for development and a range of wider stakeholders** (including representatives from government departments, international bodies, international research agencies, intergovernmental organisations, NGOs). With the overarching ambition to highlight research as a force for development and in alignment with plenary 3 '*Joining Forces: science, technology, and innovation actions for global challenges'*, we will address two areas for consideration that are crucial to ensure the effectiveness of research for development:

- Promoting principle and good practices in funding research for development*: Effective research funding and equitable partnerships approaches*
- Informed decision-making and donor coordination: *the challenge of production and availability of data on research and research funding*

The discussions during these two sessions will inform a further reflection at the level of international public funders in the closing session for the day. This session will be a gathering of the IRDFF, the International Research Development Funders Forum.

Global health, food security, famine prevention, climate change, biodiversity loss, and girls' education are among key transnational challenges, yet disproportionately affect populations in the Global South. As we recognise the need for urgent transformative actions and policy changes in the face of these crises and overall geopolitical tensions, the role of research for development has never been more important. We define research for development as research that addresses global challenges, in alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and informs public debate and decision-making that results in political, economic, social, health or environmental change for the benefit of and in partnership with Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs), specific regions, and thereby the global community.

Research for development has the potential to advance the implementation and realisation of the SDG agenda. It can inform and support the definition of public policies and development trajectories; encourage and harness the power of science, technology, and innovation (STI) to support accelerated and sustainable transitions; have a catalysing effect, avoiding large future spend in specific development areas (e.g., research into cholera vaccine); and increase the impact and coherence of aid spending by strengthening knowledge and learning alongside other aid mechanisms.

However, the need for "useful" search can translate into a "sponsor" logic, creating dependency on international aid (which is hardly consistent with the principles of effectiveness) and coming into contradiction with the need of supporting local research institutions and systems. In order to maximize the effectiveness of donors' operations or at least do no harm, it is necessary to acknowledge the contradictory implications ("tensions") of donor funding, to promote principle and good practices and their operational translation into instruments and tools, as well as equitable partnerships.

Data availability is another challenge facing the research sector. In particular, lack of information on domestic financing, and a fortiori on international financing (which is predominant in the sector), not

only is a barrier to donors coordination, but also prevents informed decision-making at national and international level.

In this event jointly organised by the UK Collaborative on Development Research (UKCDR) and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), we aim to bring key actors together around a collective agenda to:

1) Make a coherent case for the role of research for development.
2) Enable publicly funded research to have **maximum impact** on international development objectives, including on strengthening the research sector.
3) Discuss the data needed to inform the decision and maximise the coherence of research funding, and reflect on initiatives attempting to provide it.
4) Share learning on **good practice and principles** for funding for development research

It is also intended for the discussions to be captured in the form of conference proceedings which, in addition to being a record of the day's event, is aimed at feeding into wider discussions, events, and other related outputs on these topic areas, thereby building on the contributions of session participants.

Draft Programme

09:00 – 09:30 *Welcome – tea & coffee*

09:30 – 11:00 **Session 1:** Promoting principle and good practices in funding research for development*: Effective research funding and equitable partnerships approaches*

11:00 – 11:30 *Break – Tea & coffee*

11:30 – 13:00 **Session 2:** Informed decision-making and donor coordination: *the challenge of production and availability of data on research and research funding*

13:00 – 14:30 *Networking Lunch*

14:30 – 16:30 **Session 3 (closed session):** IRDFF meeting

==========

09:00 – 09:30 *Welcome – tea & coffee*

09:30 – 11:00 **Session 1:** Promoting principle and good practices in funding research for development: *Effective research funding and equitable partnerships approaches*

Rationale	In the volatile and contested world we live in, to address the grand challenges of our time and their potential solutions, it is imperative we understand the big picture and the way we are all interlinked. While the international community recognizes the need for each country to have a solid national research base anchored to public decision-making, and the importance of research partnerships, financing local research can generate tensions and come into contradiction with the goals of strengthening local research stakeholders and national systems. For these operations to succeed in generating impactful research, we must apply best practice to ensure that research funding respects the principles of effectiveness, ensures equity in partnerships, and strengthens the capacity of global partners. **In this session, we invite attendees to reflect on the principles that need to be agreed and practices to promote effective research for development, based on their knowledge and experience.**
Format	Presentation and panel followed by roundtable discussion
Presentation	Etienne Charrière, AFD

5 min	
Panel discussion 50 min	To explore further the notion of partnership, capacity building, safeguarding **Moderator:** Etienne Charrière, AFD – Mame-Penda BA, LASPAD & Global Africa (Sénégal) – Thomas MELONIO, AFD (France) – Yaya SANGARE, FONSTI (Côte d'Ivoire) – Frances WOOD, UKRI (UK)
Roundtable discussion 35 min	**Moderator:** Etienne Charrière, AFD
Rapporteurs	Linda Zanfini, AFD

11:00-11:30 Tea/coffee break

11:30-13:00 **Session 2:** Informed decision-making and donor coordination: the challenge of production and availability of data on research and research funding

Rationale	In the volatile and contested world we live in, science and technology are more important than ever before to help us address the grand challenges of our time, their potential solutions and drive the SDGs agenda forward. Funding solution-oriented research, knowledge, and learning alongside other aid mechanisms has the potential to: • inform political decision-making in the research sector at the national level • Increase the impact of aid funding, and • Have an in-country catalysing effect by leveraging larger international partnerships for greater domestic impact. Funding for research for development is very limited and mostly dependent on international aid, and there is a pressing need to understand research funding flows at a global level and assessments of this research to make the most of the funding available, identify gaps, and avoid duplication. Yet quantitative data on the topic is, at best, incomplete. **In this session, we will reflect on some initiatives attempting to provide a picture of funding flows as well as research assessments and discuss the data and mechanisms needed to maximise the coherence of research funding.**
Format	Presentation and panel followed by roundtable discussion
Presentation 10 min	UKCDR (MODARI, COVID CIRCLE, Climate change) Adrian Bucher, UKCDR
Panel discussion 50 min	**Moderator:** Julia Kemp, Wellcome Trust (UK) – Charlotte WATTS, FCDO (UK) – Jean-Louis ARCAND, GDN – Nokuthula P. MCHUNU, NRF (South Africa) – tbd, OECD

Roundtable discussion 30 min	**Moderator:** Julia Kemp, Wellcome Trust (UK)
Rapporteurs	Maggy Heintz/Adrian Bucher, UKCDR

13:00 – 14:30 *Networking Lunch*

14:30 – 16:30 **Session 3:** IRDFF in-person meeting (closed session)

Rationale	The International Research Development Funders Forum (IRDFF) is an international group of funders, representing global perspectives from high- to low-income countries. The aims of the IRDFF are to reflect and share experiences in research for development management practice and programming; share good practices in equitable partnering; and strengthen the network of international research for development funders. **This closed session is an In-person meeting of the IRDFF members to:** • **Summarise and share reflections of the day.** • **Discuss a set of principles as a roadmap to supporting research for development.** • **Discuss how some of these principles may be practically implemented.**
Format	Presentation followed by roundtable discussion
Presentation 30 min	Rapporteurs from the morning sessions
Roundtable discussion 90 min	**Moderator:** Maggy Heintz, UKCDR
Rapporteur	UKCDR