

**Box One:**  
**ODA as a Unique Resource for Achieving the SDGs**

- 1. Sizable resource flow** While clearly inadequate, ODA at US\$137 billion is still a major financial resource. Its value has increased 33% since 2005. While it has not increased in value since 2010, neither has it shrunk.
- 2. Purpose determined by public policy** Distinct from other financial flows, ODA can be fully devoted to the purposes of reduction of poverty and inequality. Its priorities and modalities are exclusively a public policy choice. Other resources flows may be important for achieving the SDGs, but they often linked to other purposes. Addressing the SDGs may be one of them, but would rarely be the primary driver that sustains and directs this resource flow.
- 3. A flexible resource** ODA can be a flexible resource, available to development actors in ways that are responding to country-level SDG strategies, and evolving understandings of the complex conditions for making development progress for poor and vulnerable populations.
- 4. Catalyst in support of country-owned development** As a flexible resource, in coordination with other aid providers and partner countries, ODA can and should be programmed as a catalyst to unique country-led and country-owned development strategies.
- 5. Predictable funding for long-term initiatives** Again, as a public policy choice, ODA has the potential to contribute in ways that provide predictable resources for long-term development initiatives. This is essential to achieve real change in uncertain and complex socio-economic realities.
- 6. A key resource for multilateral institutions and CSOs** ODA is a primary and crucial source of finance for the multilateral system. It disbursed US\$63 billion in 2014 to multilateral organizations for developing countries (US\$43 billion in core contributions). It is a crucial contributor to CSOs as independent development actors (US\$22 billion in 2014), which in turn have raised an estimated US\$48 billion in private funds for development cooperation (see section 6.2 below).
- 7. Reaching marginalized communities and key policy objectives (e.g. gender equality)** Working with a range of development actors, and in particular civil society, ODA is a unique resource that can be targeted to marginalized communities. It can address crucial areas such as gender equality or democratic governance, which other flows for the most part cannot do.
- 8. An accountable resource** As a public resource, with appropriate levels of transparency, it is currently the only development flow whose impact may be traceable. As well, citizens and parliaments can hold its policies, practices and allocations accountable through legislation and other democratic means.