



**Irish Aid**  
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



**CONCERN**  
worldwide

## FINAL MOTION:

# It's time to increase aid, not walk away from it

In 1969, the OECD adopted the concept of 'Official Development Assistance' (ODA) - government aid given by wealthier countries to their lower-income counterparts, aimed at reducing suffering through humanitarian relief and long-term economic development.

Today, global need is rising due to conflict, climate change and economic shocks, yet donors are retreating from ODA. Last year, 26 of 33 OECD Development Assistance Committee members cut their aid budgets marking the steepest funding decline on record.

Proponents of this motion may state that ODA benefits everyone: it promotes peace and stability, supports vulnerable populations, and boosts donor countries' soft power. Perhaps, given the role wealthier nations have played in creating global inequalities, ODA is not just generosity, but a moral responsibility.

On the other hand, opponents may argue that aid entrenches dependency and sustains exploitative systems. Increasing ODA may not guarantee better outcomes, especially where inefficiencies exist or donor priorities override local needs. Perhaps structural reforms that enable economic independence for low-income countries are a better investment. Given an increasingly turbulent world, some argue that funding for national interests, such as security, should be prioritised.

In an age when overlapping crises are intensifying while international support for aid is wavering, what's next for ODA?

*Debate it!*

