Why does the CDI matter?

1. Rich-country policies affect poverty. Instead of highlighting what developing countries can do to foster poverty alleviation and economic growth, the Index focuses on what rich countries do to help or hinder development abroad.

2. Development policy is about more than aid. Aid is important, but trade, migration, finance, environmental, security, and technology policies influence development too.

3. Measurement is important. Measuring policies helps us know where we stand and what can be improved. Through ranking we can identify strengths and weaknesses, and learn from the best.

4. Global institutions matter. Because there are global challenges that no nation can handle alone, the CDI recognizes countries that deliver aid through multilateral arrangements, sign global environmental agreements, and participate in internationally sanctioned security operations.

5. Improvement is possible. Almost all countries score below average in at least one area, and most are below average in at least three. Simply spreading knowledge about what works would have huge benefits.
Ranking the Rich:
The 2013 Commitment to Development Index

The Commitment to Development Index ranks 27 of the world’s richest countries on policies that affect the more than five billion people living in poorer nations. The CDI goes beyond measures of foreign aid to quantify performance in seven areas:

- Quality and quantity of foreign aid
- Openness to trade
- Policies that encourage investment and financial transparency
- Openness to migration
- Environmental policies
- Promotion of international security
- Support for technology creation and transfer

The Index gives credit for generous and selective aid giving, tax breaks for private giving, incentives for foreign direct investment and financial transparency, open immigration policies, robust support for technological research and development, and contributions to global security. Scores are reduced for financial assistance to poorly governed regimes, barriers to imports from developing countries, and policies that harm shared environmental resources.

The Index is intended to educate and inspire the public and policymakers about how much more they could do to help the global poor, to spark debate about the effects of rich-country policies on developing countries, and to encourage research about how to best measure them. By ranking rich countries’ policy efforts, the Index hopes to inspire a race to the top—motivating advocacy inside and out of government for more development-friendly policies.

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