



DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FORUM

What will the DCF do?

The 2005 World Summit outcome mandated the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to convene a biennial high-level *Development Cooperation Forum* (DCF) that would *review trends* in international development cooperation, including strategies, policies and financing; *promote greater coherence* among the development activities of different development partners and *strengthen the normative and operational link* in the work of the United Nations. The DCF was furthermore mandated to provide policy guidance and options as well as recommendations on practical measures to enhance the coherence and effectiveness of international development cooperation.

What makes the DCF stand out?

The most valuable asset of the DCF is its universal and political legitimacy, involving all Member States of the United Nations and a broad range of stakeholders engaged in development cooperation. The inclusion of all relevant development actors in the DCF process provides for a unique opportunity to garner a wide range of inputs for a deepened dialogue and understanding on the international development cooperation agenda.

What are stakeholder expectations?

The official launch of the DCF on 5 July 2007, during the High-level Segment of ECOSOC, reiterated the support for the Forum as a principal mechanism for inclusive global dialogue and policy review on key development cooperation issues. By promoting an effective mutual accountability process, anchored in evidence-based analysis and broad-based participation of stakeholders, the Forum is expected to enable ECOSOC to strengthen

its political oversight of resource *commitments* and the *quality* of development cooperation. In 2008, the deliberations at the DCF are also intended to serve as strategic contribution, notably in the area of international financial and technical cooperation for development, to the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development that will take place in Doha towards the end of that year.

What will the preparations look like?

The substantive preparations for the 2008 DCF are guided by the legislative mandate and the common positions of Member States and other stakeholders expressed at the DCF launch. This process will include several country-led high-level symposiums, regional meetings, a Stakeholder Forum, panel discussions and other events aimed at fostering an open and interactive dialogue among development actors on the gaps and obstacles in partnering successfully for nationally-driven development. The outcome and key policy messages of the consultative processes will constitute an important input into the analytical report of the Secretary-General to be prepared to facilitate discussions at the first biennial DCF in July 2008 in New York.

What is the focus of the preparations?

The analytical preparations – supported by the Department for Economic and Social Affairs - will focus on the challenges faced by developing and developed countries in operationalizing development cooperation strategies, policies and financing at the country level. The preparations will furthermore seek to identify the major constraints to national ownership and leadership driving effective and coherent development cooperation.