



Preparing for the 2008 Development Cooperation Forum

Stakeholder Forum

“The role of national and local stakeholders in contributing to aid quality and effectiveness”

12-13 June 2008 – Rome, Italy

Mandate

The 2005 World Summit outcome mandated the 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 recommendations on practical measures to enhance the coherence and effectiveness of development cooperation. The Forum is expected to become a principal mechanism for global dialogue and policy review on key development cooperation issues. The first DCF will take place in New York in July 2008.

Rome Stakeholder Forum

To ensure a comprehensive consultative process in preparing for the 2008 DCF, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs is supporting the organization of several country-led events. The Rome Stakeholder Forum, organized in cooperation with the Government of Italy, will conclude this process by engaging parliamentarians and high-level representatives from civil society and local government in an open and interactive dialogue on their roles in contributing to effective development cooperation.

Through partnerships with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, United Cities and Local Governments, CIVICUS and ActionAid, the one-and-a-half day forum will focus on the critical role these actors play in guiding, managing and monitoring development cooperation. Each covering different aspects of the development process, these actors are all instrumental in ensuring that development cooperation benefits and reaches the people with the greatest need.

Agenda

The meeting will be organized around three segments and common plenary sessions with presentations, country-based case studies and discussions, addressing the following focus areas: (i) the role of national and local stakeholders in enhancing aid quality and effectiveness; (ii) recent trends in decentralized development cooperation; and (iii) national and local capacities for monitoring and oversight of aid delivery and use.

Outcome

As a major preparatory event for the 2008 DCF, the forum will aim to ensure that the perspectives of representatives from civil society, local governments and parliaments on how to enhance effective and coherent development cooperation will receive attention at the international level through the DCF. The discussions will be captured in a report of the Rome forum, including key policy messages, which will serve to inform the 2008 DCF.