



## **Preparing for the 2008 Development Cooperation Forum**

### **High-level Symposium**

#### **“Trends in development cooperation: South-South and triangular cooperation and aid effectiveness”**

**19-20 January 2008 - Cairo, Egypt**

##### **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 options as well as 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.

##### **Cairo High-level Symposium**

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 high-level symposiums. As the second in this series the Cairo symposium, in cooperation with the Government of Egypt, will take place on 19-20 January 2008. The symposium will particularly explore how to promote results-oriented development cooperation in pursuing national priorities.

Focusing on recent examples of how countries partner up to ensure an impact of development cooperation based on national priorities, the symposium will include three sessions with country-based case studies, panel discussions and interactive dialogue, addressing the following topics: (i) the future of conditionality, (ii) examples of successful South-South and triangular development cooperation, and (iii) the possibility of rethinking the current framework for assessing aid quality, including aid effectiveness, based on principles such as national leadership and mutual accountability.

##### **Outcome**

As a major preparatory event for the 2008 DCF, the discussions will solicit the views of all stakeholders with regard to current experiences and future expectations of partnerships in selected areas of development cooperation. The discussions will be captured in a report of the Cairo meeting, including key policy messages, which will serve to inform the consultative process and analytical preparations for the 2008 DCF.

##### **Participants**

The symposium will aim to provide for an open and interactive dialogue between senior government officials as well as representatives of other stakeholder groups, such as international and regional organizations, UN system, civil society and academia.