



DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FORUM

Background

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 first DCF held in 2008 represented the first decisive step in positioning ECOSOC as *the* key venue for global dialogue and review of trends, coherence and effectiveness of international development cooperation. The second DCF will be held on 29 and 30 June 2010 in New York.

By giving voice to a wide range of stakeholders, including developing and developed countries as well as civil society, parliaments, local governments and the private sector, the Forum encourages participatory multi-stakeholder dialogue on major development cooperation issues.

What makes the DCF stand out?

The most valuable asset of the DCF is its support by Member States of the United Nations and relevant stakeholders engaged in development cooperation. Throughout its preparatory process, the Forum established its comparative advantage in producing high quality analysis, organizing balanced North-South discussions about development cooperation, and involving all necessary stakeholders in consultations on aid issues.

As a result, the outcome document of the Doha Review Conference on Financing for Development acknowledges the role of the DCF as focal point within the United Nations system for holistic consideration of development cooperation with participation by all relevant stakeholders.

What are expectations for the 2010 DCF?

Since the first DCF in 2008, the global economic landscape has changed dramatically. A confluence of crises threaten to derail the development process. Hard-won development gains are already showing reversals. Yet, there are stories of

progress, and the MDGs can and must be achieved. Political momentum is needed. A focus on turning pledges into implementation, is urgently needed. Accountability on commitments made is key if acceleration of progress is to happen. With limited resources and competing demands, any type of development assistance must show tangible results at the national and local level. In this new landscape, the Development Cooperation Forum has a unique value as a universal and authoritative forum where the various stakeholders can come together.

To that end, the Development Cooperation Forum will be structured around the following themes: (i) Promoting greater coherence; (ii) Accountable and transparent development cooperation; (iii) The role of various forms of cooperation including South-South and triangular cooperation; (iv) The impact of multiple crises; and (v) achieving the MDGs by 2015.

What is the focus of the preparations?

The preparations – supported by the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs – will have as an overarching objective to promote development cooperation and improve its impact in realizing national development and the Internationally Agreed Development Goals, including the MDGs. They will highlight recent trends in development cooperation and the impact of the current crises. Aid quantity and quality will be high on the agenda. Other types of development financing will also be looked at. Special attention will be given to improving policy coherence and to building a more inclusive and transparent development cooperation framework as well as to developing gender-responsive policy frameworks.

The process will involve high-quality independent analytical work combined with country-led high-level symposiums and other events aimed at fostering an open, informed and frank dialogue among development actors. The outcome of the consultative processes will constitute an important input into the report of the Secretary-General to the DCF. The key policy messages from the DCF will contribute to the September 2010 United Nations High-level plenary event on the MDGs and to other processes on development cooperation and aid.