

**Opening remarks Mr. Thomas Stelzer, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy
Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UNDESA**

**Special Event of the United Nations Development Cooperation Forum (DCF)
Advisory Group on “Rethinking Development: Towards a sustainable
development architecture”**

29 November 2011, Busan, Republic of Korea

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear friends of the DCF,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this special event.

Under Secretary-General Sha Zukang greatly regrets that he is not able to join us today. He, unfortunately, has a conflicting engagement in his capacity as Secretary-General of the Rio+20 conference.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the past twenty years the world has witnessed strong economic growth and significant progress towards a number of the Millennium Development Goals.

This period, however, has also seen rising inequality, series of crises and a growing deterioration of the natural environment.

With only three short years left, we must accelerate progress toward the MDGs and do all we can to achieve these targets by 2015.

Meanwhile, we also need to develop a new generation of sustainable development goals to pick up where the MDGs leave off.

Continuing on the current path is suicidal. The world therefore needs to forge a common agenda for sustainable development.

Next year’s Rio+20 Conference is our chance to do so.

It is our opportunity to define a clear path to a better future .

It is our opportunity to ensure that economic, social and environmental objectives are not pursued independently but in a mutually reinforcing manner.

And it is also our opportunity to lay a strong foundation for a post-2015 development agenda with human beings and their well-being at the centre.

“Rethinking development: towards a new sustainable development architecture” -- with Rio+20 only half a year away, the DCF Advisory Group could have hardly chosen a more timely topic for our discussion today.

A rethinking of development, as a first step, should begin with integrating the development cooperation and the sustainable development agendas. They should reinforce each other. What concrete actions are needed to this end?

In a second step we should review the impact of a transition to a green economy for different groups of countries to ensure an equal and fair sharing of the costs and benefits of the transition.

What are the implications of a transitioning towards a green economy for the allocation of aid between countries? Will it exacerbate or improve the situation of donor darlings and donor orphans? What does it mean for the most vulnerable?

A third set of questions revolves around the institutional framework.

Here the question is whether our current institutional framework to govern development cooperation is up to the job? Can it adapt to support the kind of transformational shift we are striving for or is there a need for a fundamental overhaul?

A key challenge in advancing the sustainable development agenda is the lack of a buy in beyond the environmental community. A new architecture will need to address this challenge.

Several proposals have been put on the table.

In reviewing them, we must remember that the DCF with its broader reach could be a central plank of a strengthened intergovernmental body for sustainable development to attract participants beyond environmental ministries.

At the national level, many are referring to the need to putting integration at the heart of national system of ministries, activating sustainable development councils, and giving a more participatory role to national stakeholders.

In short, there are many questions on which we will need to reflect and come to a common understanding in the run up to Rio+20 as well as in the context of a broader reflection on a post 2015 development agenda.

I therefore very much look forward to hearing your view on these questions.

I would now like to give the floor to Mr. Tony Tujan ... who has kindly agreed to moderate today's event.

Thank you.

