



4th DCF Information Bulletin

Dear friends of the Development Cooperation Forum

This fourth DCF Information Bulletin will inform you about the:

- DCF Bamako High-Level Symposium on aid results for the MDGs
- Istanbul Special Event on aid and mutual accountability for LDCs
- DCF analytical study on aid to Least Developed Countries (LDCs)
- Update on the 2nd DCF / UNDP Mutual Accountability Survey
- Looking ahead: two additional DCF High-level Symposia



DCF Bamako High-Level Symposium (5-6 May 2011)

The High-level Symposium, which takes place in Bamako, Mali on 5-6 May 2011, is the first milestone event in preparation for the 2012 biennial Development Cooperation Forum (DCF). Under the overarching theme of “Gearing development cooperation toward the MDGs: Effectiveness and results” it will focus on five sets of questions: (1) How can aid best achieve development results and how should these be defined and measured? (2) How can broad-based country ownership best ensure that these results are sustainable in different country contexts? (3) How can planned monitoring and follow-up to LDC-IV be strengthened through improved country level mutual accountability between LDCs and their donors? (4) How to ensure that not only programme countries but also donors are held accountable on aid quantity and quality and how such accountability can maximize results and impact on the lives of the poor? (5) What are examples of measures taken to enhance aid impact in the education sector?

Over 80 high-level participants from over 30 countries have confirmed their participation at the symposium thus far. Following the DCF’s tradition of multi-stakeholder participation, in addition to government representatives, the Symposium will once again have a strong participation from civil society organizations,

parliamentarians and local governments as well as regional and international organizations. The discussion at the Symposium will contribute to the 2012 DCF as well as provide an immediate input into the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries. (LDC-IV). The key messages of the discussion will be captured in an official report submitted to ECOSOC, which we will share and make available on the DCF website.

Special Event at LDC IV (12 May 2011)

On 12 May 2011, UNDESA, UNDP and the OECD/DAC are co-organizing a Special Event on “*Mutual Accountability for LDCs: a framework for aid quality and beyond*” on the margins of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV) in Istanbul. The quality of aid received by LDCs, tends to be lower than that received by other developing countries. Building on the conclusions of the Bamako High-Level Symposium, the meeting will examine whether and how to strengthen review mechanisms between donors and recipients to improve the quality of the aid to LDCs. This event is expected to result in concrete recommendations to strengthen existing multilateral accountability frameworks in a more coherent manner.

**For more details on DCF activities please go to:
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DCF background study on aid provided to LDCs

Against the backdrop of the upcoming Fourth UN Conference (LDC-IV) in Istanbul, UNDESA commissioned a background study analysing the quantity and quality of aid to LDCs and outlining possible elements for an LDC accountability framework that builds on existing review processes.

Overall, the findings suggest that progress on the aid effectiveness agenda in LDCs have been disappointing, despite efforts made. To accelerate progress, the study proposes to include a number of aid quality issues in national and international mutual accountability processes on aid to LDCs. The intention is to build on existing mechanisms and to support the dialogue between donors and programme countries on aid issues. The value added of a strengthened framework for mutual accountability in LDCs will be discussed at the Bamako High-Level Symposium and the LDC IV Special Event.

Mutual Accountability Survey

Building on the UN Survey for the 2010 DCF, UNDESA together with UNDP are currently conducting a second survey on national mechanisms to ensure mutual accountability between programme countries and their donors on aid commitments. So far, detailed responses from 35 countries have been received, many of which build on highly inclusive consultation processes under national ownership. Initial findings of the survey will be presented at the Bamako High-Level Symposium. The survey results will feed into a comprehensive evaluation report that will in particular highlight the building blocks and obstacles to strengthening mutual accountability and the actual impact such reviews have on broader development outcomes. The report will also build on key messages on mutual accountability emanating from two sub-regional workshops co-organized by UNDP and DESA in the United Republic of Tanzania and in Ghana.

Two additional High-level Symposia are planned...

In the run-up to the 2012 DCF, two additional symposia are planned to be held in Luxembourg during the last quarter of 2011 and in the Bahamas in the first quarter of 2012.

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