

Dear friends of the Development Cooperation Forum:

This fifth Information Bulletin of the DCF will inform you about the:

- Planned preparations for the 2012 DCF
- Preparations for the Luxembourg symposium on 18 and 19 October
- Outcome of the DCF High-level symposium in Mali on “Gearing development cooperation towards the MDGs: effectiveness and results”
- Messages from the Special Event at the UN Conference on Least Developed Countries
- Review of first years of experience with the DCF by the General Assembly
- Other development cooperation news

5th DCF Information Bulletin



DCF Symposium in Mali

Outcome of the DCF High-level symposium in Bamako Mali (5-6 May 2011)

The symposium gathered 150 participants representing central and local governments, parliaments, civil society and others to discuss how aid can achieve development results effectively.

A key message from the symposium was that aid contributes to poverty reduction, if it is allocated, delivered and managed effectively. Demonstrating and measuring the impact of aid on development was viewed as important to secure political support. Yet, this should not detract from long-term, sustainable results which take time to show.

Special importance was attached to ensuring inclusive national ownership of results. It should be ensured that development cooperation is provided in a way that does not reduce its long-term impact. Frameworks ensuring mutual accountability between donors and programme countries were seen as conducive to improved results, including in LDCs.

The Mali symposium marked the first milestone in preparing for the 2012 DCF. The recommendations were presented at the Fourth United Nations Conference on LDCs held in Istanbul (LDC-IV) immediately after the symposium. For a more detailed summary of the symposium (pending government agreement), please click [here](#).

For more details on DCF activities please go to:
www.un.org/ecosoc/dcf

Special Event at the Fourth United Nations Conference on LDCs (LDC-IV)

This special event was held in Istanbul on 12 May 2011. It discussed aid to LDCs with a special focus on aid quality, aid allocations and whether mutual accountability frameworks reflect the needs of LDCs.

Participants agreed that aid coordination at country level and strengthening the capacity of national institutions are paramount to reach the MDGs in LDCs. Aid quality is lower in LDCs than in other developing countries. Providers should improve the predictability and transparency of aid allocations to LDCs and engage in regular joint reviews of progress in this regard at country level.

The meeting stressed the necessity to keep the momentum for a strong and independent global framework for mutual accountability on aid to LDCs, building on the Istanbul Programme of Action. This is especially important as national accountability mechanisms can be weak in LDCs. Any future review at global level should take place in a universally accepted framework, be premised on independent analysis and anchored in broad-based national mutual accountability.

For a more detailed summary of the special event, please click [here](#).

Next DCF High-level symposium in Luxembourg (18-19 October 2011)

Under the theme of «Working together to increase the development impact of aid», the next DCF Symposium in Luxembourg will facilitate a multi-stakeholder policy dialogue on how to best help developing countries

build their productive capacity and work towards long-term exit from aid. This requires maximizing the impact of aid on sustainable development, and mobilizing other financial flows such as investment, trade and domestic revenues. A special concern will be how to ensure that additional resources do deliver results for sustainable development. The symposium will also debate how all relevant actors can partake in national and sectoral reviews of aid policies and aid quality commitments. A meeting on strengthening the role of global mutual accountability mechanisms will take place on the day before the symposium.

Policy recommendations from the Luxembourg Symposium will feed into the 2012 Development Cooperation Forum. They will also inform the debate at the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness which will be held a few weeks later. For more information, please click [here](#).

General Assembly resolution 61/16

The UN General Assembly recently reviewed the implementation of its resolution 61/16, which created the DCF. This process, which was facilitated by the Permanent Representative of Chile to the UN, showed the continued support of Member States to the DCF. Many delegations – notably the G-77, said that the DCF should become the main international forum for discussing development cooperation policies. While delegations discussed the possible annualization of the DCF and ways to strengthen its follow-up mechanisms, it was felt that it was too early to introduce major change. The report summarizes proposals made in the course of the discussions. [here](#).

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The General Assembly adopted [a short resolution](#) as a result of this process.

Other development cooperation news

- The 2011 Substantive Session of the Economic and Social Council is on-going in Geneva (from 4 to 28 July). The session included a ministerial segment on education MDGs and a review of UN system operational activities for development [here](#).
- The European Council on 23 and 24 June 2011 welcomed [the annual report on EU development aid targets](#) and reaffirmed its commitment to achieve these targets by 2015.
- The 2011 G8 meeting in Deauville discussed the importance of accountability and transparency to deliver on the commitments made by developed countries and improve aid effectiveness. [Deauville Accountability Report](#).
- The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA), the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB) and the Network of African Parliamentarians (NAP) drafted [Legislative Principles for Development Effectiveness](#).

- The Second Global Meeting of the International Dialogue on Conflict and Fragility was held in Monrovia on 15 – 16 June 2011. [here](#).
- The UK Department for International Development (DFID) released most of its [country operational plans](#) for the next four years.
- [“The future of development finance”](#), written for the Center for Global Development by former DFID Permanent Secretary Dr. Nemat Shafik, argues that, in order for the future development finance system to become an effective tool of global problem solving, the rules of development assistance need to evolve to focus on transparency, accountability and flexible partnerships.

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For more details on DCF activities please go to:
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