

**Key messages from the meeting of the Advisory Group of
the Under-Secretary-General on the Development Cooperation Forum
Bogotá, Colombia, 23 March 2010**

1. The Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) should provide a clear and independent assessment of changes in development cooperation, thus advancing the political consensus on these issues. It provides a unique platform to look at policy dimensions of development cooperation (rather than technical aspects) and at ways to accelerate the reform of international development cooperation architecture.
2. The DCF is well-suited to examine key issues of international development cooperation including aid quantity, quality and effectiveness as well as challenges in reaching the MDGs, such as capacity development and climate change.
3. It is important to focus sharply the agenda of the DCF on a few relevant issues of international development cooperation.
4. The DCF should give a clear political message to the United Nations High-level plenary event on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to be held in September 2010.
5. The DCF should further review ways to advance progress on MDG 8 on developing a global partnership for development, holding all key development cooperation actors to account for the commitments they have made under this goal.
6. While the lack of progress on existing commitments on ODA should be an overriding concern for the DCF, it also has to review other sources of development financing. Aid quality issues should feature prominently in its work.
7. Poverty cannot be reduced without assuring coherence among policies affecting development. The DCF should review ways of enhancing coherence in development cooperation.
8. The DCF has a key role as a forum for debate on whether development cooperation partners are honouring the commitments they made and achieving the results that have been agreed and clearly defined. Developing countries should hold developed countries to account on aid and aid effectiveness in the spirit of mutual accountability.
9. There is a general need for clarifying the roles and promoting synergies amongst the various platforms dealing with South-South cooperation. While all countries recognize the importance of tracking trends and effectiveness, there is no 'one-size fits all' policy – especially in view of varying context, capacities and needs of partner countries – and different approaches are natural between North-South cooperation and South-South cooperation, as well as within these groups.

10. The DCF should continue engaging civil society and the range of other development cooperation stakeholders in its substantive work as well as promote their involvement in other international processes.
11. The DCF should learn from and promote initiatives taking an evidence based approach and building on country case studies and good practices, to facilitate knowledge exchange and mutual learning.