



## DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FORUM

1<sup>st</sup> High-level Symposium in Phase II (2009-2010):

*“Accountable and Transparent Development Cooperation: Towards a More Inclusive Framework”*

**12 – 13 November, Vienna, Austria**

### Background

The 2005 United Nations 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 Development Cooperation Forum which took place in New York in July 2008 represented the first decisive step in positioning the Economic and Social Council as a key venue for global dialogue and policy review of the effectiveness and coherence of international development cooperation. The 2008 Forum also reaffirmed the demand for a universal and inclusive space for discussions on international development cooperation. The role of the DCF as a focal point for such discussion was recognized at the Doha conference, while the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) welcomes its contribution to international dialogue and mutual accountability on aid issues.

### Phase II (2009-2010)

At a time when the economic crisis puts at risk development cooperation and the achievement of the MDGs, the DCF is poised to play a key role as *international mutual accountability mechanism* that will draw together analyses of progress in national and global-level mutual accountability mechanisms.

By giving voice to a wide range of stakeholders, including DAC and non-DAC donors, recipient country governments, civil society organizations, parliamentarians, local governments, and the private sector, the Forum will further promote participatory dialogue on major development cooperation issues throughout its second phase.

Against this backdrop and mindful of areas of complementarity with other development cooperation processes, the DCF will further strengthen its position as an analytical platform for high-level, substantive dialogue on key development cooperation issues, including (i) mutual accountability and aid transparency; (ii) South-South and triangular cooperation; and (iii) aid policy coherence, i.e. the effectiveness of aid in promoting other types of Financing for Development (FfD) and the coordinated and coherent use of various types of development financing by developing countries.

### Objective(s) of the Vienna Symposium on Mutual Accountability and Aid Transparency

On mutual accountability, the DCF aims at galvanizing the commitment of stakeholder groups to change their behaviour by promoting broad agreement on priority issues for action and in helping to establish common standards for mutual accountability and transparency at the national and global levels.

Based on a robust analytical background study, the two-day symposium will focus on the following key topics:

1. Review *global mutual accountability mechanisms* and agree on potential standards for all actors which make a special effort to include programme countries;
2. Discuss *lessons learned and standards in national mutual accountability mechanisms* and review potential criteria to strengthen national accountability processes;
3. Review aid transparency initiatives and promote *criteria for international transparency* and information-sharing on aid effectiveness;

The Symposium will consist of short panels followed by interactive plenary discussions. Participants are invited to discuss recommendations for standards in global and national mutual accountability in parallel break-out sessions of developing and developed countries and non-governmental DCF stakeholders at the end of the first day. Discussions will also promote gender-responsive mutual accountability, development cooperation and financing and emphasize the need to foster coherence and synergies within the UN system on development cooperation.

The Symposium will also initiate multi-stakeholder dialogue on:

1. South-South data definition and measurement and ways to improve information on South-South cooperation informed by the work of the DCF-supported “South-South Working Group”;
2. The effectiveness of aid in promoting other types of FfD and the coordinated and coherent use of various types of development financing in developing countries;

Senior policymakers and representatives of stakeholders will engage in an expert capacity in the discussions.

The overall objective of the Symposium is to produce agreement on recommendations for the development of standards in mutual accountability and to decide on the way forward in preparing for the next High-level Symposium, the Report of the Secretary-General and the 2010 DCF.