

## **Global Preparatory Meeting of the 2010 Development Cooperation Forum**

**22 April 2010, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m., Conference Room, 4 - NLB**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset I would like to thank the President of ECOSOC, H.E. Hamidon Ali, and Under-Secretary-General Sha Zukang for organizing this preparatory meeting. It presents a timely opportunity to discuss the preparations for the next Development Cooperation Forum, which will be held in New York in late June to early July 2010.

To facilitate an effective and substantive consultation process leading to the DCF 2010, UN DESA convened, and Austria hosted, an initial high-level symposium in Vienna on 12-13 November 2009. Its theme was “Accountability and Transparent Development Cooperation: Towards a More Inclusive Framework”.

This symposium was organized as a true multi-stakeholder event with representatives from donor and recipient governments, parliamentarians, local governments, civil society organizations and multilateral organizations. 170 participants attended the symposium.

In view of the current crises there is a growing need to develop more effective systems to promote accountability and transparency in development cooperation in order to achieve the MDGs on time. The

Vienna Symposium gave a unique opportunity to take stock of both the effectiveness, as well as challenges and gaps, in existing mechanisms and initiatives in the area of mutual accountability and aid transparency. In this context the objective of the symposium was to define recommendations to develop well-functioning and inclusive global, regional and national mutual accountability mechanisms.

The participants underscored the need for a more balanced, inclusive and independent framework to ensure that all actors in development cooperation are held responsible for the commitments they have voluntarily made. They strongly agreed that the DCF should serve as a forum where principles of international mutual accountability and transparency are refined and strengthened. As such, it should serve as a global mechanism to conduct an independent and comprehensive review of progress made in mutual accountability and in aid transparency. This should be in close collaboration with UNDP and engagement of OECD-DAC.

The next step will be to agree on a plan of action with DCF stakeholders to conduct the review of progress in mutual accountability.

In addition, the following points were emphasized in the discussion:

- The effectiveness and credibility of a mutual accountability mechanism depend on the existence of an established national development and/or aid policy with clear objectives and performance targets, including on gender-specific issues;

- A culture of domestic accountability is a prerequisite for more accountable development cooperation;
- The lack of technical and institutional capacity among all stakeholder groups is a common obstacle in developing well-functioning mutual accountability mechanisms; and
- More transparent information on aid is an important requirement for all stakeholders to make well-informed decisions in development cooperation.

The Vienna symposium also discussed the DCF's work in the area of South-South and triangular development cooperation.

Several speakers highlighted the role of South-South cooperation in complementing North-South cooperation. They stressed that the mechanisms of South-South cooperation must be respected, and that the interests of the various partners must be taken into account. Participants also discussed the importance of standards in establishing effectiveness for South-South cooperation. Several delegations underscored that a necessary first step is to create an enabling environment for South-South cooperation.

The third object of the symposium was to sharpen the focus of the DCF on policy coherence.

Many participants encouraged the DCF to take a lead in policy coherence for development (PCD), notably in pronouncing itself on many key issues that are not yet addressed in existing processes, while bringing

the perspectives of developing countries into the policy debate. There was wide recognition that the universal mandate of the UN makes it poised to address all policy incoherence that hinders the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. Tax policies, global financial policies, and policies to attack illicit financial flows were singled out as some of the missing dimensions of the current policy coherence for development processes on which the DCF could have an important impact.

Finally, delegates expressed strong interest in assessing the impact of multiple crises on development cooperation, including climate change, food security, migration and security. I understand that this will be discussed in the next preparatory symposium in Helsinki.

I thank you.