



2014 Development Cooperation Forum Ethiopia High-Level Symposium

“A renewed global partnership for a post-2015 era”

UNECA Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 6-7 June 2013

CONCEPT NOTE – 16 April 2013

Background

As the deadline approaches for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, thinking on a potential post-2015 development agenda has accelerated significantly. Governments and non-governmental actors are intensifying efforts to channel their visions and ideas into the discussions taking place, through the United Nations and around the world.

The MDGs provide the current development framework of time-bound global goals and targets to measure progress in the areas of poverty and hunger reduction, gender equality, education, public health and environmental sustainability. The global partnership for development has played a crucial role in MDG progress to date. It has galvanized aid, debt relief, access to ICT and essential medicines, and various other forms of support. Yet, important gaps remain in the implementation of both the goals and the global partnership for development.

At the same time, the geography of poverty is evolving, inequalities are on the rise and the challenges of sustainable development have become even more pressing. As the global economy continues to recover from the economic and financial crises, a multi-polar economy is taking shape. Southern providers are playing a larger role in development cooperation though it is different from the traditional North-South cooperation. New and emerging actors, from the private sector to private philanthropic organizations, civil society organizations and local authorities are also becoming influential actors in this area.

In preparing for the post-2015 period, reflections on past experiences must be complemented with a critical assessment of how the new development landscape could reshape the global partnership for development and what implications this would have for its underlying purposes and principles. This should also involve an effort to anticipate how development cooperation may continue to evolve and how, in that context, to best harness the opportunities the variety of providers in development cooperation offer.

Objective and focus areas

The Ethiopia High-Level Symposium will feature and foster multi-stakeholder dialogue on a renewed global partnership for development for a post-2015 era.

The symposium will assess how to shape a global partnership for development that addresses existing gaps in implementation, as well as new opportunities and challenges, including those created by the more diverse development cooperation of today. It will consider how to include different development approaches in the global partnership for development and which characteristics would turn it into a valuable mechanism for engagement of all actors.

The symposium will focus in particular on the purposes of a renewed global partnership for development and its guiding principles, plus key features needed to meet the expectations of the various actors about what the global partnership for development should do and how it should work, including a stronger accountability mechanism.

Possible format

The two-day symposium will have an open and interactive format, organized around four discussion sessions, each drawing on lessons learned from the MDG framework and country-level experiences:

1. What purposes should a renewed global partnership for development serve?
2. What principles should guide the global partnership for development in the post-2015 setting?
3. What features would the renewed global partnership for development need to attract the participation of the various actors?
4. What could be key characteristics of a post-2015 monitoring and accountability framework to support implementation and ensure delivery on commitments by all partners?

Breakout sessions will take place before the third session, enabling the different groups of stakeholders to discuss amongst themselves before the whole group considers how to engage the key actors. Opening and closing sessions will enable, respectively, setting of expectations for the symposium and synthesis of key messages and outcomes.

Background documentation

A dedicated study will be commissioned to stimulate the debate on the overarching theme of the symposium: how to shape the global partnership for development for the post-2015 period? An aide-memoire will be prepared to provide context and brief background for the discussion sessions. A list of key background references will be prepared, including outputs from the post-2015 consultations taking place at global, regional and country levels, as well as other relevant reports.

Participation

In a hallmark of the United Nations Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), the symposium will bring together international organizations, DAC donors, Southern providers, private philanthropic organizations, local governments, parliamentarians and civil society organizations. Given the timeliness of the issue and its centrality in the ongoing debate, the symposium should attract participants keen to actively take part in the global discussion, share their views and opinions with a broad range of stakeholders engaged in development cooperation and learn from each other's experiences. The side events and parallel meetings planned should further support high-level participation.

Expected outcomes

The key messages and recommendations from this exchange will make an immediate contribution to the ongoing preparations for a post-2015 development agenda, within the United Nations and beyond. The Ethiopia High-Level Symposium will also serve as the first major preparatory event for the 2014 DCF. Two symposia will follow, in Switzerland (24-25 October 2013) and Germany (first quarter 2014). The meeting's outcomes will be relevant for other intergovernmental processes, as well as the range of efforts under way at country and regional levels to improve the effectiveness and coherence of development cooperation in supporting national development strategies.

Side events and parallel meetings

A **meeting of Directors-General of Development Cooperation of Southern partners** is planned for 7 June 2013. The meeting will serve as a forum for Southern partners to discuss key challenges in South-South cooperation, following on the Conference of Southern Providers on "South-South Cooperation: Issues and Emerging Challenges", held in Delhi, India on 15-16 April 2013.

The **DCF Advisory Group**, a group of 30 distinguished individuals who provide strategic advice on the work of the Forum, will hold a meeting in conjunction with the symposium. A caucus for representatives from least developed countries will be held prior to the meeting on 5 June 2013. Additionally, civil society organizations will also hold a caucus on 5 June 2013 in preparation for the meeting.