



United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs



## DCF HIGH LEVEL SYMPOSIUM IN ADDIS ABABA: SIDE EVENT

<b>Organizer:</b>	Inter-Parliamentary Union
<b>Title:</b>	Stakeholder consultation on aid or partnership policies: toward a common approach
<b>Time:</b>	Friday 7 June, from 1.30 p.m. to 3 p.m.
<b>Room requirements:</b>	Boardroom style (people facing each other); up to 30 seats; no need for interpretation (English only)

As part of its 2012-2014 strategy, the biennial Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) will continue to focus on mutual accountability as a pillar of effective international development cooperation. This will also include a more pro-active approach to support stakeholders in their efforts to develop key “enablers” of mutual accountability, such as an inclusive and fully owned national aid or partnership policy.

Recent UN surveys and reports prepared for the DCF have illustrated the need for programme countries to adopt a strong aid or partnership policy as a tool of mutual accountability between the government and its development partners. However, most programme countries currently lack such a policy; and where aid or partnership policies are in place, they often lack details needed to hold actors effectively answerable. Parliamentary involvement in the design and overall implementation of aid or partnership policies is almost always very limited.

While a national aid policy is by definition country-specific, existing aid policies vary dramatically in design, scope, modalities of implementation, as well as targets and indicators, showing limited and uneven understanding among governments, development partners and non-executive stakeholders of what an aid policy should achieve and how it should work in its various dimensions.

Having been involved in the work of the DCF from the very beginning, and recognizing the importance of national aid policies as tools of parliamentary oversight, the IPU is proposing to hold an in-depth discussion as part of DCF deliberations to help create common understanding among national and international stakeholders regarding the fundamental role, basic structure and key features of a strong national aid or partnership policy.



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To this effect, the IPU has commissioned the preparation of a short guidance note for development cooperation practitioners and policy-makers from governments, parliaments, civil society organizations, bilateral and multilateral agencies, and private donors, succinctly explaining the basic rationale and purpose of an aid or partnership policy, as well as some of the key elements that should feature in such a document.

A first draft of the note will be presented at this event as an opportunity to seek feedback from the broad range of DCF stakeholders. The goal is to initiate a focused and structured debate among the broad range of development cooperation actors on the features and uses of such a tool to enhance mutual accountability. The discussion would culminate in deliberations at the July 2014 High-level Development Cooperation Forum, where the final guidance note would be presented. It would clearly outline: what an aid or partnership policy is, why it is needed, and how the various stakeholders at country level can engage in developing an aid or partnership policy or strengthening an existing one.

The note will also provide a matrix of “best practices” of how an aid or partnership policy should be structured, including references to specific sectoral and cross-cutting priority areas (gender etc.), the management and mechanics of interaction between stakeholders, and options regarding implementation and monitoring of the aid or partnership policy.