

**2014 Development Cooperation Forum
Ethiopia High-Level Symposium
“A renewed global partnership for a post-2015 era”**

**UNECA Headquarters, Addis Ababa,
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Closing remarks by

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H.E Mr Hongbo Wu

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends of the DCF,

Following two days of exceptionally rich discussion, I would like to thank my colleagues in the Ministry, the UN team in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the many other helping hands involved in making this event a success.

I also wish to acknowledge and sincerely thank our moderators, panelists and all of you participants for so generously sharing your insights and exchanging important lessons.

Our discussion over the past two days have produced a wealth of ideas on what a renewed global partnership should look like and how it should work in practice. All participants have actively engaged in the discussions and contributed very valuable ideas for the success of this High Level Symposium.

It is appropriate time for this Symposium to take place in Africa. As is known, Africa is vulnerable to natural and manmade shocks. Not only these shocks are there, but also addressing them or the capacity to mitigate their effects are limited. So, Africa should play a central role in the formulation of a renewed global partnership for development and the continent should have a special place in it.

After ten years of unprecedented growth, the discourse has now shifted from the perception that Africa is a hopeless continent to Africa as has become a frontier market and an emerging pole.

It is nowhere more apparent than in Africa that we are living in a world that is in flux. The development landscape is changing rapidly in front of our eyes.

Along with this, the attention given to LDC, special need countries and small islands should be continues and the partnership with this countries

should be strengthened.

There is now a broad agreement that the new global partnership for development will need to respond to these changes to promote the transformative change that will be needed to put the world on a more sustainable growth path.

A clear message that came out in our discussions is that a central role of a renewed global partnership for development must be to conclude the unfinished business of the MDGs. This includes making good on past ODA commitments and reversing the alarming trend of declining ODA.

Participants stressed that traditional partners have historical responsibilities and the promises they made should be fulfilled, unfinished business needs to be completed but the modalities, principles, conditionalities need to be revisited. While we all agreed that ODA is still relevant and important, it needs to be comprehensive and should be used to promote other elements of development like trade, investment, technology transfer, local capacity for revenue generation and the like.

This undoubtedly calls for a global partnership for development that goes beyond the narrow realm of development cooperation. A renewed global partnership which adopts policy coherence between aid and non-aid policies as one of its cornerstones. It also calls for a global partnership that ensures stable financial systems and more equitable economic governance which provides sufficient policy space to developing countries to pursue their national development priorities.

Another, key message in the discussion was that development is no longer only about North South cooperation but with the emergence of new actors, we need to move to a more inclusive form of development cooperation that includes all actors on a more equal footing.

Many pointed out that while all development actors should take on an active role in a renewed global partnership for development, we need to be mindful of their different capabilities and comparative advantages.

It is with this spirit that we agreed with the fact that South-south cooperation is now emerging as a very important vehicle for development cooperation. Specifically it's suitability to responding for developing country's needs.

The principles of south-south cooperation, that is Equality, Partnership,

Ownership, Non-interference, demand driven, and the like, must be kept and further strengthened.

It was also stressed that, the South-South cooperation needs to come up with its own framework that defines development cooperation. It is known that the existing South-South cooperation has diversity in its approaches. Therefore, there is a need to streamline its approaches, improve the efficiency and responsiveness.

We have agreed to leverage the different comparative advantages of South-South cooperation, while recognizing that South-South cooperation is a complement rather than a substitute for North-South cooperation. However, there should be cooperation between the South-South Cooperation and North - South Cooperation and they should work together to bring better development results for the people.

Getting the design of a renewed global partnership right is only the first step. What matters is making sure that it gets implemented. This was a clear message that kept being reflected through the Symposium. It has highly emphasized that the new global partnership needs also put economic transformation at its center and focuses on poverty reduction.

Participants have also pointed out that one of the main weaknesses of the present development cooperation and the global partnership for development is the lack of an effective monitoring and accountability mechanism.

We all agreed that ensuring that a post-2015 development agenda is underpinned by an effective monitoring and accountability mechanism will no doubt be critical for the success of addressing development challenges beyond 2015 in an effective manner.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The key conclusions of this Symposium will serve as an important input into the ongoing discussions on a post-2015 development agenda and the renewed global partnership for development, which will underpin it.

On 4 July 2013, Ethiopia will present the key messages of this Symposium to the Ministerial Segment of the ECOSOC.

A DCF side event in the margins of the upcoming Special Event of the President of the General Assembly next September will provide another

opportunity to present the highlights of the Symposium to Heads of State and government.

I also hope that you would convey the key messages of the DCF to the different fora that you are engaged in.

Finally, I must say that this DCF Ethiopia High Level Symposium was extremely fruitful and would like thank you all for its success.

Once again thank you most sincerely for your participation in this Symposium and its success and wish you a safe travel back home.

I thank you.