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Opening Speech:

“Accountable and effective development cooperation in a post-2015 era”

High-level symposium to prepare for the UN Development Cooperation Forum

20-21 March 2014 | Berlin, Germany

President of the UN Economic and Social Council, Ambassador Martin Sajdik, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Wu Hongbo, Excellencies, Members of the German Bundestag, Fellow State Secretaries, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning and welcome to the Café Moskau, good morning and welcome to Berlin. Welcome to the third high-level symposium to prepare the 2014 Development Cooperation Forum (DCF).

*We are hosting this forum **together with UNDESA**. I see **Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General of UNDESA** is with us. That gives me the chance to express my sincere appreciation to you and your colleagues.*

I am from South-West Germany – from Swabia – and we Swabians have a reputation for being very economical, which includes being economical with praise. When I say that the cooperation for the preparation of this very important conference was excellent, then it is nothing but the truth, and that is a hopeful sign for the next steps in the process.

This conference is not just important because of the many high-level guests taking part. It is also important because it is meant to deliver concrete results.

*Clear statements about what we want to do in order to further strengthen and improve **“accountable and effective development cooperation in a post-2015 era”**.*

*Since this is difficult, I ask you to think of this meeting as a conclave. It would be nice if later we might talk of the **Moskau Conclave** and the name 'Moskau Conclave' would become known worldwide. With white smoke of course.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

*Why are the **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** a success? The answer is **obvious; because they are measurable**. Because we have been able to read in*

regular reports where and in which areas we have made progress and where there are still deficits.

If, in September 2015 – which is in 18 months – we want to reach agreement in the United Nations about a **post-2015 system of goals**, then we need to **pick up where this success left off** and we need to take it to the next level. We must do this in two senses, in terms of **content and also with an eye to accountability and effectiveness**.

We want three things:

1. We want to **achieve the MDGs that have not been realised**.
2. We want to **formulate new, ambitious goals for poverty reduction**.
3. We want to **combine this process** with the **sustainability agenda from the Rio+20 process**.

But that is not all we want: We also want to look at goals from the Millennium Declaration that have not been so much in the spotlight up to now: **peace and security, human rights and good governance!**

And there is more: the new system of goals should be universal, in other words it should involve all countries.

Let me emphasise: we want a new **global development partnership**, a partnership in which every nation and every player takes a share of the responsibility in accordance with its means.

The more ambitious the goals we undertake to reach together in this partnership, the more important accountability and ensuring that our efforts are effective will be.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Paris, Accra and Busan produced important stimuli. The new Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation is making a crucial contribution. It links the committed work of governments and important international and regional organisations, of parliamentarians, civil society and the private sector.

And it does this, let it be noted, on the basis of the shared principles of effectiveness and transparency. Germany is supporting this partnership with great commitment. We are also strongly engaged in the **International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)**.

Our creed is: The uniform reporting standard set out in the Initiative will bring considerably more transparency into the work being done by the participating countries and organisations.

Both of these are very important initiatives, because they have truly moved us forward. However, they are initiatives that are outside the UN system. Which brings us to our **core topic**: If we want a global development partnership, then it will only work if all join in. The crux of the matter when it comes to the post-2015 negotiations is: **How can we integrate effective accountability and effectiveness into the architecture of this global development partnership?**

Our gathering here today is so that we can talk openly with all players, until the white smoke rises from the chimney. And if that doesn't happen today, then next time.

Let me just say a few things about German positions:

What does accountability entail? First there is the accountability of governments towards their own citizens. Then there is the accountability of organisations towards their members. And this relates to both the design of policies and the way resources are used.

However, there must also be accountability between development partners. **Transparency** is an important instrument in this context. Only those who work transparently and are prepared to give account of themselves can hope to get support for their work in the long term. We had a reason for inviting you to the Café Moskau today. This building was a prestige location under the former GDR, a state that fell apart, among other things because the regime relied right up until the end on pulling the wool over people's eyes instead of allowing real development.

The other aspect we need to consider is **effectiveness**. In development cooperation the same is true as in the private sector: We need not just quantitative growth but above all **qualitative growth**. It is only by achieving more with the same volume of funding that governments will be able to convince their citizens to pay taxes.

Only thus will organisations be able to convince their members or supporters to pay their contributions or make donations. An important step towards more effectiveness is, of course, more **coherence**. This is particularly important now, because there are more players today than at the start of the millennium.

Esteemed participants in this **course-setting** event, Let me conclude with **two explanations**: **First of all**, this is not about forcing all forms of cooperation under one roof or treating them all the same way. The enthusiasm for a new global partnership for development thrives on the idea that very **different players** are able to make their individual contributions: politics, civil society, the private sector, international

organisations, and scientists and academics. They all have **different roles, potential and priorities**. We cannot allow this diversity of colours and hues to be blended into one uniform shade of grey. We want to use this diversity to craft the image of a new world. **Accountability and effectiveness are necessary so that each and every contribution remains visible.**

And secondly, **accountability and measuring effectiveness** must **not** be allowed to become an **end in themselves**. There is a saying in Germany: paper is patient.

Writing reports and checking results is not enough.

The arc must continue beyond that to the point where **knowledge is shared** and mutual learning occurs. We must move away from a world made up of donors and recipients, towards a place of **mutual give and take, where experience is exchanged and shared.**

By having **common standards** which we all seek to meet as far as possible, we will then truly be **equal partners**. That is our understanding of a new **global partnership**.

I sincerely wish the consultations every success!