

DCF Germany High Level Symposium
Accountable and effective development cooperation in a post-2015 era
20 – 21 March, Berlin, Germany

CSO delegates preparatory meeting – 19 March, 2pm – 4pm, Venue Café Moskau (room tbc)

The DCF reference group for civil society organizations will organize an informal pre-meeting to offer an opportunity for CSO representatives at the DCF Germany High-level Symposium to identify critical issues and key messages to raise during the Symposium from a CSO perspective. Participants will also discuss how these messages can get transmitted to ongoing UN processes in preparation of a post-2015 development agenda, including the 2014 DCF, and the Mexico High-level Ministerial Meeting. All CSO delegates are invited to attend.

In line with the programme for the Symposium, the discussion will focus on the following questions: a) what are the lessons learned ensuring the effectiveness of development cooperation from a CSO perspective? b) how can these lessons be reflected in a post-2015 development agenda? c) how can a global monitoring and accountability framework for development cooperation commitments ensure the engagement of all actors on an equal footing? d) how can such a framework build on existing efforts to engage and hold actors accountable for the promises they have made?

The CSO pre-meeting will also factor in the following aspects:

1. The global debate on sustainable development goals for the post-2015 agenda, the financing needed to support its implementation and global standards for effective development cooperation is in full swing.
2. Development cooperation is changing its narrative to remain a critical catalyst for a universal and unified post-2015 development agenda.
3. It is hence critical to review trends and progress in effective development cooperation with the ambition to devise new ways that can foster development partnerships that can be truly inclusive. Many experiences by the increasingly diverse group of development actors have helped to make great progress on the MDGs. This momentum needs to be maintained.
4. In recent years, the debate has gone beyond the boundaries of narrow aid effectiveness and has placed greater emphasis on the role of Southern partners and the private sector in particular. It also unfolded in the context of measures to fight corruption and illicit flows, and the nexus of development and climate change finance. As more systematic efforts are required to accelerate progress in all these areas, it is vital to build on the lessons learned on how to make aid more effective to secure sustainable development results, while also broadening the scope to other flows and actors in a way that engages different actors according to their level of development, and in support of democratic ownership.
5. It will be more important than ever to have greater clarity on the principles underpinning effective development cooperation from the perspective of all actors. This debate should unfold in the context of a clear vision for development cooperation in a post-2015 era and build on existing UN and other commitments and progress in improving the quantity and quality of development cooperation.
6. The successful implementation of a post 2015 development agenda that tackles poverty and inequality and puts the world on a more sustainable development path will depend on the robust engagement, monitoring and accountability of different actors and the modalities they use in development cooperation. The DCF Ethiopia symposium (June 2013) launched a dialogue on the purposes, principles and features of a renewed global partnership for development. It called for full engagement of civil society in discussions on international development cooperation and concluded that civil society will play a key role in monitoring a renewed global partnership for development. The Switzerland symposium (October 2013), reviewing the implications of a unified and universal post-2015 development agenda for the future of development cooperation, also recognized the important role of civil society organizations as advocates and development actors on the ground and reiterated the need for more resources to ensure the effective engagement in monitoring and accountability at all levels. .
7. The DCF Germany Symposium will assess: (a) which aspects of effective development cooperation need to be reflected in a post-2015 development agenda to engage different actors; and how monitoring and accountability of development cooperation should take shape post-2015. It is a forward looking agenda that provides CSOs the opportunity to provide substantive inputs into the biennial High-level meeting of the DCF in July 2014. The discussions will also inform the Open Working Group on SDGs and the Expert Committee on Sustainable Development Finance, as well as deliberations at the Mexico Ministerial meeting of the Busan partnership.

8. The ECOSOC DCF – the main United Nations Forum in charge of development cooperation –will advance a common understanding of the future of development cooperation and thereby contribute to the design and implementation of aspects of the post-2015 development agenda related to international development cooperation, including the global partnership for development. The DCF has also been mandated to review progress on mutual accountability for development cooperation in 2009. Under its workstream on global accountability, it has built a comprehensive compendium of information on successes and challenges in mutual accountability as an overarching principle of effective development cooperation. The ambition for a truly global accountability framework with strong multistakeholder participation for post-2015 development cooperation commitments falls within the realm of the DCF.
9. A post-2015 accountability framework will need to reflect the specific contributions and responsibilities by CSOs at all levels. The Germany DCF High-level Symposium offers the space to present key elements and good practices of effective accountability mechanisms with strong multistakeholder participation for consideration by Member States and other stakeholders.

Format and Organizers

The meeting will start with a brief introduction to recall the focus and overall objective of the DCF High-level Symposium and the pre-meeting. Short interventions by CSO speakers on key messages they intend to convey in the Symposium will be followed by an interactive discussion.. Contact person: Luca De Fraia, luca.defraia@actionaid.org .