



PREPARING FOR THE 2014 DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FORUM

Key messages from the DCF Germany High-Level Symposium

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

20-21 March 2014, Berlin, Germany

Purpose and participants

The DCF Germany High-level Symposium brought together a diverse group of senior officials and experts to examine how best to feature effectiveness and accountability in the design and implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

Over 20 ministers and deputy ministers and 20 directors-general engaged in the discussions, side-by-side with parliamentarians, local government officials and high-level representatives of civil society, foundations, academia and international organizations.

Background

The event served as the third and last high-level preparatory symposium for the 2014 Development Cooperation Forum, which will address the future of development cooperation in the post-2015 era.

Key messages

- ❖ The wealth of experience to maximize effectiveness and development impact provides critical lessons for the design and implementation of a post-2015 development agenda.
- ❖ To be effective, development cooperation must originate from people’s needs. Effectiveness also requires continued openness to learn from each other and to shape a common language for development cooperation, to engage people continuously and inspire action.
- ❖ Better availability and communication of usable data, and knowledge management in development cooperation, will be key.
- ❖ To mobilize all actors and build positive pressure for change, monitoring and accountability are essential. Work on these issues must be an integral part of the ongoing post-2015 preparations.
- ❖ Global accountability for development cooperation is about providing incentives to meet voluntary commitments. The promise of sustainable development results provides the most powerful motivation.
- ❖ No one-size-fits-all approach exists. An inclusive, fully recognized and robust global monitoring and accountability framework for development cooperation is needed to accelerate progress at all levels.
- ❖ In terms of some of its features and concrete elements, such a global framework should:
 - Provide a simple differentiated architecture, or overarching umbrella framework, recognizing the diversity of actors and approaches.
 - Engage all actors on a level playing field and enable them to contribute.

- Be people-centred, focused on commitments and sustainable development results.
- Enable rights holders and their representatives in parliament and civil society.
- Encourage the engagement of the private sector.
- Build on existing national and regional mutual accountability mechanisms, their findings and lessons learned.
- Promote coherence of policies and actions.
- Ensure that monitoring, reporting, accountability related processes induce mutual learning and necessary policy and institutional changes.
- ❖ Efforts to ensure accountability for development cooperation commitments will have to be intrinsically linked to a renewed global partnership for development and the rules of the game of the global economy.

Next steps

Preparations for the DCF complement the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Expert Committee on Sustainable Development Financing. The 2014 DCF will enable a collective reflection on the role of different actors in development cooperation post-2015, before the two processes conclude their work.

The DCF will feed the Secretary-General’s synthesis report on the post-2015 discussions. Its work on development cooperation will also provide important guidance for the design of global monitoring and accountability for the post-2015 development agenda as a whole.

Messages from the DCF preparations informed the First High-level Meeting of the Busan Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation in Mexico in April.

The analytical work prepared for the Symposium is being made widely available. Studies cover quality and effectiveness, global accountability in development cooperation, and initial findings of the UN DCF Survey on national mutual accountability. Policy briefs overview regional and global mutual accountability mechanisms, and CSO accountability in development cooperation.

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