

Frau Ursula Müller, AL'in 2
Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung

Closing Statement of Director-General Ms. Ursula Müller

at the Closing Segment of the

**UN DCF High-level Symposium „Accountable and effective
development cooperation in a post-2015 era“**

Friday, 21.03.2014 at the Closing Session (5:30 – 6:00)

Mr. President of the Economic and Social Council of United Nations, Martin Sajdik

Mr. Wu Hongbo, Undersecretary General for Economic and Social Affairs, UNDESA,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Introduction

- After two days of very intensive discussions it is now my duty to **officially close this high-level symposium.**
- **I am impressed** by the wealth of experience and different perspectives brought in by the range of different actors gathered here. I would like to thank you all very much for sharing these views. They will enrich the ongoing processes referring to Sustainable Development, to discussions at the First Ministerial Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and the 2014 Development Cooperation Forum in July.

Summary of key messages of Symposium

- During the five sessions of this symposium we gained extremely valuable insights and a much clearer picture on the direction of the – without doubt – **very steep path ahead**, further defining the key questions to solve around the principles of **effectiveness and accountability** to be adequately integrated in the post 2015 framework.
- **One conclusion** I would like to highlight is the vision expressed by many of you that **monitoring and accountability are not goals in itself**, there are not the final point of our journey, but they are the most relevant tools in order to provide evidence about what works and what not in cooperation and why this is so. **The goal we are aiming at** is to cooperate – at the different levels, with the different modes in place – as impact oriented, as sustainable as possible.
- Nobody would question this conclusion, **but translating this into practice means breaking up silos** and we all know how difficult it is. It means linking poverty related issues with questions about climate change. It means linking the sector silos with systemic discussions, it means dealing with effectiveness not only in the context of a respectively designed post Busan process.
- **It means integrating effectiveness, impact orientation and accountability in the discussions on goals and targets related to post 2015.** Separating the questions and processes on the “What” on the one side and the processes on the “How” on the other is counterproductive.
- It means - many of you had raised this – defining management processes that provide for a dynamic approach that ensures that data provided, monitoring results, accountability acknowledgements do not stand for themselves but

induce necessary policy and institutional changes and possibly a continuous adaptation of our goals and targets.

- This requires **inclusiveness** and inclusiveness is about strengthening **capacities** but also about **incentives**.
- Sometimes **pressure or even enforcement mechanisms** might be helpful. But it is first of all a question of **mutual trust and respect** – as many of you highlighted.

German Perspective on Post-2015 process

- **Germany** will do everything possible to promote this spirit in the process of designing but also implementing the new universal agenda to be decided on in September 2015. You might have seen outside the paper on Germany`s key positions on the post 2015 agenda for sustainable development which contains strategic issues and exemplary goals but also a reference to these key principles.
- First of April the 2014 Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development will launch **the “German Charta for the Future”**, which intends to be the starting point of a national partnership process in view of shaping and implementing the post-2015 development agenda in this spirit and in an intensive dialogue between government, civil society, private sector and science.

Closing

- In closing I would like to **thank** again UNDESA for the very visionary, innovative approach that guided this symposium; the organizing teams who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, and to the interpreters for making our interactions possible.
- Finally I would like to thank our wonderful moderators for guiding us very skillfully through these two days.
- Let me conclude my remarks by wishing all of you a safe trip back. It was a pleasure to have you all here and I look forward to our deliberations in July and to hopefully defining concrete action points on the topics at stake.

