



MAKING USE OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION POLICIES FOR THE 2030 AGENDA

**Workshop 2 Concept note and programme for policy makers
and practitioners at the DCF Uganda High-level Symposium**

4 November 2015, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Room TBC, Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda

(WORKSHOP LANGUAGE IS ENGLISH ONLY)

Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a framework to work towards the full eradication of poverty in all its forms and to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient development path. It includes the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which sets out concrete steps for aligning all financing flows and policies with economic, social and environmental priorities to transform the global economy and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Nationally-owned sustainable development strategies and financing frameworks will be at the heart of countries' efforts to translate these global aspirations into concrete national actions and results. All actors, ranging from government officials to parliamentarians, civil society and the private sector, will have to work together in unprecedented ways in pursuing the 2030 Agenda.

Producing and demonstrating development cooperation results to achieve the 2030 Agenda

International development cooperation encompasses a critical set of external resources to support the realization of the global sustainable development agenda.¹ Through financial transfers, capacity support and policy advice with primary development impact, development cooperation can fill resource gaps and provide targeted support to realize national and international development efforts.

Development cooperation has diversified considerably and changed in the way it is being allocated, delivered and accounted for within a short time span. Concerted efforts are increasingly shifting from a focus on aid coordination to the longer-term transformative changes needed to support poverty eradication and sustainable development.

¹ For an overview of the type of public, private and blended resources considered international development cooperation in the context of this discussion, please consult the DCF policy brief on "What is development co-operation?", here: http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/pdf15/2016_dcf_policy_brief_no.1.pdf

Monitoring and reviewing the effectiveness and impact of development cooperation will be at the heart of the follow-up and review of the commitments encapsulated in the new global development agenda and its financing framework.

Development cooperation actors have generated important lessons on how to measure the effectiveness and results of their interventions since the early 2000s. The aid and development effectiveness agendas and policy dialogue on trends in development cooperation under the aegis of the United Nations have advanced this debate in direct follow-up to the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development.

Adopting and Improving National Development Cooperation Policies for the SDGs

National development cooperation policies define a country's vision, priorities, commitments and activities related to international development cooperation. They can either be stand-alone documents or part of a national action/development plan. Well-structured policies spell out the principles and objectives of development cooperation, the roles and responsibilities or division of labour among the various parties involved, decision-making processes, and how implementation is to be monitored. National development cooperation policies do not exist in isolation of other national legislation and policies – they must be linked to the national development strategies and plans of countries.

The biennial surveys on national mutual accountability have shown that an inclusive and fully owned aid or partnership policy² at country level is essential to maximizing effectiveness and results of development cooperation. Despite the importance of these policies as enablers of effective development cooperation, in 2013 only 46 programme countries appeared to make use of this tool.³ Some countries are improving their policies by better reflecting division of labour or using it to encourage greater accountability of different actors, greater use of national systems and provision of relevant information by partners.

Sound policy frameworks for development cooperation will be critical to accelerate investments, in particular in poverty eradication and sustainable development actions. All countries will therefore benefit from national development cooperation policies, or similar documents, for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union had commissioned a guidance note for development cooperation practitioners and stakeholders to promote common understanding among stakeholders on the role and features of such policies, to raise awareness and to support their adoption and use.⁴ It can be a

² The term “national development cooperation policy” is used as it is broader than aid, noting that several programme countries nevertheless refer to their policies as “national aid policies”.

³ See findings of the 3rd national mutual accountability survey for the DCF.

⁴ Deliberations of the workshop will be informed by the IPU Policy Brief “National aid policies: Key pillars for mutual accountability. A guidance note for stakeholders of development cooperation”, see here: <http://www.ipu.org/pdf/publications/national-aid-en.pdf>.

useful tool to assist parliamentarians in understanding the requirements of a sound national development cooperation policy.⁵

Ongoing DCF analysis in the area of mutual accountability⁶ has shown that, depending on country context, the content of the national development cooperation policies may have to change to adapt to the requirements of the 2030 Agenda, linking to the SDGs and their financing and other means of implementation, and demonstrating greater openness and transparency. Changes could also be necessary to the policies of partner countries to reflect the changes in development cooperation (e.g. on allocation, or blending, regional partnerships). This analysis also suggests that governments may want to review their national development cooperation policies every 3-5 years, ideally coinciding with their medium-term planning and budgeting cycles, to ensure that the policies remain relevant for implementing of the 2030 Agenda.

According to this analysis, the following remain challenges in making national development cooperation policies work:

- Substantive weaknesses of the contents, such as lack of specificity on roles and responsibilities, lack of sufficiently robust indicators to measure individual provider performance, challenges in getting partners to provide reporting information;
- Limited engagement of non-state actors by governments in policy design; and
- Limited involvement of national parliaments.

In future, governments can be expected to require policy development capacities to formulate (or update existing) national development cooperation policies that:

- Link closely with broader sustainable development policies;
- Reflect a broader range of financing and means of implementation beyond traditional ODA;
- Reflect clear roles and responsibilities of a broader range of actors in development cooperation: governmental actors at the national and sub-national levels; parliamentarians; bi-lateral and multi-lateral development partners; civil society and other non-state actors, including philanthropic foundations and the private sector;
- Identify governance arrangements for monitoring, review and accountability in national development cooperation policies; and
- Have robust indicators and the means to monitor these policies.

The DCF findings also suggest that national development cooperation policies are used more effectively, if they are designed on the basis of national consultations with all partners at country and sub-national levels. Experiences by some countries show that non-state actors should be engaged from early on in the national development cooperation policy formulation process so that they can contribute to its formulation and implementation. The role of national parliaments in development cooperation should also be made explicit in national development cooperation policies.

⁵ The Inter-Parliamentary Union has prepared this guidance note:

<http://www.ipu.org/pdf/publications/national-aid-en.pdf>

⁶ See e.g. DCF Scoping Study on Monitoring, Review and Accountability for Development Cooperation to support implementation of a Post-2015 Development Agenda, see:

http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/pdf15/ma_scoping_study_report.pdf

Objectives and programme of the workshop

- a) To discuss the potential of NDCPs to support implementation of Agenda 2030;
- b) To showcase and explore the contours of good practice examples of NDCPs; and
- c) To identify technical challenges in the design and use of NDCPs in different contexts and for the realization of the new sustainable development agenda.

Workshop 2	ADOPTING AND IMPROVING NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION POLICIES FOR THE SDGs
2:00-2:15	OPENING AND INTRODUCTION
	<p>Workshop objectives Alessandro Motter, Senior Policy Advisor, Inter-Parliamentary Union (moderator)</p> <p>How can national development cooperation policies support SDG implementation? Angela Bester, International Consultant, Communication works</p>
2:15 – 3:00	OPERATIONALIZING NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION POLICIES
	<p>Formulating and adopting national development cooperation policies – key recommendations from DCF analysis and the IPU Policy brief Matthew Martin, Director, Development Finance International</p> <p>Lessons learned in the design and adoption phase 3-4 country examples</p> <p>Moderated interactive discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What makes NDCPs a useful planning tool in different country contexts?• What are tested solutions to address challenges in operationalizing NDCPs?
3:00-3:45	ADAPTING EXISTING POLICIES FOR AGENDA 2030
	<p>Moderated interactive discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What changes need to be reflected in NDCPs to promote effectiveness, impact and accountability of development cooperation to support implementation of Agenda 2030?• How can these changes be introduced?

The workshop will be hands-on and highly interactive, bringing together a selection of representatives of governments, members of parliament, local and regional governments, civil society organizations, foundations and international organizations engaged in different ways in the design, implementation and assessment of national development cooperation policies.