

Special event

Organized by UNDESA

Third International Conference on Financing for Development

Thursday, 16 July 2014, Radisson Blu Hotel Addis Ababa, Room Lalibela, 1:15 pm – 2:45 pm (open to all)

Introduction

Private development cooperation has grown rapidly over the past decade, notably from philanthropic and grant-making organizations and individuals, providing funding and know-how, technology and capacity building, and innovative approaches to development problems. Public sector actors are also increasingly providing new models of finance, including “blended” finance, and risk mitigation instruments, to attract private funds to riskier ventures.

Better understanding the contributions of private and blended development cooperation can make to the post-2015 development agenda is critical for its success. There is lack of conceptual clarity on how to assess the effectiveness and impact of diverse contributions by private actors on development.

There is a common call for meaningful engagement of the private sector in a revitalized global partnership for sustainable development to strengthen shared responsibility and mutual trust and support to improve the effectiveness and impact of private sector actions.

Objective, expected outcome and format

UNDESA will convene a special event in the margins of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development to discuss how to assess the quality, effectiveness and impact of private and blended development cooperation and help to identify opportunities and challenges in this area to support division of labour among all development cooperation actors based on their respective strengths.

The special event among key players in international development cooperation will discuss the recommendations of a policy brief to produce greater common understanding of the contours of the increasingly complex landscape of private and blended development cooperation, identify lessons learned in assessing their quality, effectiveness and impact and formulate policy guidance on how to unlock the potential of private and blended development cooperation in the post-2015 setting. It will also identify areas for further research in preparation for the 2016 Development Cooperation Forum.

It also aims to assist Member States and private sector actors, in particular, to engage more effectively in policy discussions related to the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

The new policy brief comes at the heels of analytical work conducted in preparation for the 2016 Development Cooperation Forum on how development cooperation will have to adapt to support post-2015 implementation, which resulted in a [working definition of development cooperation](#) that is suited to today’s realities and the post-2015 setting.

A second brief, to be prepared after FFD-III, will look at the efforts to monitor and review private and blended development cooperation as part of existing efforts to promote the impact and effectiveness of development cooperation. It will identify practical steps to actively engage relevant private actors in policy dialogue, knowledge sharing and mutual learning with other development cooperation actors.

The ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) is a global multi-stakeholder policy forum. It reviews trends and progress in international development cooperation, provides analysis on priority issues, engages all relevant actors in candid policy dialogue, and promotes greater coherence in development policy and among the different actors.

Created in 2005, the establishment of the DCF responded to concerns about the lack of a dedicated platform within the UN to discuss ODA and other development cooperation activities. Since its inception, the DCF has had a clear focus on development cooperation (e.g. ODA, other concessional development finance and technical cooperation).

The DCF has served as a platform to engage a wide range of decision makers and experts and a source of analysis on priority issues and trends in development cooperation. It has made a significant contribution in monitoring trends. Like all other ECOSOC functions, it is open to all UN Member States. The DCF also engages relevant other development cooperation actors.

The 2014 DCF and related analytical work have helped to provide greater clarity on how a renewed global partnership for development, engaging the range of development cooperation actors, could work in practice. In preparation for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, to take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 13-16 July 2015, the DCF has supported global policy dialogue on the implications for international development cooperation of a unified and universal global development agenda.

As part of that process, and in preparation for the 2016 DCF, the Governments of Uganda and Belgium and UNDESA will co-organize two more high-level symposiums in Kampala on 4-6 November 2015 and in Brussels on 6-8 April 2016.

Do you want to learn more?

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