
Briefing in the margin of the ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment on 2016 DCF Preparatory Process

“Development Cooperation, lever for integrated SDG implementation”

Monday, 22 February 2016, 1:15 – 2:45 PM, Conference Room 8

The first year of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is the most important. This year will test our commitment to work together; our ability to create an international system fit for purpose; and our resolve to ensure a life of dignity for all by 2030. While the goals and targets have been set, how can we ensure the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the timely achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

It is increasingly evident that development cooperation will be at the heart of these efforts. Effective development cooperation can be a powerful lever to initiate the policy and programme integration required to implement the SDGs. It can also be used to facilitate the inclusive cross-sector partnerships needed. In 2016, committed leadership is needed at the highest level to re-align development cooperation to meet the challenges posed by the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Objective, Format and Participation

The briefing will update New York based delegates and other development experts on ongoing consultations within the 2016 DCF preparatory process. It will also offer the opportunity to discuss and provide inputs on challenges and opportunities around development cooperation and the 2030 Agenda to inform the work of the United Nations.

The side event is open to everyone interested in development cooperation. It addresses in particular Member State delegates and other stakeholders participating in the ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment who are interested to further engage in the 2016 High-level Meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum.

Background

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) plays an important role in the implementation of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), which includes the [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#) on financing sustainable development. ECOSOC provides a unique global space for all stakeholders to discuss the new direction for development cooperation. At the heart of this work, the ECOSOC [Development Cooperation Forum](#) (DCF) offers a space for policy dialogue open to all governments at the highest level, as well as Parliamentarians and local and regional authorities, and engages leaders in civil society, academia, philanthropic foundations, the private sector, and international organizations. With such extensive high-level participation, the DCF is well-positioned to foster global policy dialogue and mutual learning on development cooperation in the SDG era and

to help propagate the innovative solutions and global partnerships needed to realise the bold vision of the 2030 Agenda.

On 21 and 22 July 2016, stakeholders from across the globe will gather at United Nations Headquarters in New York for the [Fifth Biennial High-level Meeting](#) of the Development Cooperation Forum. The 2016 DCF provides an opportune moment to review early progress in executing the 2030 Agenda's means of implementation, with specific attention to the catalytic role of development cooperation. Through peer learning and knowledge sharing, the Forum will generate a shared understanding of the role and scope of development cooperation fit for the multi-dimensional challenges of the 21st Century.

The 2016 DCF Preparatory Process

The 2016 DCF will build on an extensive preparatory process and the forthcoming 2016 Report of the Secretary-General on trends and progress in development cooperation. As secretariat to the Economic and Social Council and the DCF, UNDESA has produced a set of policy briefs that tackle key issues in development cooperation in the context of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The [2016 DCF Policy Briefs](#) provide concrete policy recommendations for different stakeholders, and serve to guide discussions during a series of high-level symposiums. Co-organized by UNDESA and host governments, the symposiums provide an inclusive and dynamic space for learning and exchange of knowledge among all development cooperation actors in preparation for the 2016 DCF.

At the first high-level symposium in Incheon, Republic of Korea, in April 2015, participants considered the magnitude and implications of aligning development cooperation with the 2030 Agenda. Participants agreed that official development assistance (ODA) can be a powerful and catalytic mechanism to drive forward the institutional changes needed to implement the SDGs. ODA must be adapted to this changing development landscape. In this context, participants highlighted the potential of development cooperation and ODA in leading efforts to localize the SDGs by focusing on the poorest and most vulnerable segments of society and tailoring approaches to national and local realities, while also leveraging domestic resources. To achieve this, participants underscored the centrality of policy integration at all levels and the importance of innovative technology development, accompanied by the necessary capacity building in both areas of development cooperation.

A change in mind-set from all development cooperation actors has emerged as a common theme throughout the preparatory process. This requires new types of partnerships that engage developed and developing countries on an equal basis as well as other stakeholders; that are grounded in a spirit of mutual learning; that foster true national ownership; and that are led by political commitment at the highest level.

This was echoed at the [second DCF High-Level Symposium in Kampala](#), Uganda, in November 2015. Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, participants discussed the broad partnerships needed to achieve the SDGs. Mayors, civil society and parliamentarians must play an active role to localize development cooperation and ensure that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is based on a better understanding of local needs and contexts. This must be combined with an active culture of

citizen leadership where local authorities and citizens are engaged in the results-based monitoring and review of the 2030 Agenda. Participants also underscored that development cooperation partners must take a more holistic approach to their partnerships - pursuing complementary rather than contradictory policies across different sectors - and that better quality data is essential to guide integrated policy making.

The [third and final preparatory symposium to be held in Brussels](#), Belgium, in April 2016, will delve deeper into how the diverse development cooperation actors can focus their operations towards the SDGs. Participants will share experiences and lessons from the country-level in adapting development cooperation to the 2030 Agenda, with a focus on Least Developed Countries and most vulnerable countries. Examples of developing and implementing integrated and more efficient policies, identifying existing national capacities and innovative mechanisms, and mobilizing domestic resources, among others, will guide discussions. Participants will further discuss the opportunities and challenges for development institutions in their adaptation to the 2030 Agenda. They will share their early experiences in adapting their institutions and lessons learned. The symposium will also feature a special briefing for participants on the ECOSOC Dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system and ensuring it is fit for purpose in the SDG era.

This series of high-level symposiums and other events combined with the analytical preparatory research and policy briefs produced by UNDESA have provided a robust evidence-base to stimulate inclusive debate on the alignment of development cooperation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They have provided critical inputs during the inter-governmental negotiations on the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and have already informed discussions on their early implementation, as well as practical efforts at country level.

The [2016 DCF in July](#) will generate key messages and important policy guidance on the above issues. The two-day meeting will be accompanied by pre-meetings and side events that will provide additional opportunity for knowledge sharing and mutual learning among stakeholders. The ongoing work of the DCF informs the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, as well as the ECOSOC Dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system.

Follow the links below for more information

- [DCF 2016 Policy Briefs](#)
- [DCF Uganda High-level Symposium](#) (4-6 November 2015)
- [DCF Belgium High-level Symposium](#) (6-8 April 2016)
- [High-level Meeting of the DCF](#) (21-22 July 2016)
- [DCF Homepage](#)
- Latest edition of the [DCF Newsletter](#)

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