High-Level Event of the General Assembly
"Contributions of North-South, South-South, Triangular Cooperation, and ICT for Development to the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda"

20-21 of May, 2014

Background

The post-2015 development agenda, unified in focus and universal in form, will require more effective, strengthened and improved modes of development cooperation to support its implementation. Scientific and technological cooperation will be fundamental for increasing innovation, strengthening environmental protection and driving social and economic development worldwide.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have a specific potential to be a game changer for all countries' efforts to achieve sustainable development. There is increasing evidence that widespread access, transfer of, building capacity to utilize at the national level, and use of ICT can help eradicate poverty, accelerate the achievement of several of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), such as those aimed towards achieving gender equality, ensuring environmental sustainability and combating diseases.

Development cooperation beyond 2015 will have to increase and continue to support developing countries, with a special emphasis in poor and vulnerable communities facing sustainable development challenges, while mobilizing additional resources to address global challenges, such as climate change and managing global commons.

For such reasons, the Outcome Document of the Special Event to Follow-Up Efforts to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals held on September 25th of 2013 underscored the central role of a renewed global partnership for sustainable development and the need to honor previous developmental commitments. This was further reinforced and elaborated in the resolution A/RES/68/204 adopted on December 2013, entitled Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development.

South-South Cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to North-South Cooperation, which will remain the primary form of cooperation between countries of the North and South. The principles of South-South Cooperation have been defined in the Nairobi Outcome document of the UN High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation and further elaborated through relevant General Assembly resolutions. South-South and triangular cooperation vary greatly in approaches and modalities, yet their importance have increased manifold since the year 2000 and are set to be beyond 2015 an important auxiliary tool for catalyzing implementation efforts amongst developing countries.

Objective

The high-level event will focus on mobilizing political commitment for the means of implementation of the post 2015 Development Agenda.

The event will promote the scaling-up of the impact of all forms of cooperation in the post 2015 Development Agenda and promote the urgent implementation of commitments under the global partnership for development. The event will be guided by the notion that, as a complement to traditional forms of cooperation, South-South and triangular cooperation can also contribute towards the post-2015 development agenda.

The event will also contribute to identify how Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can be best used to bridge technology divides amongst countries, bearing in mind also the necessity of involving women, girls and young people and other affected groups in decisions relating to technology development and deployment.

The event will be guided by the following preliminary questions:

1. What mechanisms are available to further strengthen the traditional forms of cooperation, in particular North-South Cooperation, in the post-2015 development agenda?

2. What incentives can be created to reinforce widespread triangular cooperation activities in the context of the post-2015 development agenda?

3. Which positive examples of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation in the implementation of the MDGs can be highlighted and increased in light of the post 2015 development agenda?

4. How can Information and Communication Technologies help countries be integrated as technological enablers for the achievement of future sustainable development goals?

5. How can the UN System contribute to increase the relevance and effectiveness of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation in the context of the Post 2015 development agenda?

Format and outcome

The high-level event on the Contributions of North-South, South-South, Triangular Cooperation, and ICT for Development to the Post-2015 Development Agenda will take place in May 20-21, 2014 and will consist of one plenary and two interactive multi stakeholder panel discussions.

The High-Level Event will benefit from synergies with the eighteenth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation which has been scheduled to take place from 19 to 22 May 2014 as set out in general Assembly resolution 67/227.

To avoid any duplication and promote coherence and synergies the preparations of the event will take into consideration the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. The event will take into account the discussions under the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and other relevant fora.

A President's summary will be issued at its conclusion and will subsequently be made available to the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing for their consideration, as applicable.

Participants

Member States are invited to participate at the ministerial level and to express to the President of the General Assembly their interest in co-chairing an interactive panel discussion.

Representatives of United Nations agencies and of civil society, major groups and other relevant stakeholders will also be invited to attend.

Invitations to this high-level event, as well as the program and the details on the issues to be addressed during the plenary and the round tables will be sent at a later stage.

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