

## Concept Note Session 7

# The strategic role of development cooperation in building sustainable and resilient societies

*ECOSOC Chamber, Tuesday, 22 May 2018, 4:30 AM – 5:30 PM*

### Format

60 minute interactive discussion, in plenary and guided by moderator.

### Objective

Participants will jointly distil the key messages and concrete policy guidance emerging from the 2018 DCF.

### Focus questions

- *Key recommendations for action that should be carried forward by the different development cooperation actors? By the DCF?*
- *Key messages to be shared at the ECOSOC Special Meeting, “Towards sustainable, resilient and inclusive societies through participation of all” on 23 May 2018*
- *Key recommendations to be taken up by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development?*

### Background

Compilation of action points presented in the report of the Secretary-General on Trends and Progress in international development cooperation, , E/2018/55.

### **The strategic role of development cooperation in the 2030 Agenda: building sustainable and resilient societies**

1. Close monitoring of current allocations trends is needed, as those trends indicate the potential for funding gaps in long-term development investment for countries in special situations and in areas critical to building inclusive, sustainable and resilient societies.
2. Sectoral shifts in ODA allocation may have disproportionate effects on vulnerable countries and population groups and should likewise be closely monitored.
3. Development cooperation should support whole-of-government approaches that integrate gender equality concerns more effectively into national planning and budgetary processes.
4. Development cooperation needs to become more “disaster-risk-informed”, supporting efforts to move from managing disasters to effectively managing and reducing risk and enhancing preparedness. That includes enhancing access to risk transfer mechanisms for vulnerable countries.
5. The contribution of development cooperation to climate actions needs to be strengthened and targeted at those furthest behind, including through increased investment in adaptive social safety nets. Improved speed, predictability and accessibility of climate financing will help least developed countries and small island developing States in particular to better navigate that complex financing landscape. Increased capacity support is needed to facilitate

the preparation and submission of bankable proposals for countries with special development needs.

6. Building resilience and sustainability requires support that is well tailored to countries' development needs and additional support to vulnerable countries managing transitions between different sources of development financing.
7. More progress is needed in strengthening country ownership and alignment with country priorities, through various measures, including with regard to reversing the declining trends in country programmable aid and budget support, reducing tied aid and addressing the fragmentation of ODA.

### **Development cooperation to support national sustainable development strategies: the role of national development cooperation policies**

8. Developing countries with national development cooperation policies should align them with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
9. National development cooperation policies (or a similar document) should be used more to promote country leadership, the use of country results frameworks and inclusive whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches.
10. Specific targets, respective responsibilities and the regular monitoring and evaluation of progress should be clearly articulated and anchored in national development cooperation policies.
11. Parliamentarians should be better enabled to play their vital oversight role with regard to national development cooperation policies and related processes.
12. National development cooperation policies should make clear linkages with domestic resource mobilization strategies. Where appropriate, they should provide a framework for context-specific plans to catalyse more private capital for sustainable development financing.

### **Bridging capacity gaps and facilitating technology development and transfer**

13. More capacity support for domestic resource mobilization is needed in countries furthest from nationally defined revenue levels to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and more attention should be paid to the subnational level.
14. Development cooperation should respond to countries' moves to more integrated approaches in national budget and revenue strategies.
15. More attention should be paid to strengthening the capacities of countries to assess the impact of different tax systems on efforts to reduce inequalities.
16. Development cooperation should support countries with regard to putting in place broad-based, country-owned science, technology and innovation strategies and policies that include gender perspectives.
17. South-South and triangular cooperation should be further deployed as frameworks for scaling up best practices and fostering the development, transfer and adaptation of affordable science, technology and innovation solutions.

18. Development cooperation should be increased to target funding to countries that have the weakest capacities in statistics, ensuring attention to vital statistical areas.
19. Supporting national strategies for the development of statistics, the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data (CTGAP) offers a framework for the much-needed modernization and strengthening of national statistical offices to reach the SDGs.
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### **Leveraging South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development**

21. Raising the visibility of South-South and triangular cooperation and further analysing their added value and long-term impact on sustainable development would support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
22. South-South cooperation needs to further develop its institutions and exchanges while preserving its strategic focus on promoting autonomy, resilience and structural change. National and regional experiences can be further codified and systematized and mainstreamed into national development plans.
23. Multilateral development banks can and should play a greater role in supporting knowledge-sharing and knowledge-management networks for sustainable development in the South-South space.
24. Upcoming high-level meetings on South-South and triangular cooperation can be used to advance broad-based, inclusive and structured cooperation that is effective and aligned with national development plans, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other major global development frameworks.
25. More exchanges are needed regarding ways to leverage the comparative advantages of different stakeholders in South-South and triangular cooperation and develop policy and legal frameworks applicable to them at the local, national, regional and global levels.

### **Engaging the private sector in development cooperation**

26. States have an important role in strengthening the quantity and quality of private sector engagement in development cooperation, which includes ensuring that such engagement has a sustainable development impact and contributes to serving the needs of poor and vulnerable communities.
27. Development cooperation should support developing countries with regard to putting in place regulations and dedicated policies that align private sector engagement with countries' priorities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The countries that lag furthest behind have the most urgent need for capacity support as an interim step to mobilizing and making effective use of blended finance.
28. Development partners should engage governments and conduct quality public consultations with domestic stakeholders during all stages of programmes and projects.

29. As the use of blended financing increases, development partners should take steps to ensure that vulnerable countries do not see a fall in their overall share of international development finance and that social sectors are not underfunded. The focus on catalysing private sector projects should not divert resources from efforts to support an enabling environment for private sector engagement, especially in countries with weak capacities.
30. The relationship and interoperability of the different emerging principles for blended finance and public-private partnerships needs to be clarified by a United Nations platform, such as the Development Cooperation Forum.

### **Improving development results through strengthening monitoring and review of development cooperation**

31. To improve results, the monitoring and review process needs to continue to evolve to capture the complex, multilayered development cooperation of the Sustainable Development Goal era. Mutual accountability and transparency need to extend beyond the relationship between developing country governments and international development cooperation partners to involve a wide range of actors, stakeholders and beneficiaries. Challenges remain with regard to the monitoring and review of progress towards non-financial commitments.
32. It is important that Southern partners develop country-led systems to evaluate and assess the quality and impact of South-South and triangular cooperation programmes at various levels; and improve data collection, methodologies and statistics, bearing in mind the principles and characteristics of South-South cooperation.
33. Parliamentarians and local governments should be empowered with the necessary capacities and resources to be autonomous in development cooperation oversight.
34. The role of the private sector and its engagement in 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development needs to be better articulated. Another challenge that remains is ensuring the meaningful engagement of civil society in the monitoring and review processes of development cooperation as advocates, overseers, implementers and facilitators for knowledge-sharing.
35. There is a need for greater accessibility to critical data on private sector engagement, which is not always available to least developed countries. Development cooperation can support efforts to engage the private sector in co-designing, implementing and assessing the outcome of projects and in strengthening the capacities of government institutions, parliamentarians and civil society to do the same.

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