

## Concept Note Session I

### Supporting national efforts to achieve the full ambition of the 2030 Agenda, leaving no one behind

*Thursday, 21 July 2016  
15:00 -16:15  
ECOSOC Chamber  
UN Headquarters, New York*

Development cooperation is the “glue” of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As a driving force of efforts to leave no one behind, development cooperation is a critical means of implementation and can help tap the potential of all partners. It entails a broad area of action, featuring various modalities: financial resources, capacity-building, technology development and transfer, policy change and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Development partners of all kinds should be encouraged to gear their cooperation, including at global and regional level, towards supporting national and local efforts to achieve the SDGs. The 2030 Agenda has to be localized to maximize impact. The goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda should be incorporated in national and local development strategies and policy frameworks, whenever possible. There are no one-size-fits-all solutions. All countries have to be creative in finding solutions tailored to national and local contexts and priorities, and stakeholders will need to learn from each other.

At any stage of development, sustainability, inequality, vulnerability and poverty eradication, concern us all. Development cooperation in the SDG era is expected to play a more prominent and strategic role in supporting all developing countries, with an intensified focus on achieving sustainable development impact. The 2030 Agenda demands a different kind of development cooperation, in terms of its role, priorities, forms, approaches, monitoring and review.

In the coming years, extreme poverty will be increasingly concentrated in countries affected by conflict and fragility, which are often among the group of LDCs and vice versa. These countries are most affected by the challenges at the nexus of peace, security, human rights and sustainable development. Development cooperation should also advance context-specific solutions to reach the most marginalized, isolated and vulnerable groups within countries. Special attention will need to be placed on filling the large gaps in “impact data” and enhancing the quality and accessibility of disaggregated data on development cooperation.



The breadth and ambition of the 2030 Agenda may present real tensions when it comes to decisions on allocation and use of Official Development Assistance (ODA). ODA still remains the most important financial flow to LDCs and most countries affected by conflict and fragility. Given the core purpose of ODA, and its potential to be even more specialized to benefit the poorest and most vulnerable people and contexts, efforts to reverse the decrease of ODA to LDCs should be intensified. More ODA will need to be allocated to LDCs, low-income countries, LLDCs and countries affected by conflict and fragility that don't have access to other sources. ODA needs to be not only targeted better but also used better, taking the multi-dimensionality of poverty into account.

During the 2014-2016 cycle the DCF has placed special focus on the role of development cooperation in the SDG era, including challenges faced, adjustments needed and new forms of cooperation created in the new global sustainable development agenda. These have been overarching questions tackled from different angles in all DCF preparatory Symposiums and through a series of policy briefs and other analytical work. The DCF Republic of Korea High-level Symposium discussed aligning commitments and improving ODA allocation in the 2030 Agenda; DCF High-level Symposium in Uganda looked at adjusting development cooperation and localizing the SDGs in practice; and the DCF Belgium High-level Symposium focused on challenges faced in LDCs and other vulnerable contexts.

This plenary session of the 2016 High-level Meeting of the DCF will bring stakeholders together to look ahead to the role development cooperation will have to take in order to best support the implementation of the SDGs, especially in order to reach out to the countries most in need and the most vulnerable groups in societies.

#### *Focus Questions:*

- *What does it take for development cooperation - in all its forms - to best support national and local efforts in all developing countries, to achieve the ambitious 2030 Agenda and leave no-one behind?*
- *How can development cooperation support LDCs and others to reach the most marginalized, isolated and vulnerable groups within countries?*
- *ODA remains a unique and important development cooperation flow, which only heightens the importance of meeting existing commitments. How can ODA be better targeted and better used towards people in deepest poverty and countries with weakest capacities?*

### *Format*

Moderated interactive discussion (1 hrs 15 min), featuring brief presentations by speakers.

### *Background documents*

- Secretary General's report on trends and progress in international development cooperation, E/2016/65, ([all language versions](#))
- 2016 DCF Policy Briefs ([all language versions](#)):
  - No. 1: What is development cooperation?
  - No. 2: Improving ODA allocation for a post-2015 world
  - No. 6: Assessing the suitability of different development cooperation modalities for greater effectiveness and impact post-2015
  - No. 12: Adjusting development cooperation for the SDGs
  - No. 13: ODA allocation and other trends in development cooperation in LDCs and vulnerable contexts
  - No. 14: Making development cooperation on climate change sensitive to the needs of the most vulnerable countries
  - No. 15: New forms of cooperation and increased coherence to implement the SDGs
- Summaries of DCF High-level Symposiums in [Republic of Korea](#), [Uganda](#) and [Belgium](#)

*The **2016 High-level meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF)** will focus on the importance and tremendous potential of development cooperation as a lever for effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The overall objective is to provide policy makers and practitioners at all levels concrete guidance on development cooperation in the SDG era, and to contribute to the review of progress on the 2030 Agenda, in particular on financing and other means of implementation.*

*The DCF is a core function of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, which has a major role at global level in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and Addis Ababa Action on financing for sustainable development. The DCF has a clear, broad mandate to review trends and progress in international development cooperation. It encourages discussions on the future of development cooperation. It works to promote greater coherence in development policy and among partners, knowledge sharing and mutual learning.*

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