

## Concept Note Session II

### Aligning development cooperation to contribute to the different aspects of the 2030 Agenda

*Thursday, 21 July 2016  
16:15-17:30  
ECOSOC Chamber  
UN Headquarters, New York*

The 2030 Agenda and the fundamental commitment to leave no one behind demands increased coherence and new forms of development cooperation, within a revitalized global partnership for development. Achieving the Agenda will rely on the contributions and adaptation of all stakeholders. Resources must be spent more effectively and efficiently, with an emphasis on country and local ownership, together with politically smart, longer-term and results-oriented approaches. Improved risk management and accountability, as well as better coordination and coherence among international support mechanisms, are also needed.

Effective development cooperation can help to initiate the profound policy and programme integration required by the SDGs and 2030 Agenda, facilitating inclusive cross-sector partnerships and providing capacity support for policy coherence for sustainable development. Individual and joint actions are required to overcome the silos impeding more coherent and integrated policy responses and to adapt development cooperation institutions at all levels.

Global institutions should align their priorities, corporate strategies operational approaches, funding and capacities with the SDGs. There is also need to harmonize global and regional development agendas.

All countries are expected to adjust their national development cooperation policies in line with the 2030 Agenda, including through policy and institutional reforms, and to re-orient development cooperation flows and activities accordingly. In tandem with the adjustments made by developing countries, development partners should also make efforts to align their development cooperation in accordance with the priorities of developing countries and make the necessary corresponding institutional adjustments with the objective of increasing the interoperability of their systems with those of developing countries. Some governmental and non-governmental institutions of both developing and developed countries have already begun such processes of alignment and adaptation.



Policy coherence for sustainable development should be embedded as an overarching principle for the required policy and institutional reforms. A new emphasis on policy coherence for sustainable development could further propel inter-sectoral collaboration and multi-stakeholder partnerships beyond development cooperation authorities.

Development cooperation in the SDG era implies the need for effectively managing inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships, with greater emphasis on both results and joint development processes. Development cooperation itself is well positioned to facilitate the stakeholder exchange needed to promote participatory processes, review evidence, share knowledge and build trust among partners.

Against this backdrop, it is also vital for all stakeholder institutions of development partners (governmental and non-governmental) to align with development cooperation priorities of developing countries and use their country systems based on the principle of country ownership. This requires policy changes and structural adjustments in all stakeholder institutions.

The Development Cooperation Forum is serving as a shared space where the range of actors can together reimagine development cooperation for the SDG era, and exchange on early experiments and lessons learned. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for sustainable development recognizes a specific role of the DCF as the primary global platform for pursuing issues concerning the effectiveness of development cooperation.

During its 2014-2016 cycle, the Development Cooperation Forum has provided various platforms to discuss the issues concerning aligning development cooperation to contribute to the different aspects of the 2030 Agenda. These have included: several policy briefs (see Background Documents at the end); workshops in Incheon, Addis Ababa and Kampala alongside the DCF high-level preparatory symposiums and the Third International Conference on Financing for Development; and informal consultations with multiple stakeholder groups engaged in the related issues.

This Session II of the 2016 High-level Meeting of the DCF will examine some of the key adjustments needed to maximize the contribution of development cooperation for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda, highlighting how country ownership, alignment and other principles of effective development cooperation become increasingly relevant in this context.

### **Focus Questions:**

- *What are some of the essential **adaptations needed for development cooperation institutions** of developing countries and of development partners (governmental and non-governmental) for effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda?*
- *How can development cooperation: (a) incentivize development partners to **align** with developing country priorities and systems; and (b) support developing countries to **foster an enabling environment** and attract more general budget support, including through strengthened national development cooperation policies and country systems?*

### **Format**

Moderated interactive discussion (1 hour and 15 minutes), 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. 12: Adjusting development cooperation for the SDGs
  - No. 15: [New forms of cooperation and increased coherence to implement the SDGs -](#)
  - No. 16: [Re-engineering development cooperation institutions to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)
- 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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