

Concept Note Session IV

Monitoring and Review of Development Cooperation in the 2030 Agenda: Quality, Effectiveness and Impact for Sustainable Development

*Friday, 22 July 2016
9:00 – 11:00
ECOSOC Chamber
UN Headquarters, New York*

Inclusive monitoring, review and accountability of development cooperation is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda and its implementation at all levels – local, national, regional and global.¹ The outcome of the 2015/2016 DCF Survey of progress in mutual accountability in development cooperation provides the latest confirmation of how regular monitoring of agreed targets helps to incentivize actors to make the changes needed to achieve better results and respond to context-specific needs and priorities.

The 2030 Agenda recognized the need to focus not only on inputs but, especially, on results, engaging all stakeholders, including private sector actors as well as local governments and the most vulnerable groups in society. Efforts at the various levels should operate together, in a mutually reinforcing manner, with a strong emphasis on country ownership and leadership and alignment. The systems for monitoring and review of sustainable development broadly, and development cooperation, specifically, must be meaningfully linked at all levels.

Achieving genuine country ownership and alignment requires a significant shift in cooperation frameworks and processes in all countries. Development cooperation should support developing countries to put in place, in particular, national development cooperation policies, programme-based approaches and country results frameworks based on the Sustainable Development Goals for achieving more inclusive and sustainable development impact.

Multi-stakeholder processes of developing and implementing monitoring and accountability frameworks, including country results frameworks (CRFs), can incentivize the various actors in development cooperation to engage more and build trust and accountability in a collective

¹ See Bester, “[Scoping study on monitoring, review and accountability of development cooperation to support implementation of a Post-2015 Agenda](#)”, (February 2015).



manner. A CRF is a key tool for articulating a country's approach to monitoring and assessing progress made against nationally driven targets. It serves to measure not only the results but also the longer-term impact of development cooperation, indicating the accountability of all actors. CRFs should be in line with national development strategies and the SDGs and connected to budgetary and public financial management processes. In this way, they should also serve to strengthen further the accountability of Governments to the people.

Governments of all countries, local governments, parliaments and civil society organizations and people have a collective responsibility in the monitoring and review of progress towards development cooperation commitments, with a strong focus on knowledge sharing and mutual learning. Given the breadth and complexity of the 2030 Agenda, resources must be stepped up for robust national and local monitoring and review of development cooperation commitments, supported by effective global and regional follow-up and review mechanisms.

Evidence is still lacking on how the principles of effective development cooperation are actually implemented and making sustainable development impact on the ground in new and different contexts. Development cooperation should therefore facilitate multi-stakeholder efforts to co-monitor, document and systemize the findings at both local and country levels and to feed back into knowledge exchange/policy dialogue forums at the regional and global levels.

During its 2014-2016 cycle, the Development Cooperation Forum has provided various platforms to discuss the issues concerning monitoring, review and accountability of development cooperation. 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 of the 2016 High-level Meeting of the DCF will provide a platform to advance policy discussion on specific ways to maximize the contribution of monitoring, review and accountability of development cooperation towards effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda. A special Side Event for launching of the DCF Survey Study will take place on Wednesday, 20 July.

Focus Questions:

- *How can CRFs be designed and used as an emerging **incentive mechanism** for alignment with SDGs and developing country priorities? How can development cooperation support the **engagement of the various stakeholders** in the design of CRFs and in actual monitoring / review processes at all levels, including at local level?*
- *What are ways to **meaningfully link the systems** for monitoring and review of development cooperation at local and national levels?*
- *How can we further promote the important complementary role of **citizen-gathered data**?*

Format

Moderated interactive discussion (2 hours), 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. 3: Addressing changes and challenges in monitoring and review of development cooperation at the national level
 - No. 4: Monitoring and review of development cooperation to support implementation of a post-2015 development agenda
 - No. 7: Private and blended development cooperation: Assessing their effectiveness and impact for achieving the SDGs
 - No. 9: Citizen-based monitoring of development cooperation to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda
 - No.10: Monitoring and review of development cooperation at the local level
 - No.11: Country results frameworks for effective monitoring and review
- 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.

Interested in the DCF?

DCF Website

Subscribe to the **DCF Newsletter**
Access the **latest DCF analytical work**

Contact: dcf@un.org
DCF Secretariat

Development Cooperation Policy Branch
Office for ECOSOC Support & Coordination, UNDESA
UN Secretariat Building, 25th floor, New York, NY
10017

