

## Concept Note Session VI

### Development cooperation perspectives on capacity building and the role of technology development and facilitation in implementing the SDGs

*Friday, 22 July 2016  
15:00-16:00  
ECOSOC Chamber  
UN Headquarters, New York*

Non-financial development cooperation in support of technology development and transfer as well as capacity building and policy advice constitutes a central enabler for sustainable development and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

#### **Development cooperation in support of capacity building**

The broad and ambitious 2030 Agenda calls for scaling up capacity-building at all levels. Policy advice and capacity support can be vital in supporting governments and other actors to take well-informed decisions that ensure the scarce financial and non-financial resources are optimally deployed towards the achievement of sustainable development. Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) where needs are often greatest, should be at the center of these efforts.

In the context of the Addis Tax Initiative, development cooperation can provide catalytic support to developing countries to enhance tax administration capacity and employ the necessary measures through various modalities (ODA, South-South and triangular cooperation), depending on the varied country contexts. In some cases, sharing of technology and innovation and targeted capacity building for strengthening financial systems have proven effective. Development cooperation could play a bigger role in promoting greater coherence and policy change at global and regional levels targeting the systemic issues that affect domestic resource mobilization (DRM) as well as policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD<sup>1</sup>) in broader terms.

ODA to statistical capacity building is concentrated in just a handful of countries, and it fell in 2014 by almost half in real terms. Development cooperation should give special attention to the large data gaps and inequalities between developed and developing countries and between

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<sup>1</sup> PCSD calls for greater integration of policies of both developing and developed governments to promote policy space, country ownership and synergies. It should be embedded as an overarching principle for the required policy and institutional reforms



‘data-poor’ and ‘data-rich’ people, given the centrality of data for the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 17<sup>2</sup> on the global partnership for sustainable development.

This session will put a special focus on capacity development for domestic resource mobilization (DRM) as well as data and statistics. Development cooperation perspectives on these areas have been of particular interest to DCF stakeholders and were featured prominently in the preparatory symposia in the Republic of Korea, Uganda and Belgium.

### **Development cooperation to promote technology facilitation**

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda notes with concern the persistent “digital divide” and the uneven innovative capacity, connectivity and access to technology between countries. Development cooperation, including through South-South cooperation, can play an integral role in unleashing the transformative power of Science Technology and Innovation (STI), including information and communications technologies (ICTs), to facilitate access to environment-friendly technologies, accelerate human progress, develop knowledge societies and close technology gaps. These objectives should be pursued with a particular focus on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDs and in line with efforts by the newly established Technology Facilitation Mechanism<sup>3</sup> (TFM) and the proposed Technology Bank for LDCs<sup>4</sup>.

Technology facilitation and capacity building to an even larger extent, are cross-cutting issues in the achievement of the SDGs. Their different and specific aspects are featured in the various plenary sessions and in different thematic contexts throughout the 2016 DCF. The purpose of this session is to i) bring these different parts of the puzzle together/ bring these different strings of discussions together for broader policy guidance and ii) provide an open space for knowledge sharing and mutual learning on development cooperation in support of technology facilitation and capacity building in the specific areas of DRM as well as data and statistics.

#### ***Focus Questions:***

- *How can development cooperation help in scaling up long-term capacity at all levels for implementing the SDGs, and what lessons can be drawn in this regard from capacity building experiences in particular in the areas of domestic resource mobilization (DRM), and data and statistics?*
- *How can development cooperation, including through enhanced South-South and triangular cooperation, best contribute to facilitating science, technology and innovation (STI) including ICTs in implementing the SDGs?*

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<sup>2</sup> Compare target 17.18 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

<sup>3</sup> For more information, please see [here](#).

<sup>4</sup> For more information, please see [here](#) and [here](#).

### *Format*

Moderated interactive discussion (1 hour), 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. 5 Strengthening technology facilitation and capacity building in a post-2015 setting: Understanding the issue
  - No. 8 International development cooperation to promote technology facilitation and capacity building for the 2030 Agenda
- Summaries of DCF High-level Symposiums in [Republic of Korea](#), [Uganda](#) and [Belgium](#)

### *Further background*

[“Feasibility Study for a United Nations Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries”, United Nations Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries \(available here\)](#)  
[Progress Update on Technology Facilitation Mechanism by the UN Inter-agency Task Team \(available here\)](#)

*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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