The United Nations Economic and Social Council will convene the sixth high-level meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum at United Nations Headquarters in New York in July 2018. UNDESA is initiating the first phase of analytical work and outreach and planning the high-level preparatory symposiums and other special events and expert group meetings. The first symposium will focus on South-South and triangular cooperation and is slated for mid-2017.

What is the DCF?

Created by the 2005 World Summit, the DCF is a distinct, open, multi-stakeholder forum that is specifically mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to review the latest trends and progress in international development cooperation, including strategies, policies and financing (Res. 60/1). The DCF promotes greater coherence among the development activities of different actors in development cooperation and strengthens normative and operational links in the work of the United Nations.

“...We will pursue these efforts in the Development Cooperation Forum of the ECOSOC, and in this regard, we also take into account efforts in other relevant forums, such as the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, in a complementary manner” Addis Agenda, para 58 on the quality, impact and effectiveness of development cooperation

The DCF and the Addis Agenda

In the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, governments and international organizations recognize the DCF as the primary and the only universal, inclusive platform for discussing all aspects of development cooperation, among all relevant stakeholders (para. 132). The DCF is also recognized as the primary global platform for multi-stakeholder discussions on quality, effectiveness and impact of development cooperation (para. 58). The work of the DCF is taken into account by the High-level Political Forum (HLPF), which meets annually under the auspices of ECOSOC and every four years under the General Assembly (Res. 67/290). The Addis Agenda also requires the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development to take the work of the DCF into account (para. 132).

DCF-related research and discussions inform the preparations for the next Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR), by which the General Assembly will guide the UN system’s operational activities for development during the first years of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The DCF and other UN Forums

In its resolution 61/16, on Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly explicitly positioned the DCF within the framework of the high-level segment of ECOSOC. The Assembly further stressed “the need to preserve the distinct identity of the Forum” so as to facilitate high-level representation, with a view to enhancing implementation of issues of international development cooperation and promoting dialogue toward that end (para. 3).

In order to preserve the distinctive identity and value added of the DCF, the General Assembly decided to convene the biennial DCF prior to the HLPF (Res. 70/299, para 17). This step will ensure that both the HLPF and the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development fully take into account the work of the DCF, as required by their individual mandates. The DCF remains an integral part of the Council’s high-level segment, along with the ministerial-level meeting of the HLPF and other functions.

The DCF Secretariat - UNDESA

In its role as secretariat to the DCF, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs supports efforts to engage the range of development cooperation actors in more evidence-based, balanced and inclusive global debate on international development cooperation. Activities range from research projects, analytical work and organization of symposiums, briefings, technical workshops and other events.
**Key Messages from the 2016 High-level Development Cooperation Forum**

*Development cooperation: lever for effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda*

- The 2016 DCF brought a multi-stakeholder embrace of the broad concept of development cooperation reflected in the 2030 and Addis Agendas, encompassing financial resources, capacity building, technology development and transfer, policy change and multi-stakeholder partnerships.
- The Forum heightened the urgency to put, into our daily practice, a transformative focus on sustainable development results, putting the furthest behind first and adapting institutions and policies in support of priorities and systems in developing countries.
- The DCF advanced discussions on the prioritization and more effective use of ODA and its unique role within the global partnership for sustainable development.
- It called for strengthened efforts by the United Nations to support Southern partners to enhance the evidence base on achieving sustainable development results.

**DCF Analytical Work – Highlights**

**Trends and progress in international development cooperation**
- Report of the Secretary-General. Latest biennial report and the main substantive input to the 2016 High-level Meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum, addressing the importance and tremendous potential of development cooperation as a lever for effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Development Cooperation: Scope and Implementation**
- What is development cooperation? Proposes a practical conceptual framing of the major tasks and activities of development cooperation based on the new universal Agendas, helping to define what is development cooperation and what is not.
- New forms of cooperation and increased coherence to implement the SDGs. Addresses ways to strengthen policy coherence and maximise the use of new forms of development cooperation.

**Trends in Development Cooperation Financing and Capacity-building**
- Improving ODA allocation for a post-2015 world. Re-examines the role of ODA and stresses for its use where it is needed most.
- Private and blended development cooperation: Assessing their Effectiveness and Impact for Achieving the SDGs. Outlines substantive and procedural elements to consider for the review of private and blended development cooperation effectiveness.

**Monitoring and Review of Development Cooperation**
- Citizen-based monitoring of development cooperation to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Provides an overview of citizen-based monitoring systems and means of implementing and enabling citizen-based monitoring and review of development cooperation.
- Promoting integrated, aligned and country-driven results frameworks to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Explore the potential of country results frameworks as a mechanism to support SDG implementation.
- DCF Accountability Survey Study. Maps and analyses the state of play in effectiveness of development cooperation on the ground.

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**Interested in the DCF?**
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- Subscribe to the DCF Newsletter
- Access the latest DCF analytical work

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