

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FORUM (DCF) BELGIUM HIGH-LEVEL SYMPOSIUM

Caucus of Least Developed Countries

6 April 2016, 5:15 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.

Room Arenberg, Palais d'Egmont, Brussels

Issues Note

Background

The DCF Belgium High-level Symposium on “Rethinking development cooperation for the SDGs: country level perspectives and lessons” coincides with the preparations for the high-level midterm review of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA), which will take place in Antalya, Turkey from 27 to 29 of May 2016. The review is expected to shed light on key accomplishments and critical constraints in delivering the goals of the current programme, to suggest new strategies to address the gaps identified at national, regional and global levels, and to foster strong synergies and coherence between the priorities of the LDCs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Addis Ababa Agenda for Action as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development entail several provisions specifically for LDCs, including capacity building in various areas for example to build productive capacity and to reduce their vulnerability and enhance their ability to respond to various kinds of shocks.

Objective

The LDC Caucus Meeting will discuss the objectives of the DCF Symposium and prepare for the discussions of the DCF Belgium Symposium. It aims to share views on how all relevant actors can adjust their development cooperation institutions and policies towards achieving the SDGs in LDCs. The discussions will focus on LDC specific constraints in particular lack of capacities for implementing the 2030 Agenda and strategies to overcome them. To achieve the new global development goals a stronger focus on LDCs is crucial in order to leave no one behind. The meeting will also discuss what type of support is most appropriate to address issues that require policy integration across the dimensions of sustainable development, including conflict prevention, peace, humanitarian action, migration, development and environmental

concerns. Furthermore it will look at different types of support to enhance domestic resource mobilization.

Participants from LDCs will be invited to share their views on what it will take to make sure that development cooperation will fully support the implementation of the SDGs in LDCs.

Proposed discussion questions:

How are LDCs planning to use development cooperation to implement the SDGs, linking efforts to other processes, including the IPoA?

How can the institutional capacity of LDCs to manage development cooperation and enhance national ownership be increased?

What types of assistance are needed to implement the SDGs in different country contexts in LDCs and how can development cooperation be made fit-for-purpose?

What new partnerships can be forged to support the implementation of the SDGs and the IPoA? What institutional changes are needed in LDCs to promote policy coherence and coordinated implementation of the SDGs?

Format and participation

Participants of the DCF Belgium Symposium from LDCs, including various stakeholders like parliamentarians and civil society representatives will use the Caucus to share practical experiences and identify key policy recommendations they wish to convey at the DCF Symposium.

Contact details:

Ms. Susanna Wolf

Senior Programme Officer

Office of the High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS (UN-OHRLLS)

Tel. +1-212 367 5225

E-mail: wolf1@un.org

<http://www.un.org/ohrlls>