



## Youth and Development Cooperation – what YOU can do to ensure no one is left behind

### Development cooperation is vital to achieve the SDGs and leave no one behind

Development cooperation involves supporting developing countries with not only financial resources (public and private) but also capacity development, technology development and transfer, policy change and partnerships. Planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the results of efforts to achieve the SDGs at local and national levels requires unprecedented scale and scope of development cooperation, focused especially on countries and communities with least resources and weakest capacities.<sup>1</sup>

### Which entity in the UN is responsible for enhancing development cooperation?

In the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Governments and other stakeholders commit to pursue effective development cooperation primarily in the [Development Cooperation Forum \(DCF\)](#) of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, taking into account the efforts of other relevant forums. The DCF brings together all stakeholders to review trends and progress in development cooperation, advancing inclusive, evidence-based and action-oriented knowledge sharing and mutual learning. The DCF Global Accountability Survey, conducted since 2008 by UNDESA in collaboration with UNDP, documents and reviews the evidence on the state of play in development cooperation in the responding countries.

### How are youth involved in development cooperation efforts?

The latest [DCF Global Accountability Survey](#), shows only limited engagement of youth in national development cooperation processes. For instance, national development cooperation forums (NDCFs), the main platforms where developing country governments and their partners discuss issues related to development cooperation, are in place in most countries (51 out of 58). Yet, youth organizations are engaged in these platforms in only 23 countries, in contrast with wider participation by development partners (49 responses), civil society organizations (41 responses) and parliamentarians (30 responses) of developing countries.

### Development Cooperation Forum embraces a leading role for Youth

The [2016 DCF](#) called for development cooperation to help strengthen institutions and systems to strip out discrimination and inequality and place people at the centre as active partners in delivering on the 2030 Agenda. The United Nations and all governments should engage young people in particular in more tangible and meaningful ways. As those who will be most affected by the 2030 Agenda, youth can play a bigger role at the centre of follow-up, review and accountability processes, bringing disruptive and transformative thinking and linking this to the bold aspiration of leaving no one behind.

<sup>1</sup> See the [2016 Report of the Secretary-General on trends and progress in international development cooperation \(E/2016/65\)](#).



The 2016 High-level Meeting of the DCF focused on the importance and tremendous potential of development cooperation as a lever for effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. See information on the 2016 DCF, including official summary, [here](#).

Active participation of youth in the DCF Global Accountability Survey is strongly encouraged! To learn more about the latest survey and 2016 study, click [here](#).

The fifth survey will be rolled out in mid-2017, with the findings presented to the 2018 high-level meeting of DCF. For information on the upcoming exercise, follow us on [this space](#).

*The Development Cooperation Forum reviews the latest trends and progress in international development cooperation and encourages coordination across diverse actors and activities. The DCF brings together ministers and senior experts from developing and developed countries, parliamentarians, civil society organizations, international organizations and development banks, local governments, philanthropic foundations and private sector.*

*The DCF provides policy makers and practitioners at all levels concrete guidance on development cooperation in the SDG era and contributes to the review of progress on the 2030 Agenda, in particular on financing and other means of implementation. Preparations are underway for the sixth biennial high-level meeting of the DCF, to be held in July 2018. The first preparatory symposium to be held in 2017 is expected to focus on South-South and triangular cooperation.*

### Interested in the DCF?

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