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United Nations Economic and Social Council

TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES

**Opening statement by H.E. Marie Chatardová
President of the Economic and Social Council**

The Impact of the SDGs on Development Cooperation

22 September 2017(10:00 am), Trusteeship Chamber Council

I have the honour to welcome you to the side event co-sponsored by Qatar and UNDP on “The Impact of the SDGs on Development Cooperation” during the 2017 United Nations General Assembly.

The role of development cooperation in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and broader 2030 Agenda cannot be exaggerated. By practical and conceptual definition, development cooperation involves supporting developing countries with both financial resources (public and private) and non-financial support. This includes capacity development, technology development and transfer, policy change and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

In this context, the ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum has rendered a multi-stakeholder and multifaceted platform for global policy dialogue since 2007. It has the global UN mandate to review trends and progress in international development cooperation.

The DCF advances knowledge sharing and mutual learning in both regional and global arena. It is inclusive, evidence-based and action-oriented. It aims to foster growth, quality impact and effectiveness of development cooperation.

Distinguished delegates,

Some key messages emerged from past DCF sessions regarding how effective development cooperation could be fostered in the SDG era.

International development cooperation should primarily focus on meeting the needs of the poorest, weakest and most vulnerable populations, putting the furthest behind first.



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In this context, Official development assistance (ODA) remains the most important modality for meeting the sustainable development needs of developing countries, in particular, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, Small Islands Developing States, African countries, as well as middle-income countries, countries in conflict and in post-conflict situations.

ODA should be further prioritized in its allocation and more effectively used to benefit those furthest behind first. More ODA should be allocated to support those countries with the weakest policy-making and implementing capacities.

Meanwhile, it is not simply about increasing the volume of finance. It is also important to consider not only the quantity of resources targeted at specific areas of need, but also the type of resource most appropriate for any given context. The catalytic use of ODA that aims to mobilise other forms of public and private finance, including ODA for domestic resource mobilisation, should be closely monitored.

For blended finance and other forms of public-private partnership, the overarching principles of effective development cooperation should be applied. Specifically, action should focus on ensuring transparency, alignment with country priorities, quality and impact of PPPs, and, especially, country ownership and capacity building.

Developing countries themselves must play a central role in deciding when and how to blend finance for development, and in planning, design and management.

Moreover, we need intensified action in non-financial areas of development cooperation: capacity building; technology development and transfer; policy change; and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

We need to adapt institutions and policies in support of priorities and systems in developing countries. This will require more context-specific information on development cooperation needs, policies and best practices.

Excellencies,

May I please draw your attention to how the United Nations been fostering quality, impact and effectiveness of development cooperation?



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The critical mechanism is monitoring and review processes which help countries and their development partners reach commitments together. Regular and inclusive monitoring and review of development cooperation can build trust and promote mutual learning. It can bring about better results for sustainable development.

ECOSOC, through the DCF, maps and analyses progress in monitoring, review and accountability of development cooperation. It puts strong emphasis on knowledge sharing and mutual learning among all stakeholders.

This work is supported by the biennial DCF Global Accountability Survey, carried out by UN-DESA, as DCF Secretariat. All developing countries are encouraged to take place in this voluntary exercise, which maps the state of play in effectiveness of development cooperation on the ground.

The latest survey showed considerable nationally-driven effort towards policy coherence and results-orientation, including through use of National Development Cooperation Policies (NDCPs) and Country Results Frameworks (CRFs) to monitor and review development cooperation.

The same Survey concluded that institutions and capacities – including those of parliamentarians, local governments and civil society organizations, which hold governments accountable at national level – need significant strengthening.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The fact that the Youth are an important stakeholder in development cooperation cannot be ignored. Since youth are those who will be most affected by the 2030 Agenda, they can play a bigger role at the centre of follow-up, review and accountability processes. They can bring the disruptive and transformative thinking. They can link this vividly to the bold aspiration of leaving no one behind.

However, the latest DCF Global Accountability Survey shows that only a limited engagement of Youth in national development cooperation processes.

To bring young people into discussions on sustainable development, ECOSOC has convened the annual Youth Forum since 2012. The Forum offers them a powerful opportunity to voice their opinions, share ideas, and think together about what they can do to achieve sustainable development.



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In 2017, the Youth Forum urged that economic growth must be inclusive and sustainable, benefiting all in society and leaving no one behind, particularly youth. One of the best ways of eradicating poverty and promoting opportunities for youth is promoting entrepreneurship.

The success of the Forum demonstrate how various stakeholders could be mobilized to increase the participation of Youth in development cooperation. Thus, I would like to encourage the United Nations and all governments to engage young people, in more tangible and meaningful ways.

All in all, the 2030 Agenda requires making new choices and larger-scale investments; using new evidence-based tools; strengthening domestic institutions, including in the areas of data, monitoring and review; providing longer-term budget support; and broadening multi-stakeholder partnerships at all levels.

I have noticed that governments have been implementing SDGs without calling them as such. The transformative 2030 Agenda provides us with a common language and reference around which different actors can consult freely and find ways to act together in pursuing shared goals and targets.

In this regard, I would like to extend my warmest invitation to you to participate in the preparations for the 2018 High-level meeting of the ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum.

Thank you.

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DEVELOPMENT GOALS**
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

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