



## Development cooperation needs to undergo fundamental change - fast

New York, September 2018



Attendees of the 2018 Development Cooperation Forum. Pictured are Liu Zhenmin (second from left standing), Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs; Jeremy Heimans (third from left standing), Co-founder of Purpose speaks with Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed (fourth from left standing); Marie Chatardova (fourth from right), Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the UN and former President of ECOSOC.



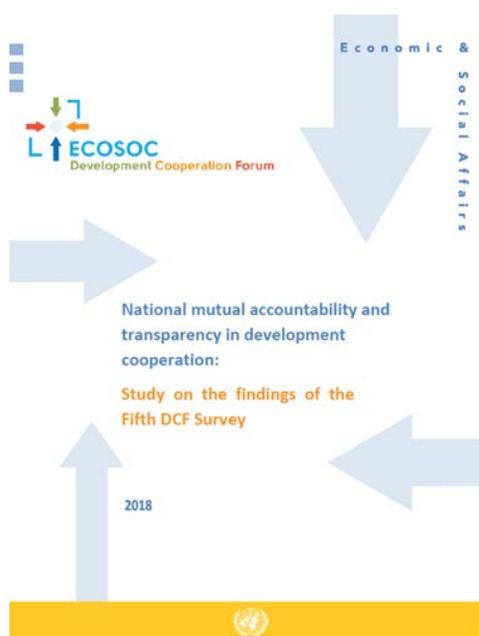
## Development cooperation must change radically and rapidly to meet deadlines and expectations of the 2030 Agenda

Development cooperation needs to change more radically and at a vastly accelerated pace to meet the deadlines and expectations set out in the 2030 Agenda. To get on track to meet the SDGs by 2030, policymakers and practitioners must show leadership and swiftly act now, based on the latest thinking, evidence and research.

This was the clear message of the 2018 high-level meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum this May. The Forum brought together over 300 high-level and senior representatives of governments and stakeholders to assess progress in adapting development cooperation to the demands of the 2030 Agenda, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

The Forum generated concrete policy guidance in key strategic areas. It also contributed directly to the 2018 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). Learn more about the Forum and its outcomes.

- [+ Official summary](#)
- [+ Event webpage](#)
- [+ Webcast of the opening session](#)



## DCF Survey: Supporting developing countries to assess how effectively their development cooperation works, and why

Developing countries increasingly use national development cooperation policies as a tool to mobilize and align international support with their national priorities. More, they are adjusting these policies and related processes beyond ODA and traditional donors to include today's diverse range of development cooperation activities and actors.

These are key findings of the 2018 DCF Survey Study of progress in national mutual accountability and transparency. Yet, the study also finds that developing countries need to take further steps and set measurable targets for development cooperation partners and non-state actors. To ensure these commitments are met, periodic multi-stakeholder-review of development cooperation processes also needs to be strengthened.

Read the DCF Survey Study to learn more about the progress made and lessons learned in enhancing the quality, impact and effectiveness of development cooperation and where efforts should focus moving forward.

[+ DCF Survey Study](#)

[+ Executive summary](#)



## Impact assessments of development cooperation: South-led approaches

South-South cooperation continues to show steady expansion, diversification and resilience, highlighting its potential to contribute to implementing the 2030 Agenda. In the South-South space, there is no one-size-fits-all approach to monitoring and evaluation, given the varied approaches and methodologies.

However, a number of governments have started designing assessment systems for development cooperation as part of their efforts to institutionalize South-South cooperation. They shared their experiences across countries, regions and non-governmental actors, including the private sector, at the 2018 DCF.

The DCF contributes as a unique and trusted space for sharing knowledge and advancing the global policy dialogue on South-South and triangular cooperation. Read the DCF Policy Brief to learn more about South-led approaches to assess the results of South-South and triangular cooperation.

[+ DCF Policy Brief No. 20](#)

[+ DCF analytical work on South-South cooperation](#)

[+ BAPA+40 Conference](#)



## Countries furthest behind urgently need capacity support for national statistical capacity building

Development cooperation can and should do more to genuinely focus policies and actions on those furthest behind. The lack of sufficiently disaggregated quality data remains a main barrier for developing countries, especially LDCs, to formulate targeted and tailored responses that respond to the needs of those furthest behind. The negative trend in the share of ODA going to statistics

needs to be urgently reversed.

This was a clear message in the 2018 DCF Survey exercise, which called for stepped up support for capacity building in monitoring and evaluation.

Learn more about the needs of developing countries, especially LDCs, to get better results from development cooperation.

[+ DCF Survey Study](#)

[+ Executive summary](#)



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## **Blended finance can be a game-changer, if aligned with country priorities and focused on achieving sustainable development impact**

To close the massive SDG financing gap, ODA is increasingly used to mobilize additional resources for sustainable development, including private finance. This type of “blended financing” has great potential but is not working for everyone.

Blended finance has largely bypassed LDCs and could divert ODA from the social sectors, affecting especially countries and population groups lagging furthest behind. Current trends have also raised concern that, unless effectiveness principles are applied, blended finance will weaken country ownership and leadership.

Learn more about concrete steps that can be taken to maximize the development impact of blended finance.

[+ Summary of the DCF side event on blended finance](#)

[+ Report of the Secretary-General on trends and progress in international development cooperation](#)

[+ Financing for Development: Progress and Prospects 2018](#)

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## Growing debt risks underscore the urgency to scale up support for domestic resource mobilization

Growing debt risks and a shrinking fiscal space highlight the urgent need to redouble efforts to strengthen country capacities in mobilizing domestic resources, to help close the vast SDG investment gap.

An inter-agency Platform for Collaboration on Tax has been launched by the International Monetary Fund, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Nations and the World Bank Group. The platform aims to strengthen collaboration among the organizations and their capacity building support to developing countries. It focused its first Global Meeting in February 2018 on “Taxation and the SDGs.” The Platform is currently developing toolkits to help countries address tax evasion and avoidance, as well as complex international tax issues.

The Handbook for Selected Issues in the Taxation of the Extractive Industries provides a concrete tool to help countries strike the right balance between promoting investment and securing sufficient tax revenue to finance public expenditure. The UN's Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters issued the handbook and its recent update.

[!\[\]\(74d4806277d7e73349d8e8c0897931e9\_img.jpg\) Platform for Collaboration on Tax](#)

[!\[\]\(0aff635c4179ba9e710b00f4b01d3b20\_img.jpg\) Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters](#)



## Secretary-General to launch "Strategy on Financing the 2030 Agenda" on 24 September 2018

The Secretary-General will convene a High-level Meeting on Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on 24 September 2018 at UN Headquarters in New York to scale up financing for the SDGs. The Meeting will provide an opportunity to launch the Secretary-General's strategy on financing the 2030 Agenda.

The strategy's roadmap for implementation that includes major milestones coming up in 2019: the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development and SDG Investment Fair (both in April) and the first of General Assembly's High-level Dialogues on Financing for Development since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (September).

[+ Launch event of SG strategy on financing for development](#)



INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE ON  
FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT  
Monitoring development finance

## New analysis to come in the 2019 Financing for Sustainable Development Report (FSDR)

Responding to the call from Member States, in 2019, the report's chapter on development cooperation will give a more granular picture of allocation and use of ODA within and among countries, and discuss climate and disaster resilience in development financing. The report will also emphasize analysis related to SDGs 4, 10 and 16: the focus of review at the July 2019 HLPF.

The FSDR reviews progress in implementing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. It is produced annually by the Inter-Agency Task Force on financing for development.

[+ Learn more about the IATF](#)

[+ Read the outcome of the 2018 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development](#)

## UNDESA invites your feedback and suggestions for the DCF

Are there any key issues or challenges in development cooperation the DCF could more actively engage in its action-oriented policy debates? What improvements can the DCF can make as a global multi-stakeholder forum to strengthen their impact? Please send us your feedback and suggestions to [dcf@un.org](mailto:dcf@un.org).



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