

A DETAILED VERSION OF THIS SUMMARY WILL BE CIRCULATED BY THE SECRETARIAT SHORTLY

2010 Development Cooperation Forum President's Summary

The Second Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council provided strategic input for the High Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly, on the Millennium Development Goals in September. Contributions by all stakeholders including national governments, parliamentarians and representatives of civil society and local governments were instrumental to producing action oriented recommendations, on promoting development cooperation and making it more coherent and effective.

1. Promoting Coherence for Development

- There is need to accelerate progress in ensuring coherence between development cooperation and “beyond-aid” policies on trade, investment and technology, through more analysis and systematic political engagement by provider and programme countries.
- Policy coherence for development must also focus on national development strategies of programme countries. ODA should be better used to foster innovation in these strategies, and to leverage domestic resources, and other innovative sources of financing for development.

2. Aid Quantity and Allocation

- Aid providers need to set ambitious targets for 2011-15 at the High Level Meeting in September, put in place five-year plans for scaling up disbursements in line with national MDG Acceleration Plans and financing gaps, and live up to their promises. More DAC ODA needs to reach country programmes, and future donor progress should be assessed based on country programmable aid.
- Providers of development cooperation should set concrete annual targets to increase the proportion of aid going to countries with the greatest development needs, financing gaps and structural vulnerabilities to external shocks – notably LDCs and fragile states.
- Public funding for climate change adaptation and mitigation needs to increase far beyond current commitments. It also needs to be 100% additional (making maximum use of innovative financing), and to be spent in pro-poor ways so as not to divert funding away from reaching the IADGs.

3. Aid Effectiveness

- Aid effectiveness processes need to engage fully programme countries and non-executive stakeholders. They also need to improve the way progress is measured on issues related to untying aid, capacity development, predictability and mutual accountability.

- Aid quality assessments need to be broadened to include additional key concerns of non-OECD stakeholders, on issues such as use of programme country evaluation systems, flexibility to combat exogenous shocks, and reducing policy and procedural conditionality.

4. Mutual Accountability

- Mutual accountability is best exercised through high-level programme country-led processes, with full inclusion of parliaments, civil society organizations, and decentralised governments. Providers should support dramatic strengthening of such processes, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa and fragile states, by committing to individual targets, to ensure behavioural change.
- The international community should insist that global and regional accountability mechanisms use more inputs by programme country governments and non-executive stakeholders, and improve country-level relevance to change behaviour. It should assess their progress annually, create a focal point to share best practice lessons, and fully fund the best mechanisms.
- Greater transparency on development cooperation results should be strongly promoted, by including more detailed and timely analysis of a wider range of actors, with information coming from wider sources and easily accessible to parliaments and citizens

5. South-South, Triangular and Decentralized Cooperation

- South-South cooperation exemplifies solidarity among developing countries. Its specific features are often lack of conditionality, horizontal relationships and complementarity between parties.
- The international system needs to capitalize fully on the comparative advantages of South-South cooperation, in providing appropriate and cost-effective support, and enabling peer learning. It should fully mainstream support for South-South cooperation in multilateral institution (including UN) programmes, and increase funding for triangular cooperation.
- South-South providers should develop their own ideas on how to assess quality and impact of their cooperation.
- There is need to channel a greater share of development cooperation to building the capacity of decentralized governments to deliver basic services for the MDGs, and to conduct detailed analysis of the scope, quality and impact of decentralized cooperation.

6. Finally, the DCF should:

- Strengthen its work on policy coherence by identifying best practices for policies which go “beyond aid” to cover all of MDG8, and for aid to promote wider finance for development.
- Continue to conduct regular assessments of trends in development cooperation (especially quantity, allocation and quality), and of progress on mutual accountability and transparency.
- Enhance its role in the development cooperation architecture as the legitimate apex for policy dialogue and norm-setting, by continuing to strengthen the multi-stakeholder nature of its work.