

**2010 ECOSOC: DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FORUM
POLICY DIALOGUE: ACHIEVING THE MDGS BY 2015: AN AGENDA
FOR MORE AND IMPROVED DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**

ANNOTATED TALKING POINTS

1. General Courtesies: Grateful and appreciates invite and opportunity to contribute towards making the DCF more relevant and legitimate in thinking through and addressing development challenges; more particularly, achieving the MDGs by 2015. President has difficult task of selecting participants with such wide ranging ideas and experiences in development issues and, trying to consolidate their thoughts into a 'common path' that works for all and is respected and firmly adhered to, even by those not present but are deeply affected, directly or indirectly, by the outcomes of the Forum's high level policy dialogues.
2. MDGs as a means to ensure lasting poverty reduction.
3. Development cooperation (DC) recognises the huge and wide ranging disparities among countries in this respect. And most appropriately, partners in DC do recognise the need for and accept a shared responsibility. DC assumes partners, irrespective of wealth and global status, accept the importance of policy coherence and engaging each other in a transparent and mutually accountable manner. DC aims to assist marginalised societies; urge equitable distribution of global wealth. The Bible says 'when though art converted, strengthen their neighbour' (but must I add, with respect and honour).
4. Gaps, shortcomings and threats on DC must be recognised as we try to rethink our development partnership after 10 years of rallying around the MDGs agenda; and have so far witnessed varying and in many cases, not so encouraging results as was expected. such recognition forms the basis for laying a rock solid foundation for our mutual engagement going forward.
 - Global crises (food and fuel prices, financial crisis and global slow growth, climate change, fiscal consolidation) have increased the financing requirements of developing countries; but also pose serious threat on aid flows, and even private investment flows. An orderly exit is necessary.

- Aid flows are either falling or being maintained at original levels, which are themselves helpful but grossly inadequate to make a significant mark on the compelling financing needs of developing countries.
 - Scaling up aid has not materialised. At the minimum, global partnership needs to live up to announced commitments.
5. Sierra Leone as a post country: larger challenges and greater pressures and severe constraints for achieving MDGs. Therefore falls among many other fragile and vulnerable countries requiring deeper attention and larger resource allocations with less onerous conditionality; more of grants and concessional resources. ‘Agenda for Change’: a comprehensive national policy framework with few and well focussed themes (agriculture and food security, affordable energy, roads, health and education); these are drivers for growth and therefore for achieving the MDGs and lasting poverty reduction. Ambitious initiatives have been launched in this context, but require effective delivery and sustainability: Have potential to help make significant progress on MDGs 1, 2, 4 & 5 by 2015.
- Free health care for lactating mothers, pregnant women and under-5 children (over 2 million beneficiaries, costing over US\$25 million a year in terms of drugs, equipment, logistics, and market premium remuneration for clinical staff); eliminates user fees; specific actions on such killer diseases as malaria, HIV/AIDs, TB, etc, focus on nets, immunisation and prevention and curative drugs.
 - Massive subsidies to ensure basic, vocational, technical and girl child education.
 - Solarised rural electrification; illiterate women as solar engineers (India TA)
 - Improved piped water
 - Small holder commercial agriculture along value change (India, China and Malaysia)
6. Some Considerations for Development Cooperation Going forward:
- Emergence of South-South, triangular and decentralised cooperation, needs to be embraced as complementing North-South cooperation (the more traditional), fills gaps and enters areas not so supported by traditional

donors (e.g. water, agriculture and food security, river transportation, natural resources exploitation); rests more on valuable mutual sovereign relationships; fewer missions, less transfer pricing and transaction costs; etc. This new DC modality needs to be better understood and integrated fully into new global DC architecture than condemned entirely. There are good as well as bad examples of implementation just as under N-S development cooperation. We need to objectively identify, understand and capitalise on comparative advantages of all forms of DC cooperation in a mutually inclusive way to ensure 'win-win' situations.

- Urge for the urgent need to critically re-examine existing aid modalities/transmission agencies, including PIUs; to identify strengths and weaknesses and relevance in the context of the positive developments taking place in recipient countries in terms governance and fuller democratisation, civil society consultations and oversight, project management, donor coordination and alignment, country ownership and political leadership, and fiduciary responsibilities ; e.g. funding modalities – budget support, global/sector trust funds, fragmented multilateral/bilateral modes, etc); with experience, perhaps, sector wide funding, properly coordinated, is the preferred option; even for capacity building support; non state actors/NGOs are not always effective (times have changed and perhaps the good ones/workers are no more). Some even now go for profit maximisation.
- Aid effectiveness needs to be considered in terms of results orientation, strong policy dialogue, coherence, transparency and mutual accountability. There is however need to urge for less intrusive and ad hoc conditionality/triggers; where necessary, donor conditions need to be dramatically reduced, streamlined and acceptable to all donors for unlocking their respective support. Sector based conditionality can be agreed with recipient countries and applied as prior actions before funding becomes effective; access must not be denied by new conditionality during project implementation.
- There is need to prioritise SSA and fragile and vulnerable states; and to urge for increased aid flows; these countries are lagging far behind on MDGs, IADGs and other home grown development aspirations. Yet expectations of their populations remain increasingly high and legitimate.
- Recipient countries must commit to global principles, standards and best practices, including EITI for enhancing internal revenues, Paris declaration

and IATA for aid effectiveness and transparency; subject themselves to joint PEER reviews on aid effectiveness, etc.

- DCF must continue with and build on gains made so far on global consultations. (Invite to African Caucus meeting, 16-17 August, Freetown, Sierra Leone)

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