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UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ECOSOC is established under the United Nations Charter as the principal organ to coordinate economic, social, and related work of United Nations specialized agencies, functional commissions and regional commissions. The Council also receives reports from United Nations funds and programmes. With its mandate the Council's purview extends to over 70 per cent of the human and financial resources of the entire United Nations system.

ECOSOC is the principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development, as well as for the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summit, including the Millennium Development Goals.

ECOSOC promotes global dialogue and partnership on global policies and trends in the economic, social, environmental and humanitarian fields. For this purpose, the Council serves as a quality platform for high-level engagement among Member States and with the international financial institutions, the private sector and civil society on emerging global trends, policies and action.

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FORUM

Palais des Nations
United Nations Office at Geneva
5 July 2007

Development Cooperation Forum

■ Mandate

The 2005 World Summit mandated ECOSOC to convene a biennial high-level Development Cooperation Forum (DCF). As part of the recent strengthening of ECOSOC, the General Assembly further decided on the functions of the DCF. The Forum will, inter alia:

- Review trends and progress in international development cooperation and give policy guidance and recommendations to promote more effective international development cooperation;
- Identify gaps and obstacles with a view to make recommendations on practical measures and policy options to enhance coherence and effectiveness and to promote development cooperation for the realization of the internationally agreed development goals (IADGs), including the MDGs;
- Provide a platform for Member States to exchange lessons learned and share experiences in formulating, supporting and implementing national development strategies.

■ Objective

Anchored in the global partnership for development set out in the Monterrey Consensus, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Declaration, the DCF will work to enhance the implementation of the IADGs and promote dialogue to find effective ways to support it.

By bringing together all relevant development cooperation actors, the Forum is expected to become a significant platform for discussing key trends and challenges to enhancing

the coherence and effectiveness of global development cooperation. This will include facilitating coordination between the development activities of various development partners and helping align national development processes and the international development agenda.

■ Launch

The Forum will be launched on 5 July 2007 during the High-level Segment of ECOSOC in Geneva. The half-day official event will be opened by the President of ECOSOC, Ambassador Dalius Čekuolis and United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Two high-level roundtables will be held during the official launch. Following the official opening and two special events, a Stakeholder Forum will be convened to enable participants to further discuss the role of the DCF in international development cooperation.

■ Participants

To ensure a multi-stakeholder approach, participants will include representatives from developing and developed countries, including bilateral development agencies, United Nations system organizations, international and regional organizations as well as representatives from national parliaments, civil society and the private sector.

■ Preparations

The launch of the DCF officially kicks off preparations for the first biennial Forum in New York in 2008. As part of these preparations, symposiums and consultations on trends in international development cooperation will be organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the year to come.

Programme for DCF launch

9:30 am - 11:00 am

Plenary session

Opening remarks

Ambassador Dalius Čekuolis, President of ECOSOC
Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, United Nations

Statements from interest groups

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Roundtables (parallel)

Roundtable I: Promoting greater coherence among development activities of different development partners: *the role of national aid coordination and management*

Roundtable II: Review of trends in international development cooperation: *South-South and triangular cooperation*

[Official launch ends]

Special events

1:15 pm - 3:00 pm

Informal policy dialogues (by invitation only)

Dialogue I: *Strengthening national capacities and leadership in the partnership with donors*

Special event co-hosted by the Government of Switzerland for high-level officials responsible for development cooperation in developed and developing countries

Dialogue II: *The role of civil society, legislative bodies and other stakeholders in promoting improved aid quality, including monitoring and reporting on results*

Special event co-hosted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union for selected representatives from civil society, parliaments as well as international and regional institutions

3:15 pm - 5:15 pm

Stakeholder forum

How can the DCF promote enhanced oversight of aid commitments and aid effectiveness for the realization of the internationally agreed development goals?

Multistakeholder event to provide inputs to the preparatory process for the first biennial Development Cooperation Forum in New York in 2008