



Information Bulletin

Dear friends of the Development Cooperation Forum,

We would like to take this opportunity and update you on preparations for the second Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), which will be held during the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, on 29 and 30 June in New York. We are thankful for the support we have received from all of you since the inception of the forum in 2008.

As you know, the DCF is tasked to promote international development cooperation and enhance its coherence and effectiveness to support progress towards the MDGs. This is a broad mandate and raises high expectations.

The comparative advantage of the DCF is the unique platform it presents for informal multi-stakeholder debate on aid and development cooperation. By giving voice to a wide range of stakeholders, including developing and developed countries as well as civil society, parliaments, local governments and the private sector, the Forum encourages participatory multi-stakeholder dialogue on major development cooperation issues.

The first DCF in 2008 positioned the forum as a global platform for frank dialogue and set the stage for a targeted and well-informed debate among all key development cooperation actors. (Please download the [Report of the First DCF](#)).

The 2009 **Vienna Symposium** on accountable and transparent development cooperation last November gave impetus to the work of the forum as a global mechanism to hold providers and recipients of aid to account for the commitments that they have made. (See the [official summary](#) of the Vienna Symposium and the [Conference website](#)). The symposium requested the DCF to conduct an independent review of status and progress on mutual accountability, which is currently being finalized.

On 22 April, a **preparatory meeting** will be held in New York to prepare for the DCF. The objective of the event is to brief Member States and non-executive stakeholders on preparations and expectations for the 2010 DCF and engage in a substantive discussion on the role of aid in supporting progress towards the MDGs against the backdrop of the economic crisis. (See [background information](#) on this event.).

A **second high-level Symposium** in preparation of the 2010 DCF will be held in Finland on 3-4 June 2010. The theme will be “More coherent development cooperation: maximizing impact in a changing environment”. The event will address interrelated challenges with the overall objective to promote practical solutions for a more coherent development cooperation framework. (The conference website will be available shortly on the DCF website.).

The **2010 DCF** comes at a critical juncture in the debate on results and commitments to reach the MDGs. The forum aims to promote practicable ways to enhance the contribution of development cooperation to attaining the MDGs and to give a clear political message to the United Nations High-level plenary event on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to be held in September 2010. A key focus will be ways to advance progress on MDG 8 on developing a global partnership for development.

It will bring together Ministers and high-level experts on development cooperation. The report of the Secretary-General on trends in development cooperation will be ready early June. The need for increased quantity and improved quality of aid, especially for the poorest countries, clearly stands at the center of this debate.

A series of policy dialogues will focus on the most pressing global challenges and trends in development cooperation. They will address questions such as:

- (1) How can we promote policy coherence to support development objectives?
- (2) How can we ensure that aid management systems at national and international levels become more transparent and that development cooperation partnerships become more accountable and equal?
- (3) How can the various key development cooperation actors be better engaged in a joint effort to support national development?
- (4) Against the backdrop of the economic crisis, how can aid be increased and better balanced across competing needs?
- (5) How can development cooperation be promoted and improved to achieve the MDGs by 2015?

If you have further questions, please contact:

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We would like to keep you regularly informed about DCF events. For any communication related issues, please contact Paul Simon (simonp@un.org). Please inform Paul, in case you do not want to receive DCF updates.

With our best wishes,

The DCF Secretariat