



2nd Information Bulletin

Dear friends of the Development Cooperation Forum

This second DCF Information Bulletin will inform you about:

- the deliberations at the 2010 DCF;
- the launch of the International Development Cooperation Report;
- new mandates of the DCF in the MDG Summit; and
- the MDG Summit Side Event on mutual accountability and aid transparency.

In our next bulletin we will outline the objectives of the DCF in preparing for Korea and other relevant global processes in development cooperation.

The 2010 DCF

The second biennial ECOSOC DCF took place in New York on 29 and 30 June 2010. Reinvigorated by a dynamic consultative process, the 2010 DCF showed the potential of the forum to develop principles and launch processes impacting on development cooperation realities on the ground. It facilitated dialogue among Ministers, senior government officials, parliamentarians, representatives of local governments and a wide range of NGOs to produce agreement on issues of concern in international development cooperation, with emphasis on its effectiveness and coherence.

The lively debates at the forum confirmed the deep concern that aid commitments are not being met and a greater share of aid should go to countries with the greatest development needs and financing gaps. Considerable attention was paid to the catalytic role of aid in increasing other sources of

development finance. It was underscored that all policies of developed countries need to be coherent with development objectives. Speakers pointed to the role of the DCF to continue addressing issues such as policy coherence, trends in development cooperation and mutual accountability.

The DCF was also encouraged to engage more countries and stakeholders in processes on aid effectiveness and mutual accountability, to promote more balanced aid relationships with more robust government systems to process aid monies. It was felt that the aid effectiveness agenda should be broadened to include concerns such as conditionality or flexibility to combat exogenous shocks. On South-South cooperation, a number of positive experiences were shared. (Please see the [official summary of the President of ECOSOC](#) for details. The official summary of the 2010 DCF is forthcoming.)

Reflecting the diversity of DCF stakeholders, a series of interesting informal meetings and side events took place and complemented the plenary discussions. (Please see the [list of side events](#), and their summaries). An event on the future role of the DCF was chaired by the Government of Austria, and brought forward a number of relevant issues to consider for the next phase of the forum (see [background note](#) and [summary](#) of Friends of the DCF meeting).

.../

The International Development Cooperation Report (IDCR)

In September 2010, UNDESA launched an independent [International Development Cooperation Report \(IDCR\)](#). The report advocates for the United Nations to take greater leadership in the area of aid quality, building on the comparative advantages of the aid effectiveness and the DCF processes, in view of producing better development results. The report reviews trends and coherence in development cooperation, including commitments and quality and impact of development assistance and of a broad range of issues that affect the effectiveness of development cooperation, such as the impact of the multiple crises, climate change, policy coherence and changes in the global aid architecture. Building on the DCF's work, special emphasis was placed on mutual accountability on development cooperation and aid transparency as well as South-South and triangular cooperation.

The DCF in the MDG Summit Outcome Document

Re-emphasizing the importance of the DCF as the focal point within the United Nations system for holistic consideration of issues of international development cooperation, the outcome document of the 2010 United Nations High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals document reiterates the role of the DCF and other initiatives in making important contributions to the efforts of those countries which have committed to them, including through the adoption of the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization and managing for results. The document reaffirms the role of ECOSOC as a principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development and for the follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals, particularly through the annual ministerial review and the Development Cooperation Forum.¹

¹ See General Assembly resolution 65/L.1 (2010).

The outcome document also makes reference to the upcoming review of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the "Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council" during the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly. In preparation for this review and in light of the DCF mandates, the objectives and proposed focus for phase 3 and substantive options for a potential annualization of the DCF will be discussed during an upcoming ECOSOC retreat.

The MDG Summit Side Event on mutual accountability and aid transparency



Co-sponsored by the Government of Switzerland, UNDESA organized a side event during the MDG Summit to launch the IDCR and to discuss pioneering initiatives on mutual accountability and aid transparency, their challenges and potential to be scaled-up. (For more details, please see official summary of the [Side Event](#)).

If you have further questions, please contact:

Madhushree Chatterjee

Tel: +1 212 963 4791

Fax: +1 212 963 2812

chatterjeem@un.org

Thomas Boehler

Tel: +1 917 367 9452

Fax: +1 212 963 2812

boehler@un.org

We would like to keep you regularly informed about DCF events. Our website is: www.un.org/ecosoc/dcf.

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