



## 7<sup>th</sup> DCF Information Bulletin

### *Dear Friends of the DCF,*

We have reached the mid-point in the preparations for the July 2014 ministerial meeting of the DCF, aiming overall to contribute to the post-2015 development agenda through analytical work and inclusive policy dialogue.

The first Symposium in Ethiopia explored how a renewed global partnership for development could look like in practice. The Switzerland Symposium examined how development cooperation will have to change to support a universal post-2015 development agenda.

The next and last preparatory symposium, on 20-21 March in Berlin, Germany, will focus on effectiveness and accountability in development cooperation in a post-2015 era.

South-South development cooperation is a cross-cutting area of focus. The DCF is providing space for Southern partners to advance their policy work on common issues and challenges.

Reflecting a commitment to engage all stakeholders in the DCF, special policy dialogues have also taken place on gender equality and women's empowerment and on the role of private philanthropic organizations in the post-2015 setting. Engagement with local and regional authorities and analytical work on decentralized development cooperation is also underway.

So many stakeholders have shown continuous interest in the DCF and more are engaging every day. This shows to me the ever more critical role of the DCF as a unique multi-stakeholder platform for inclusive and candid exchanges on development cooperation.

I sincerely hope that this engagement has been mutually beneficial and that your support and engagement will continue into the next years.

*Yours sincerely,*

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### **Interview on the first high-level symposium in Ethiopia**

***with Mr. Admasu Nebebe, Director of the UN Agencies and Regional Economic Cooperation Directorate Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Ethiopia***

**DESA: What did Ethiopia hope to achieve by organizing a DCF High-level Symposium?**

**Admasu Nebebe (AN):** I believe it was the appropriate time for the Symposium to take place in Ethiopia. Ethiopia is at an exciting juncture in its development endeavor. The country experienced a dramatic reduction in poverty and managed to achieve the related MDG ahead of time. None of this would have happened without effective development cooperation with both traditional and Southern partners. Therefore, hosting the High-level Symposium was a good opportunity to show our progress and to share our experience. In addition, it gave us the opportunity to play a central role in the formulation of a renewed global partnership for development.

**DESA: How did you experience the event?**

**AN:** The symposium was a great experience for us. I believe the outcome of the symposium will serve as a good input for the renewed global partnership for development and for the ongoing preparations of the post-MDG development agenda. I would like to thank the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for giving Ethiopia the opportunity to host the symposium and the DCF team and other helping actors involved in making the event a success.

**DESA: Which messages did you personally take away from the Symposium?**

**AN:** There are several key messages we can take from the outcome of the meeting. However, from the developing country perspective, the common agreement that the renewed global partnership should continue to concentrate on eradicating poverty by putting economic transformation at its center and achieving MDGs by fulfilling all existing international commitments on development finance is the key message from the symposium. Also, the agreement to leverage the different comparative advantages of South-South cooperation, while recognizing that South-South cooperation is a complement rather than a substitute for North-South cooperation, is another important message from the symposium.

## Renewing the global partnership for development (Addis Ababa, 5-7 June 2013)

“(…) we need to unify our voices so that we are loud enough to be heard. The proverb tells us: If you want to go quickly, go alone. But if you want to go far, go together.” With these words, Mr. Sufian Ahmed, Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Ethiopia, opened the High-level Symposium of the Development Cooperation Forum on “A renewed global partnership for development for the post-2015 era” on 6 June 2013.



Jointly organized by the Government of Ethiopia and UN DESA, the Symposium brought together more than 170 senior representatives in Addis Ababa to engage in candid discussion. Participants examined the potential purposes, principles and practicalities of a global partnership for development, fit for a post-2015 setting.

The participation reflected both the changing development landscape and the multi-stakeholder nature of the DCF, which engages all partners in development cooperation. Senior representatives from developed and developing countries, academia and civil society, parliamentarians and local authorities, philanthropic foundations and the private sector all brought their expertise and experiences to bear. The discussions were enriched by a number of stakeholder side events. The Meeting of Directors-General of Southern Partners was also held back-to-back with the symposium.

The outcomes of the symposium make an immediate contribution to the ongoing preparations for a post-2015 development agenda. For more information, please visit our [website](#).

### The renewed global partnership should...

- ◆ Build on the history of MDG 8.
- ◆ Concentrate on ending poverty and putting the world on a sustainable development path.
- ◆ Build on ODA, as a vital source of development financing, particularly for the most vulnerable countries.
- ◆ Be owned, and led, from the outset, by the range of stakeholders, who should be able to engage, on an equal footing, in its design, implementation and monitoring.
- ◆ Strengthen statistical and other capacities in developing countries, especially to support national monitoring of development progress and accountability for commitments.
- ◆ Promote partnerships at all levels that are complementary to each other.

## The Future of Development Cooperation (Montreux, 24-25 October 2013)

The second DCF High-level Symposium, held in Montreux, Switzerland, examined the implications of supporting a global development agenda that is universal in its application to all countries, and unified in its focus on eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development. Representatives from finance/development cooperation and environmental/sustainable development portfolios came together and addressed the need to redesign sources, channels, instruments and major uses of development cooperation, also in light of increased financing needs. The symposium generated elements for the new narrative of development cooperation needed to fit the transformation the post-2015 agenda aims to achieve. A common, yet differentiated framework will be needed to hold actors mutually accountable for effective development results, within the post-2015 development agenda.

A meeting of the DCF Advisory Group was held back to back, as well as a caucus of civil society organizations and meeting of parliamentarians.

Please visit the DCF [website](#) for background literature and further information. The next info bulletin will include a more detailed summary of the meeting.



## The role of philanthropic organizations in the post-2015 setting (New York, 23 April 2013)

The special policy dialogue was organized in cooperation with UNDP, netFWD and WINGS at UN Headquarters in New York. It assessed philanthropic organizations' experiences of cooperation with governments and how this collaboration has contributed to accelerating MDG progress. Efforts by these organizations to contribute to objectives set out in national development strategies, and ways to evaluate their development impact, were discussed. The dialogue also sought to identify operational ways to optimize partnerships among foundations, member states and other development cooperation actors at the global, regional and country levels. It further assessed how philanthropic organizations can contribute to a renewed global partnership for development for the post-2015 era.

For the action points and summary of the meeting, please click [here](#).

### The post-2015 Development Agenda should...

- ◆ Make engagement for private philanthropic foundations attractive in order to create long-term, committed partnerships.
- ◆ Recognize the heterogeneity of philanthropic organizations, in terms of size, activities and motivations, as well as substantive scope, responsibilities and capabilities.
- ◆ Forge complementarity at the country level, underpinned by the principles of country ownership, alignment and harmonization with other actors.
- ◆ Promote more systematic information sharing, accountability and transparency for all stakeholders.
- ◆ Harness innovative experiences.

## The DCF at 2013 ECOSOC (Geneva, 4 July 2013)

DESA, together with the government of Switzerland, organized a well-attended side event during the High-level Segment of ECOSOC in Geneva.

The event publicly launched the preparations for the DCF Switzerland High-level Symposium on "*Development cooperation in a post-2015 era: Moving towards to equitable and sustainable development for all*". It also featured the outcomes of the Ethiopia Symposium and highlighted how to carry them forward, in Switzerland and the broader work of ECOSOC

A key message was that a post-2015 development agenda will have to focus on any unfinished business of the MDGs, while promoting transformative change to place the world on a more sustainable and equitable path.

Participants also emphasized that a renewed global partnership for development should be an attractive tool for all partners. It should build on their comparative strengths, while also paying particular attention to countries and people most in need. It should engage all stakeholders and mobilize support for a truly transformative agenda.

Please find the side event summary [here](#).

## Advancing gender equality and empowering women (Vienna, 13-14 December 2012)



On 13-14 December 2012, the DCF held a Policy Dialogue on "*Advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women: role of development cooperation*" at the UN Headquarters in Vienna.

The event was held jointly with UNWOMEN, in preparation for the 2014 DCF. It focused on how gender equality and empowerment of women could be firmly placed at the centre of a post-2015 development agenda; explored root causes of persistent gender inequalities; and identified how international development cooperation could help reinforce efforts to promote gender equality and empowerment of women, including through gender responsive mutual accountability, budgeting and planning.

The meeting brought together experts and practitioners from the realms of development cooperation and gender equality in Member States, civil society organizations, parliaments, think tanks and the United Nations system. For a detailed summary, please click [here](#).

### Key messages

- ◆ The MDG experience holds many valuable lessons on how best to mainstream and prioritize gender equality, women's rights and the empowerment of women.
- ◆ Inclusive and transparent mutual accountability and results frameworks are imperative to effectively monitor compliance with development cooperation commitments, disbursements, and use and impact of flows.
- ◆ Gender responsive planning and budgeting serves as a powerful tool to translate gender-related human rights obligations into practice, in public financial management and macroeconomic policy making.
- ◆ The Development Cooperation Forum has a role to play in connecting development efforts at national level with global commitments, including on gender equality.

### **South-South cooperation: issues and emerging challenges (Delhi, 15-16 April, 2013)**

At the invitation of the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and UNDESA, with support from the Government of India, Southern partners in development cooperation met in Delhi to initiate a dialogue on how to further strengthen South-South Cooperation.

Representatives from Africa, the Arab Region, Latin America and Asia engaged in open discussions on fundamental principles and modalities of South-South Cooperation and explored the most persistent gaps, both analytically and institutionally.

Participants generated recommendations on how to address these gaps and challenges, to pave the way toward stronger impact. The outcomes of the conference will also facilitate the input of Southern partners to the global dialogue, as preparations are made for a post-2015 global development agenda.

The Conference Report can be accessed [here](#).

In follow-up to the Conference, a meeting of Directors-General of Southern Partners was held in Addis Ababa, alongside the Ethiopia Symposium, on 6 June. The meeting established a Core Group to carry forward the policy work in the identified areas. The group will have its inaugural meeting in Istanbul, Turkey in December 2013.

### **Special Event of the President of the General Assembly (New York, 25 September 2013)**

With less than 850 days until the final MDG target date in 2015, the Special Event of the President of the General Assembly galvanized political commitment and support for accelerating MDG achievement. The multi-stakeholder event also provided a timely opportunity to reflect on the broad contours of the post-2015 development agenda and outlined next steps in the post-2015 process.

A DCF side event was held the same day on "Effectiveness and accountability in the post-2015 development agenda: lessons from the MDG experience," to launch preparations for the DCF Germany Symposium.

The event gathered 80 high-level participants from various stakeholder groups. It highlighted that effectiveness and accountability include both the process of reporting and assessing compliance with commitments as well as mutual learning and knowledge sharing.

Transparency and public access to timely data and information are crucial to facilitate accountability among actors and increase effectiveness of development processes. All actors need to be included; this requires fostering an enabling environment conducive to the different actors' strengths and potential role.

The complete side event summary can be accessed [here](#).

### **Effectiveness and accountability post-2015 (Berlin, 20-21 March, 2014)**

The third DCF High-level Symposium will take place on 20-21 March 2014 in Berlin, Germany.

Discussions will focus on accountable and effective development cooperation and its role in implementing a post-2015 development agenda. The Symposium will explore how best to feature quality and effectiveness in a post-2015 development agenda, drawing on operational practices of different actors that have been most effective in maximizing the impact of international development cooperation.

The Symposium will examine conceptual issues and identify concrete elements for a global accountability framework to support implementation of renewed global partnership for development for the post-2015 era. It will explore how greater mutual accountability at all levels could ensure engagement of all actors, delivery on commitments and sustainability of development results.

Evidence from the third DCF Global Accountability survey on the status and progress of mutual accountability mechanisms at the country level will be presented.

A meeting of the DCF Advisory Group is planned to be held back to back, along with other pre-meetings.

For updates on the ongoing preparations, please visit the Germany Symposium [website](#).

### **Decentralized development cooperation (Rabat, 3 October 2013)**

At the Fourth World Congress of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), an unprecedented number of mayors, representatives from local governments and other stakeholders discussed a common development agenda for the 21st century. The objective was to frame this debate within the UN-led preparations for the post-2015 development agenda.

Under the headline "Strengthening Decentralized Development Cooperation in a Post-2015 Setting: The Role of Local and Regional Governments and their Associations" DESA, the World Organization of United Cities and Local Governments and UNDP ART Initiative jointly organized a parallel session during the World Congress.

The parallel session recognized the evolving role of decentralized development cooperation and the need to strengthen synergies with national and multilateral actors. It featured a presentation of initial findings of a DCF analytical study on global trends for the role of decentralized development cooperation. Furthermore it examined ways to capitalize on the comparative advantages of decentralized development cooperation.

Panelists and participants discussed two key questions: First, the lessons learned from good practices of high-impact decentralized development cooperation, and second, how local and regional actors can engage in a more structured exchange and global policy dialogue on the future of development cooperation.

The DCF encourages the active participation of LRGs in its activities.

For further information, please go to our [website](#).

## Reports on the post-2015 development agenda

The UN Secretary-General issued his third annual report on accelerating progress towards the MDGs and initial thinking on the post-2015 development agenda - [A life of dignity for all](#). Based on the inputs from the global discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, the report presents a vision for a future sustainable development agenda. It outlines the need to arrive at an agenda that meets the needs of people and planet and suggests four building blocks for this agenda.

The United Nations Development Group (UNDG) released '[A million voices: The world we want](#)'. The report summarizes national consultations in more than 60 countries organized by the UNDG together with governments, civil society, academia, the private sector and others, as well as 11 thematic and global online consultations. Key findings include the need for continued focus and progress on the themes outlined in the MDG framework, while including qualitative aspects and tackling inequalities and exclusion. The post-2015 agenda must reflect the interlinkages of goals and targets. It should build on human rights and universal values of equality, justice and security.

## UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda

The UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda was launched by the Secretary-General in January 2012 to provide analytical inputs to the post-2015 agenda. Co-chaired by UNDESA and UNDP, it brings together more than 60 agencies and international organizations.

After publication of its first report, *Realizing the future we want for all*, two Task Team working groups launched reports in 2012.

*A renewed global partnership for development*, launched in March 2013, assesses lessons learnt from MDG8 and current development partnerships and provides recommendations on the focus and contours of a global partnership for development beyond 2015.

In July 2013, the working group on monitoring and indicators launched its report on *Statistics and indicators for the post-2015 development agenda*. The report reviews experiences with MDG indicators and highlights data innovations in new critical areas, and makes key recommendations on how to further national statistical capacities when developing a monitoring framework.

The Working Group on *Financing for sustainable development* has issued [four background papers](#) for the Expert Committee on Sustainable Development Financing and its deliberations surrounding the post-2015 UN development agenda.

For further information on the Task Team or to access the reports, please visit the Task Team [website](#).

## Upcoming issue

The eighth DCF Information Bulletin will be circulated end of April 2014 and will include:

- ◆ Key messages from the Switzerland Symposium
- ◆ First highlights from the Germany Symposium
- ◆ Update on ECOSOC strengthening and reform
- ◆ Preparations for July 2014 ministerial meeting of DCF
- ◆ Outlook on the next DCF cycle, 2014-2016

## Follow-up to Rio+20 Conference

In accordance with the Rio+20 Outcome, the intergovernmental Open Working Group ([OWG](#)) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will submit its final report during the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly. An [interim co-chairs summary](#) was submitted to the President of the General Assembly in July 2013.

Another critical outcome of Rio+20 was the decision to establish a universal intergovernmental high-level political forum on sustainable development ([HLPF](#)). The HLPF, which will be an integral part of the strengthened ECOSOC, held its inaugural meeting under the auspices of the General Assembly on 24 September 2013.

The [Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing](#) was also established in follow-up to the Rio+20 Outcome to assess financing needs, consider the effectiveness, consistency and synergies of existing instruments and frameworks, and evaluate additional initiatives to facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use in achieving sustainable development objectives.

The UN System Task Team (UNTT) supports the work of both the Committee of Experts and the OWG.

## Other interesting reads

After the Ethiopia Symposium, UN ECA Executive Secretary Carlos Lopes contributed an article to The Broker Online on "[A renewed global partnership for Africa](#)" reflecting on Africa's current status and desired features of a renewed global partnership from an African perspective.

AWID Development Cooperation and Women's Rights Series Primer on "[The UN DCF through a women's rights lense](#)" provides an overview of the DCF, focusing on its origins, focus to date and strategic plans for the future, while emphasizing the importance of the DCF for women's rights and gender equality advocates.

"[United Nations Development at a Crossroads](#)", prepared by Bruce Jenks and Bruce Jones for the NYU Center on International Cooperation (CIC), elaborates on the steps the UN development system will have to make in order to remain a key player in today's changed development landscape.

Another newly published [CIC paper](#) considers the substance and process for current debates on the post-2015 agenda by reviewing key inputs into the intergovernmental process and providing a road map for member states geared toward negotiating a final agreement on a new international development framework.

## DCF Team

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