Press Release

High-level Meeting in Luxembourg to Address Ways to Increase Development Impact of Aid

New York, 10 October - Some 150 representatives from governments, international and regional organizations, UN system, civil society, academia and the private sector will gather in Luxembourg on 18 and 19 October 2011, for the High-Level Symposium of the United Nations Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) on “Working together to increase the development impact of aid”.

The Luxembourg Symposium will discuss how to most effectively mobilize financial flows such as investment, microfinance and domestic revenues to maximize the development impact of aid. It will explore how aid can serve as a catalyst to enable developing countries to mobilize investment and other types of development finance – with the goal to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to engage on a sustainable development path.

The two-day symposium is the second of several high-level meetings planned in the run up to the 2012 DCF, to be held in New York, at the end of June. The DCF promotes development cooperation that makes tangible and concrete contributions towards improving the lives of people, promoting sustainable development, and reducing inequality between and within countries.

The Luxembourg Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs H.E. Ms. Marie-Josée Jacobs will address the meeting on Tuesday, 18 October during the opening session of the event where ECOSOC President Lazarous Kapambwe and UN Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro will also speak. Fifteen Ministers as well as high level policy-makers, parliamentarians, and representatives from civil society, the private sector and academia from developing and developed countries will also participate in the meeting.

The current global economic uncertainty and volatility pose a serious threat to development cooperation and risk to reverse progress on the MDGs. The DCF can help mobilize countries to scale up development cooperation and make it more effective and coherent.

The event will be organized around four sessions with panel discussions and interactive dialogue, addressing the following topics: (i) How to maximize the development impact of aid: Mobilizing development finance to achieve the MDGs; (ii) Aid to catalyze domestic and external resources: What have we learned?; (iii) Enhancing coordination and mutual accountability at country level: How can all actors work better together? and (iv) Key messages from the Luxembourg High-level Symposium for the 2012 Development Cooperation Forum, to be held in June 2012 in New York as well as for the Busan High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, to be held in November 2011 in the Republic of Korea.
The Government of Luxembourg is hosting and co-organizing the meeting. A press conference will be organized at the Centre Culturel de Rencontre Abbaye de Neumünster (salle de la Chapelle) in Luxembourg at 10 a.m. on 18 October 2011.


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About the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
ECOSOC is the principal United Nations body for coordinating and reviewing economic and social policies, providing advice and fostering dialogue on development issues. The biennial Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), which was mandated at the 2005 World Summit, discusses trends in development cooperation – and provides policy guidance and recommendations on how to improve the quantity, quality and impact of development cooperation.


About the Development Cooperation of Luxembourg
In light of global challenges such as poverty, climate change, insecurity, pandemics, economic crises and migration, the Luxembourg cooperation promotes sustainable development as a common global cause.

As part of its international commitment, the Luxembourg government contributes through its policies of development cooperation and humanitarian action, which are important vectors of its external action, to the international effort for sustainable development at the economic, social and environmental levels.

The Luxembourg cooperation thus promotes a world free from poverty and hunger, without violence or fear, without injustice or discrimination.

The Luxembourg is a reliable donor which, through its official development assistance (1.05% of GNI in 2010), seeks maximum aid efficiency and policy coherence for development.

For more information, visit http://cooperation.mae.lu/fr