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Opening remarks by

**HIS EXCELLENCY MARTIN SAJDIK
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TO THE DCF GERMANY HIGH-LEVEL SYMPOSIUM**

“Accountable and effective development cooperation in a post-2015 era”

Berlin, Germany, 20 March 2014

Director General Mueller,
Under-Secretary-General Wu,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Friends of the DCF,

I would like to thank the Government of Germany for hosting this important gathering and for your warm welcome.

In his report “A life of dignity for All” report, the UN Secretary-General identified three key building blocks for making the success of the post-2015 development agenda: (i) consensus on goals and targets; (ii) agreement on a robust financing framework; and (iii) an effective accountability mechanism.

When the ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum meets, in New York on 10-11 July 2014, it will provide critical space to reflect on a single financing framework for a post-2015 development agenda, as well as accountability aspects.

Through the 2012-2014 cycle of the DCF, the Council is advancing an inclusive, global approach to development cooperation post-2015 – one that fits the scale and scope of action required.

At its Vienna Policy Dialogue on Gender Equality, the DCF examined how to anchor gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and the protection of their rights, in the evolving post-2015 UN development agenda.

At the High-level Symposium in Ethiopia, the DCF explored how a renewed global partnership for development would work in practice post-2015.

In Switzerland, in Montreux, the second DCF High-level Symposium examined the implications of a unified and universal post-2015 development agenda for the future of development cooperation.

Here, now in Berlin, we will explore key contours of a global accountability framework for effective development cooperation post-2015.

All this preparatory work will culminate in the newly designed ECOSOC High-level Segment in July. The segment will feature the newly launched High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, Annual Ministerial Review with 10 voluntary presentations, including Mexico and the United Kingdom, and last but not least, the High-Level Meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum.

In the years ahead, the High-level Political Forum will review implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, with implementation being the main focus. The DCF will focus on the development cooperation aspects. It can monitor a renewed global partnership for development. And it will continue the vital review of national mutual accountability and transparency in development cooperation.

This year, the 2014 DCF will focus on how to ensure development cooperation is fit for purpose for a post-2015 era, key elements of an effective global accountability framework for development cooperation, and the increasing role of South-South and triangular cooperation.

The DCF is thus very well placed to make a contribution to the discussion on a renewed global partnership for development and a global architecture for accountability in development cooperation.

The July Forum will be the last occasion for a collective reflection on the role of the different stakeholders in development cooperation post-2015 – before the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Expert Committee on Sustainable Development Financing conclude their work.

With its multi-stakeholder nature and universal convening power, the DCF can help ensure that all views are being heard.

Its success as a forum also hinges upon its ability to address the more difficult and politically sensitive questions.

A number of you already started your discussions during caucus meetings and other pre-meetings yesterday afternoon. Throughout the next two days, we will have many opportunities to continue those discussions.

I am sure that this Symposium will, once again, demonstrate that the DCF serves as a vibrant platform, where development partners can exchange lessons learned and share best practices on an equal footing and that this function should be strengthened.

I wish you fruitful discussions.

Thank you.
