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Closing 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, 21 March 2014

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

Before we move to the closing session, I would like to take this opportunity to express special thanks to our splendid host, the Government of Germany.

The programme here has been absolutely unique and absolutely right from the very beginning to the very end.

I have to thank UNDESA, Under-Secretary-General Wu, Mr. Navid Hanif and his whole wonderful team.

I would also like to thank the godfather of this whole process, who invented the United Nations Development Cooperation Forum, Mr. José Antonio Ocampo.

I give my heartfelt appreciation to all panelists and our two moderators. You have stimulated our thinking, and so ably guided us through our attempt to unpack the critical and complex issues of accountability and effectiveness in development cooperation.

To all participants, I have learned from all of you and thank you for so generously and candidly sharing your views, in this spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding.

This is exactly the kind of focused and honest debate we would often need in New York.

It is not just about reaching consensus on key issues of the post-2015 development agenda, on a piece of paper in September 2015.

It is about strengthening our global partnership for development and how we work together on a daily basis to deliver sustainable development results.

A transformative agenda for development will only make a difference, if effectively implemented. This will be the role and function of the High-level Political Forum.

Between now and 2015, we all have to get fit for purpose to effectively implement a unified and universal post-2015 development agenda.

Implementing the SDGs, monitoring and accountability could form a trinity and thus ensure effectiveness of development cooperation.

While this will be tough, we have heard in this room just how much there is to build upon, in terms of existing mechanisms, practices and lessons learned.

Ensuring the involvement of all stakeholders – including in the design phase of post-2015 accountability for development cooperation – is critical.

We also need to be practical.

Accountability cannot be static. There is no perfect design or practice.

We have to reflect the changed development landscape – and build in flexibility so we can respond to any changes to come.

Let me suggest that there is a dual approach.

It would be great if we could agree on a set of broad principles around which a multi-layered post-2015 accountability framework for development cooperation, with broad multi-stakeholder engagement, could evolve – with strong and meaningful linkages to the different levels, global, regional, national and subnational.

Let us also be clear, however, that a lot of outreach will have to be done in this direction and, in this respect, we also have to be realistic.

At the same time, let us “get on with the job” and work on rendering existing mechanisms and modalities more effective, based on our lessons learned.

I hope, in your own work, you will carry forward some of the key messages and questions from our discussions here, ladies and gentlemen.

We can all convey the key messages of the Symposium, and other DCF preparatory events, to the first ministerial meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, which will be held in Mexico. This follows on the constructive exchanges between the DCF Advisory Group and the members of the GPEDC Steering Committee.

It will be up to the Member States to feed the messages of this Symposium into the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Expert Committee on Sustainable Development Financing, and I hope they will.

Most importantly, I would urge all of you to help ensure high-level engagement in the entire high-level week of the Economic and Social Council – the High-level Political Forum,

the Annual Ministerial Review and the Development Cooperation Forum in New York from 7 to 11 July 2014.

I expect the Forum, in July and beyond, building on all the preparatory work, to make a major contribution to the post-2015 discussions. I again thank all of you for your rich and diverse inputs.

A big thank you. Ein grosses Dankeschön.
