

Side events and Meet-ups

(As of 17 May 2018)

Monday, 21 May 2018

MORNING MEET-UPS (9:00 am – 9:45 am)

Meet the UN's Chief Economist

Elliott Harris, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist, UNDESA
Conference Room C

Meet UNDESA's newly appointed Chief Economist, Elliot Harris from Trinidad and Tobago, to discuss key issues on the international development agenda in an informal setting. Mr. Harris has extensive experience in the design of macroeconomic policies and its application as a central instrument for the reduction of poverty and for resilient and sustained economic development. Mr. Harris has international experience in the fields of international economics and development policy analysis, coupled with knowledge of the United Nations system, multilateral and inter-agency coordination processes. For further information on the meet up please kindly contact dcf@un.org.

DCF CSO Meet-up

ActionAid
Conference Room D

This meet-up specifically invites representatives from civil society and non-governmental organizations to get together prior to the High-level Meeting, exchanging their thoughts and ideas on the sessions themes and provides a space for networking. It will be facilitated by Luca de Fraia, Action Aid, who is the longstanding focal point for the DCF CSO Group. Action Aid, an international non-governmental organization builds international momentum for social, economic and environmental justice.

LUNCH SIDE EVENTS (1:15 pm – 2:30 pm)

Graduation and differentiation with regard to vulnerability and fragility

Foundation for Studies and Research on International Development (Ferdinand) and UNOHRRLLS
Conference Room B

Participants will discuss the importance of taking into account vulnerabilities in the differentiation of country categories (e.g. LDCs), the definition of graduation rules and the way donors can ensure a smooth transition for graduated countries. Building sustainability and resilience through development cooperation implies taking into account economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities that developing countries are facing. While vulnerability is a key element for the classification of LDCs, it is not necessarily assessed for graduating countries: in this context, vulnerability is rather considered qualitatively. The UN General Assembly invited development partners to consider vulnerability aspects in their aid allocation as a way to promote a smooth transition after graduation.

State of play in effectiveness of development cooperation: the 2018 DCF Survey

UNDESA

Secretariat Building, S-2726 and S-2727

This side event will launch and provide space to discuss the findings of the 2018 DCF Survey on national mutual accountability and transparency in international development cooperation. The biennial survey helps governments focus their observations of how effectively their development cooperation works and why around key enablers: namely, national development cooperation policies, country-driven results frameworks, clear institutional structures with dialogue forums, and quality information. Fifty-eight developing countries participated in this fifth round of the Survey. There is sufficient evidence of developing countries moving beyond ODA to address a wider range of instruments and partnerships in their national development cooperation policies. This points to the need to advance data capacity for monitoring development cooperation for SDG monitoring. For further information on the side event please kindly contact dcf@un.org.

South-South Climate Cooperation in Support of the SDGs

UNOSSC

Conference Room 7

This side event explores the potential of South-South cooperation focusing on climate change action to further support developing countries' overall efforts in achieving sustainable development. Present and future global development progress and achievement of the SDGs are severely threatened by climate change impacts. Climate action is a cross-cutting issue and interconnected with all other SDGs. With this in mind, climate cooperation can be a catalytic approach towards the achievement of 2030 Agenda. South-South climate cooperation, as a complement to North-South cooperation, is gaining momentum in supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Tuesday, 22 May 2018

MORNING MEET-UPS (9:00 am – 9:45 am)

From “aid” to International Public Finance – an evolution

Jonathan Glennie, Independent Researcher and Author of “Spending Beyond Our Borders”

Conference Room C

It will be impossible to achieve the ambitious SDGs without substantial increases in International Public Finance (IPF). From global health funds to investments in green infrastructure, IPF is rapidly evolving. During the meet up, participants will have an opportunity to discuss with Jonathan Glennie the key findings of his new book “Spending Beyond Our Borders”, co-authored with Gail Hurley (release date May 2018). The authors argue in the book that aligning IPF with the larger objectives of international development and development cooperation is crucial to address the challenges of 2030 Agenda and set out a range of paradigm shifts to ensure this evolution is happening. These shifts include, among others, the recognition that IPF will remain useful in the foreseeable future, and that a new, more inclusive system of IPF will be needed. For further information on the meet up please kindly contact dcf@un.org.

Talking tax with UN Experts and Development Initiatives

UNDESA and Development Initiatives

Conference Room D

Domestic public resources are widely recognised as a one of the most important sources of financing available to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. Public resources can not only finance pro-poor development but also strengthen countries' ownership, putting them in control of their own development and supporting strong accountability. There is substantial potential for increase in domestic public resources – and substantial need to meet the financing ambitions of the SDGs – and so the questions of how, where and what kind of support are needed to best enable this are critical. For further information on the meet up please kindly contact dcf@un.org.

LUNCH SIDE EVENTS (1:15 pm – 2:30 pm)

Blended financing and LDCs: implications and opportunities for strengthening country ownership and leadership

UNDESA

Conference Room B

Developing countries must play a central role in decisions on using ODA for blending finance for development, in order to ensure alignment of blended finance with countries' priorities and strong country ownership, backed by broad-based participation. This is especially important for least developed countries and countries in special situations that are most dependent on ODA. Especially in these countries, there is a risk that an increased reliance on blended finance could divert funding from social sectors where returns are harder to monetize. During the side event, participants will explore how to ensure that blended financing supports rather than undermines broad-based country ownership and leadership, particularly through a focus on participation, transparency and accountability of key stakeholders and beneficiaries in all phases of programmes and projects, including ex ante assessments of the development impact of blended financing.

Exchange of best practices in water management and food security through South-South Cooperation

UNOSSC, Tajikistan

Conference Room 9

This side event will highlight the importance of cooperation among developing countries in collaboration with UN entities to achieve SDG 6, in relation to water management and food security. Many developing countries have already put sound policies in place to manage their water resources as a key step to achieve their economic and social objectives. An improved management of water resources is key to mitigate the effects of climate change and to attain food security. These policies and best practices can be shared with other countries of the South and beyond. This underscores the potential of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation to further contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Human rights-based approaches in South-South development cooperation: A review of good practices, gaps and challenges

Reality of Aid, CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness and IBON International
Conference Room D

During this side event participants will discuss how a human rights-based approach to development can serve as a helpful tool to measure the impacts of South-South development cooperation and provide a space to share experiences. More efforts are needed to ensure that the potential of South-South development cooperation is directed towards sustainable development and the implementation of human rights, especially in Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The side event will demonstrate how a human rights-based approach to South-South development cooperation can help to shift the framework of development away from a narrow focus on economic growth towards a more holistic approach, where development is understood as the process through which people can also realize their human rights.

Development cooperation for the 2030 Agenda: convergence and divergence of North-South and South-South cooperation

Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST) and German Development Institute (DIE)
Conference Room E

The side event explores the role of official development assistance and South-South Cooperation in achieving the 2030 Agenda, against the backdrop of a changing international cooperation landscape. Particular emphasis will be placed on questions around convergence and divergence between different providers of development cooperation, including from developed and developing countries, and the priorities of recipient countries in improving the quality of development cooperation. The panel brings together researchers from different backgrounds and aims for discussions beyond traditional political patterns and lines of argumentation, generating a focused and research-based debate with a practical orientation on development cooperation.

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