

## Concept Note Session 6

### Strengthening multi-layered review and assessment of development cooperation: what works?

*ECOSOC Chamber, Tuesday, 22 May 2018, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM*

#### Format

90 minute interactive panel discussion, in plenary and guided by moderator.

#### Objective

Taking a cross-cutting approach, this session will draw out specific experiences in getting better results from development cooperation by strengthening monitoring and review of development cooperation and its outcomes.

#### Focus questions

- *What has been the role of regional reviews and assessments of development cooperation and how can they best complement and reinforce country-level reviews?*
- *What lessons can be learned from South-led approaches to assessing the outcomes of South-South cooperation?*
- *What key actions are needed to further improve monitoring, evaluation and learning mechanisms for private sector engagement in development cooperation, including through blended finance?*
- *What is the next frontier in citizen-based monitoring and review of development cooperation, including in public-private partnerships?*

#### Background

The 2016 Development Cooperation Forum underscored the collective responsibility of all stakeholders in monitoring and review of development cooperation commitments for achieving sustainable development. It invited the engagement of governments, their partners, multilateral and private sector actors, beneficiaries and others affected by international development cooperation.

Regional monitoring mechanisms, such as the United Nations monitoring mechanism to review commitments made towards Africa's development and the African Peer Review Mechanism, can play a strengthened role. They can help connect efforts at the national and global levels to facilitate peer learning and provide supplementary data on the monitoring and review of progress towards development cooperation commitments.

In January 2018, the African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda was adopted to accelerate the integrated and coordinated implementation, monitoring and reporting of the two agendas through joint activities and programmes.

At the national-level, structures, processes and policies for monitoring and review of development cooperation vary significantly from country to country. They may include: annual bilateral assessment forums; high-level meetings at the political level preceded by technical review meetings; development partner forums engaging all partners; and sectorial forums. From a preliminary review of national

development cooperation policies of countries responding to the 2018 DCF Survey, policies may focus on structures and processes for monitoring and evaluation, like annual reviews with development cooperation partners. They may have goals or objectives for monitoring and evaluation, like tracking the progress and effectiveness of development cooperation and addressing implementation.

Policies for mobilizing ‘means of implementation’ should be closely aligned to broader national development plans, domestic resource mobilization strategies and budgetary processes. This requires also data from comprehensive, timely and reliable development cooperation information systems to monitor progress.

Several countries identified pressing needs for capacity support in monitoring and evaluation, especially with regard to impact evaluations for international development cooperation. They also highlighted capacity support-needs in tracking South-South cooperation; monitoring and evaluating the private sector; and developing integrated monitoring and evaluation systems for development cooperation and development cooperation information systems. Through civil society, citizens can actively contribute reliable citizen-based data to complement and supplement official data sources on how effectively development cooperation is being delivered. Greater support is needed to involve parliaments in the oversight process.

Southern partners, also, are designing assessment systems and processes for their projects and programs, in-line with the Nairobi outcome. Assessment and evaluation reported by Southern partners is still at limited scale, but from evidence it is possible to infer Southern partners are conducting these evaluations. For many governments, the design of assessment systems coincides with institutionalizing coordination mechanisms and legal frameworks, as is the case for China, Brazil, India, Mexico, Thailand and others. Many of these initiatives executed or commissioned by governments correspond with the principles defined in the Nairobi Outcome Document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South cooperation.

Regional institutions are providing technical support for quantification and assessment of South-South cooperation, including the Ibero-American General Secretariat’s Program to Strengthen South-South Cooperation (PIFCSS). Various intra-regional development cooperation mechanisms and frameworks have also emerged to enhance policy coordination; examples include the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), the India-Africa Forum Summit, the BRICS Summit, and the IBSA Summit.

There is need for greater accessibility to critical information on private sector engagement, not always available to Least Developed Countries. In the context of blended finance, participants stressed the importance of applying principles of effective development cooperation – in particular, aligning projects with developing country priorities and ensuring strong country ownership.

More broadly, it is important to continue to build the evidence base on engaging the private sector in development cooperation. This should serve to advance knowledge sharing and mutual learning on how to strengthen public-private sector alignment with the sustainable development agenda.

### Further reference

- Report of the Secretary-General on Trends and progress in international development cooperation, E/2018/55 [[Arabic](#)] [[Chinese](#)] [[English](#)] [[French](#)] [[Russian](#)] [[Spanish](#)]
- 2018 DCF Accountability Survey [[Summary](#)] [[Study](#)]
- What is development cooperation? - [No. 1](#)
- How Governments of the South assess the results of South-South Cooperation: Case studies of South-led approaches - [No. 20](#)

- Citizen-based monitoring of development cooperation to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda [[English](#); [Spanish](#); [French](#)] – No. 9
- Private and blended development cooperation: Assessing their effectiveness and impact for achieving the SDGs [[English](#); [Spanish](#); [French](#)] – No. 7

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