



# ECOSOC

United Nations Economic and Social Council

## TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

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**PRESENTING THE WORK OF THE  
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FORUM TO THE  
ECOSOC FORUM ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT**

**New York, 25 May 2017**

*'Urgency. Results. Putting, into our daily practice, a transformative focus on results for sustainable development.'* This is the key message coming to us from the Development Cooperation Forum, in its work on the 2030 and Addis Agendas; a message which calls for reframing how we conceive of development cooperation and its role.

All stakeholders – developing and developed countries participating side-by-side with civil society, local actors, parliamentarians, international organizations and development banks, private sector and philanthropic foundations – came together in the 5th biennial high-level meeting of the DCF.

Together, they embraced a concept of development cooperation including not only financial resources, but also capacity development, technology development and transfer, cooperative action to drive policy change at the national, regional and global levels, and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

This framing brings distinct value, evidenced by its quick adoption by other fora, like the GPEDC, in its 2016 Nairobi Outcome Document. It also allows us to clarify what we mean by accelerated and transformative development cooperation action for sustainable results.

I would like to focus here on four sets of concrete recommendations arising from the work of the DCF:

First, development cooperation should continue its distinct role in supporting the poorest and most vulnerable countries and people. Leaving no one behind means targeting assistance and sufficient resources in support of countries – and communities – with the least resources and weakest capacity.



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This requires making new choices and larger-scale investments; using new evidence-based tools; strengthening domestic institutions, including in the areas of data, monitoring and review; providing longer-term budget support; and broadening multi-stakeholder partnerships at all levels.

The range of the UN system's support to such efforts should include helping to generate and make accessible much more context-specific information on development cooperation needs, policies and best practices, including to address vulnerabilities and build resilience.

Globally, even as more finance is allocated to emergency responses, ODA should be further prioritized in its allocation and more effectively used to benefit those furthest behind first. Additionally, more ODA should be allocated to supporting those countries with the weakest policy-making and implementing capacities.

Second, we should look to the DCF to advance learning in how to strengthen incentives for the private sector to stretch beyond social responsibility and rethink its approach to sustainable value creation.

Blended finance is one vehicle for strengthening private sector engagement in international development cooperation. The catalytic use of ODA should be closely monitored against its effectiveness in generating positive outcomes for poverty eradication and sustainable development, and not just increasing the volume of finance.

The overarching principles of effective development cooperation should be applied to blended finance and other forms of public-private partnership. Specifically, action should focus on ensuring transparency, alignment with country priorities, quality and impact of PPPs, and, especially, country ownership and capacity building. It is developing countries themselves that must play a central role in deciding when and how to blend finance for development, and in planning, design and management.

Third, we need to fully tap the potential of South-South cooperation to reduce asymmetries in access to sustainable development opportunities and directly respond to local demands.



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Since 2008, Southern partners have looked to the DCF as a trusted space for global policy dialogue on international development cooperation. Institutions in developing countries should be set up or re-engineered to channel South-South cooperation more effectively; while still preserving the strategic focus of this cooperation on promoting autonomy, resilience and structural change. Information and knowledge sharing amongst all actors in developing countries, including development cooperation institutions and civil society organizations, should be strengthened. More regional clusters of South-South development cooperation should be created in key areas, such as financing, statistics and monitoring and evaluation.

The 2016 DCF also called on the UN to strengthen its efforts to support Southern partners to enhance the evidence base on achieving sustainable development results. The DCF Symposium in Argentina this year will serve explicitly to advance evidence, in terms of distinctive approaches, and ways to boost the contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation to the SDGs – feeding into preparations for BAPA +40 and the 2018 DCF.

DCF findings also point to great potential for leveraging partnerships and the diversity of development cooperation actors in support of science, technology and innovation to push forward the 2030 and Addis Agendas, as well as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Fourth, there is an unprecedented need to improve multi-layered monitoring and review for effective development cooperation that brings results for sustainable development.

In the large monitoring exercise by the Inter-Agency Task Force, we see a wide range of data, information and policy analysis. These need to be better integrated. On the development cooperation front, the DCF has identified tremendous capacity gaps and new opportunities in strengthening the qualitative dimension of multi-layered monitoring and accountability systems.

The latest DCF Global Accountability Survey shows considerable nationally-driven effort towards policy coherence and results-orientation, including through use of National Development Cooperation Policies and Country Results Frameworks to monitor and review development cooperation. Yet, institutions and capacities – including those of parliamentarians, local governments and civil society organizations, which hold governments accountable at national level – need strengthening.



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Regional monitoring mechanisms, like the UN Monitoring Mechanism to review commitments made toward Africa's development, should play a strengthened role in inter-connecting work on accountability at national and global levels, to facilitate peer-learning and provide supplementary data.

A global standard for monitoring the national budgetary process, including its auditing component, could support individual countries to better link resources with results and integrate overall financial management, including development cooperation.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In tumultuous times, we need more than ever shared spaces for exchanging knowledge and building trust, for dialogue that is reality based and results focused, directing our greatest efforts to engaging and supporting the poorest and most vulnerable among us.

This is what we have in the DCF. This is why we are so committed to preserving the distinctive identity of the DCF, as part of the high-level segment of ECOSOC and the global follow-up and review of the 2030 and Addis Agendas.

I encourage all of you to engage in the ongoing work of the DCF, with the two preparatory symposiums, in September this year and April next year, the studies and survey exercise on progress in mutual accountability and effective development cooperation, and the sixth biennial meeting, which will take place here in July 2018, immediately before the ministerial level meeting of the High Level Political Forum.



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