

High-Level Event of the General Assembly
“Contributions of North-South, South-South, Triangular Cooperation, and ICT for
Development to the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda”

21-22 of May, 2014

Background

The post-2015 development agenda, unified in focus and universal in form, will require more effective, strengthened and improved modes of development cooperation to support its implementation. Scientific and technological cooperation will be fundamental for increasing innovation, strengthening environmental protection and driving social and economic development worldwide.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have a specific potential to be a game changer for all countries' efforts to achieve sustainable development. There is increasing evidence that widespread access, transfer of, building capacity to utilize at the national level, and use of ICT can help eradicate poverty, accelerate the achievement of several of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), such as those aimed towards achieving gender equality, ensuring environmental sustainability and combating diseases.

Development cooperation beyond 2015 will have to increase and continue to support developing countries, with a special emphasis in poor and vulnerable communities facing sustainable development challenges, while mobilizing additional resources to address global challenges, such as climate change and managing global commons.

For such reasons, the Outcome Document of the Special Event to Follow-Up Efforts to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals held on September 25th of 2013 underscored the central role of a renewed global partnership for sustainable development and the need to honor previous developmental commitments. This was further reinforced and elaborated in the resolution A/RES/68/204 adopted on December 2013, entitled Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development.

South-South Cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to North-South Cooperation, which will remain the primary form of cooperation between countries of the North and South. The principles of South-South Cooperation have been defined in the Nairobi Outcome document of the UN High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation and further elaborated through relevant General Assembly resolutions. South-South and triangular cooperation vary greatly in approaches and modalities, yet their importance have increased manifold since the year 2000 and are set to be beyond 2015 an important auxiliary tool for catalyzing implementation efforts amongst developing countries.

Objective

The high-level event will focus on mobilizing political commitment for the means of implementation of the post 2015 Development Agenda.

The event will promote the scaling-up of the impact of all forms of cooperation in the post 2015 Development Agenda and promote the urgent implementation of commitments under the global partnership for development. The event will be guided by the notion that, as a complement to traditional forms of cooperation, South-South and triangular cooperation can also contribute towards the post-2015 development agenda.

The event will also contribute to identify how Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can be best used to bridge technology divides amongst countries, bearing in mind also the necessity of involving women, girls and young people and other affected groups in decisions relating to technology development and deployment.

The event will be guided by the following preliminary questions:

1. What mechanisms are available to further strengthen the traditional forms of cooperation, in particular North-South Cooperation, in the post-2015 development agenda?
2. What incentives can be created to reinforce widespread triangular cooperation activities in the context of the post-2015 development agenda?
3. Which positive examples of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation in the implementation of the MDGs can be highlighted and increased in light of the post 2015 development agenda?
4. How can Information and Communication Technologies help countries be integrated as technological enablers for the achievement of future sustainable development goals?
5. How can the UN System contribute to increase the relevance and effectiveness of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation in the context of the Post 2015 development agenda?

Format and outcome

The high-level event on the Contributions of North-South, South-South, Triangular Cooperation, and ICT for Development to the Post-2015 Development Agenda will take place in May 21-22, 2014 and will consist of one plenary and two interactive multi stakeholder panel discussions.

The High-Level Event will benefit from synergies with the eighteenth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation which has been scheduled to take place from 19 to 22 May 2014 as set out in general Assembly resolution 67/227.

To avoid any duplication and promote coherence and synergies the preparations of the event will take into consideration the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. The event will take into account the discussions under the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and other relevant fora.

A President's summary will be issued at its conclusion and will subsequently be made available to the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing for their consideration, as applicable.

Participants

Member States are invited to participate at the ministerial level and to express to the President of the General Assembly their interest in co-chairing an interactive panel discussion.

Representatives of United Nations agencies and of civil society, major groups and other relevant stakeholders will also be invited to attend.

Invitations to this high-level event, as well as the program and the details on the issues to be addressed during the plenary and the round tables will be sent at a later stage.

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THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

April 25, 2014

Excellency,

Further to my letter of 14 January, 2014 regarding the High-level Events and Thematic Debates for the resumed part of this 68th Session, I take this opportunity to kindly remind that the High-Level Event of the General Assembly on the "Contributions of North-South, South-South, Triangular Cooperation, and ICT for Development to the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda" will be held on 21 and 22 May, 2014 in the Economic and Social Council Chamber.

The event will include a full one-day plenary session on 21 May, commencing with an opening segment from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., followed by a general debate from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. It will also include two interactive multi-stakeholder panel discussions on 22 May, from 10:00 to 1:00 p.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00. The closing session will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

I have the pleasure to inform that the Background Note for the High-level Event on the "Contributions of North-South, South-South, Triangular Cooperation, and ICT for Development to the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda" is now available on my website at <http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/68/events/>

A Programme providing additional details on the High-level Event will be made available to Member States in due course.

Information on the inscription of Member States to the list of speakers for the general debate on 21 May will be announced in the Journal of the United Nations in due course.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John W. Ashe". The signature is fluid and cursive.

John W. Ashe

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

**Background Note
General Assembly High-level Event on the**

**“Contributions of North-South, South-South, Triangular Cooperation, and ICT for
Development to the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda”**

21 and 22 of May, 2014, ECOSOC Chamber

The Post-2015 Development Agenda is envisaged as the most far-reaching and comprehensive development-related endeavour ever undertaken by the United Nations in its entire history. It will require contributions and commitment from a range of actors, both government and non-governmental, all of the United Nations system, including the International Financial Institutions, as well as other international and regional organizations. Enhanced coordination and cooperation among these various actors need to be further advanced to strengthen the synergies between global policies and national realities.

New levels of support, collaboration and partnership will be needed from all stakeholders. Technology and knowledge transfer, financing and innovative means of implementation will be critical parts of the new development agenda, which will require active and constructive collaboration among all actors, based on mutual trust and respect. Its successful implementation will need global cooperation in the form of multi-stakeholder partnerships among governments, the private sector and civil society.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to North-South Cooperation, which will remain the primary form of cooperation between countries of the North and South. The principles of South-South Cooperation have been defined in the Nairobi Outcome document of the UN High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation and further elaborated through relevant General Assembly resolutions. South-South and Triangular Cooperation vary greatly in approaches and modalities, yet their importance have increased manifold since the year 2000 and, beyond 2015, are expected to be an important auxiliary tool for catalysing implementation efforts amongst developing countries.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and broadband play a key role in giving people voice and access to information, knowledge, education, access to basic public services and supporting the development of new skills and employment opportunities. Indeed, today, ICTs are promoting the achievement of all three pillars of sustainable development: social development; economic development; and environmental protection. ICTs are critical enablers for development and play a vital role in empowering people and helping them make more informed decisions, thereby enabling all three pillars of sustainable development. Since 2000, there has been a massive expansion in access to ICTs. However, Internet connections and access to broadband networks continue to show a pervasive digital divide between urban and rural areas within each country and across communities and social groups, as well as between developed and developing countries. As the impact of ICTs grows, persistent disparities in access to and use of ICTs may create an additional exclusion barrier among individuals and groups who do not have

access to ICTs, instead of empowering them.

In the Rio+20 outcome document “The Future We Want”, Member States recognized the need to make progress in implementing previous commitments to accelerate progress in closing development gaps between developed and developing countries, and to seize and create opportunities to achieve sustainable development through economic growth and diversification, social development and environmental protection. To this end, they underscored the continued need for an enabling environment at the national and international levels, as well as continued and strengthened international cooperation, particularly in the areas of finance, debt, trade and technology transfer, as mutually agreed, and innovation and entrepreneurship, capacity building, transparency and accountability. Member States also recognized the diversification of actors and stakeholders engaged in the pursuit of sustainable development.

The Outcome Document of the Special Event to Follow-Up Efforts to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals (held on 25 September 2013 at the UN Headquarters in New York) underscored the central role of a renewed global partnership for sustainable development and the need to honour previous developmental commitments. Development cooperation beyond 2015 will have to increase and continue to support developing countries, with a special emphasis in poor and vulnerable communities facing the greatest sustainable development challenges.

Panel discussion 1: How can all forms of cooperation, namely North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation, be strengthened to promote economic growth, employment and decent work for all?

In the Rio+20 outcome document “The Future We Want”, Member States recognized that poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and social integration and protection are interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and that enabling environments to promote these needs to be created at all levels. Cooperation and international solidarity can play a catalytic role in promoting economic growth, employment and decent work for all.

Poverty eradication in all its multi-dimensional forms remains the overriding priority and a necessary condition for sustainable development. Poverty eradication requires integrating the three core dimensions of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental - to achieve people-centred development. This coherent approach must draw on the lessons learned from the implementation of the MDGs and the continued impacts of the global crisis, inequality, and environmental degradation, to ensure that social and economic development follow a sustainable trajectory.

Discussions should focus on identifying ways to implement policies that eradicate absolute poverty; reduce relative poverty; provide social protection and social protection floors as relevant to reduce vulnerabilities of the poor; provide access to property and productive assets; address inequalities at both national and international levels; pursue

sustained and inclusive economic growth; develop and use evidence-based, high quality, timely, disaggregated data and impartial, internationally established methods for evaluating progress; and on identifying ways to ensure the appropriate and necessary means of implementation.

Achieving sustained and inclusive economic growth for sustainable development remains the surest means of eradicating poverty and attaining shared prosperity. Inclusive, job-rich growth is a prerequisite for reducing poverty. Given the jobless recovery underway, inclusive growth and employment need to be at the centre of the new development framework. At the same time, growth should be pursued in ways that brings beneficial environmental and social impacts. Discussions should focus on identifying ways to implement policies that enhance macroeconomic policy coordination; foster conducive regulatory and fiscal systems to promote sustainable development; encourage structural transformation towards higher productivity sectors and activities; substantially improve energy and resource productivity of economic activities; promote entrepreneurship, small and medium scale enterprises, and innovation; create productive, well-paid jobs; promote investments in infrastructure such as roads, railways, ports, electricity, and communications; strengthen productive capacities in all countries with a particular focus on LDCs, including through technological upgrading and value addition; promote an open, rules-based, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system; promote trade facilitation and preferential market access for LDCs; ensure debt sustainability; and that facilitate international technology cooperation and technology transfer, especially with respect to environmentally sound technologies.

Sustainable development should provide employment and decent jobs for all those seeking work. High unemployment and rising inequality continue to remain among key challenges for many countries in eradicating poverty. Employment and decent work are the key routes out of poverty as well as an important concern for sustainable development. Unemployment is expected to remain at elevated levels for many years. The creation of decent work will thus continue to be a major challenge for almost all countries well beyond 2015. Discussions should focus on identifying ways to implement policies that promote full employment through macroeconomic policy; address youth unemployment through strategies aimed at providing young people with access to decent and productive work; facilitate the participation of women in the labour force; provide social security and protection, including for those retired from the labour force, persons with disabilities, the unemployed, children and youth, and older persons; eliminate gender-based and other forms of labour market discrimination including against persons with disabilities and older persons; encourage transition from informal sector to formal sector employment; promote non-farm employment opportunities in rural areas; ensure decent wages aligned with productivity; support small- and medium-sized enterprises; increase access to credit to the youth, women and other vulnerable groups; promote appropriate job-rich technology applications; promote job-rich sustainable tourism; train and re-skill displaced workers; and that protect the rights of migrant workers and displaced persons in compliance with the norms and standards of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Issues for consideration/Guiding questions:

- Given that the overarching objective of the post-2015 development agenda is the eradication of poverty, how should the various forms of international cooperation be strengthened to contribute to the achievement of sustained and inclusive economic growth?
- How can cooperation be tailored in such a way that its best utilized to help countries develop inclusive and robust economies and societies that provide employment and decent jobs for all?
- Can domestic resource mobilization, increased and smarter aid, domestic private finance and external private finance be part of the foundations of a renewed global partnership for development?
- How can sustained and inclusive national and international economic growth support improved domestic resource mobilization and management?
- How can the means of implementation of the post 2015 development agenda be strengthened by further progress on development-supportive trade reforms within an open, rules-based multilateral trading system?
- How can the post-2015 development agenda give special attention to the needs of countries in special situations, African countries, LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS? What are the opportunities and challenges facing middle income countries? What changes are needed in the various components of the UN development system to better support national development efforts?
- How can South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation play a complementary role in a global partnership for development beyond 2015, including in the areas of economic development, industrialization, infrastructure development and food security?

Panel discussion 2: How can all forms of cooperation, namely North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation, as well as ICT for development, be utilized to achieve effective means of implementation for the post-2015 development agenda?

In the Rio+20 outcome document “The Future We Want”, Member States reaffirmed that the means of implementation identified in Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development are indispensable for achieving full and effective translation of sustainable development commitments into tangible sustainable development outcomes. They reiterated that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies, domestic

resources and development strategies cannot be overemphasized. Member States also reaffirmed that developing countries need additional resources for sustainable development. They recognized the need for significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and effective use of financing, in order to promote sustainable development. Member States also recognized that improved participation of civil society depends upon, inter alia, strengthening access to information, building civil society capacity as well as an enabling environment, and that information and communication technology (ICT) is facilitating the flow of information between governments and the public. In this regard, it is essential to work toward improved access to ICT, especially broadband network and services, and bridge the digital divide, recognizing the contribution of international cooperation in this regard.

The means of implementation are an integral component in achieving sustainable development, including trade, financing for sustainable development, capacity building, and development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies. In this regard, global partnership for development has been emphasized as key to unlocking the full potential of sustainable development initiatives. While developing countries still require external support for their domestic sustainable development programmes, their own domestic actions are equally crucial. Special consideration should be given to the needs of countries in special situations, African countries, LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS as well as specific challenges facing the middle-income countries. International development cooperation through a strengthened global partnership for sustainable development is critical.

Countries will need to make every effort to mobilize domestic resources, yet at the same time, there is a vital role, and need, for donor countries to meet their Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments, including through the provision of reliable and timely financial resources. While the fulfilment of all ODA commitments remains critical, it is clear that the financing needs will far outpace public sector resources in many countries. The good news is that estimated financing needs represent only a relatively small portion of global savings. The broader challenge, though, lies in promoting a financial system that can stimulate the reallocation of a small percentage of global savings toward sustainable development.

New and innovative sources of financing will be needed to supplement traditional ODA, and South-South and Triangular Cooperation must be further enhanced as a complement to North-South Cooperation, in order to provide greater opportunities for sustained economic growth. In this sense, the expansion of South-South cooperation is a welcome development. It should not be seen, however, as a substitute for traditional aid flows, but rather as complementary financing and technical resources for development, including because South-South cooperation follows a different rationale, with an emphasis on national ownership, non-conditionality and demand-driven assistance.

Information and communication technologies have the potential to provide new solutions to development challenges, particularly in the context of globalization, and can foster sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development,

competitiveness, access to information and knowledge, poverty eradication and social inclusion that will help expedite the integration of all countries, especially developing countries (in particular the least developed ones), into the global economy. Broadband access networks are rapidly increasing, especially in developed countries. ICTs are a major driver of economic growth, as well as improved productivity, reduced transaction costs and job creation

There are concerns, however, about the growing digital divide in the availability, affordability, quality of access and use of broadband between high-income countries and other regions, with the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries lagging far behind the rest of the world. The existence of a gender divide as part of the digital divide is also worrisome. While over three quarters of people in the developed world now have access to the internet, more than two thirds of people in the developing world still do not. Globally, 90% of the 1.1 billion households not connected to the Internet are in the developing world. In the developed world, fixed and mobile broadband penetration rates at the beginning of 2014 stood at 27.2% and 74.8% respectively. In the developing world, they stood at 6.1% and 19.8%. These are powerful numbers, but they also demonstrate the extraordinary opportunities that lie ahead.

Governments have a key role to play in the effective use of ICTs in their design of public policies and in the provision of public services responsive to national needs and priorities, including on the basis of a multi-stakeholder approach, to support national development efforts. The important role played by private sector, civil society and technical communities in information and communication technologies are also of the utmost importance. In this sense, in addition to financing by the public sector, financing of information and communication technologies infrastructure by the private sector has come to play a crucial role in all countries.

Discussions should focus on identifying ways to implement policies that promote further progress on development-supportive trade reforms within an open, rules-based multilateral trading system; ensure recommitment by developed countries to meet ODA targets on an agreed timetable; enhance accountability in development cooperation based on agreed principles; mobilize additional financial resources from multiple sources such as remittances, foreign direct investment, institutional and other long-term investors and innovative financing; reduce the transaction costs of remittances; enhancing scientific and technological cooperation involving developing countries and technology transfer to developing countries; strengthen capacity building efforts for developing countries and knowledge sharing and technical cooperation among all countries through North-South, South-South and Triangular cooperation; strengthen capacities for tax-collection, reducing tax evasion; strengthen systems of domestic savings; reduce illicit financial flows; improve efficiency of public spending, reduce corruption and the waste of financial resources; improve access to ICT, especially to broadband network and services; and that contribute to bridge the digital divide.

Issues for consideration/Guiding questions:

- How can the various forms of international cooperation enhance the means of implementation, including trade, financing for sustainable development, capacity building, and development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies?
- What mechanisms are available both nationally and internationally to help increase and improve the effectiveness of official development assistance and its impact in lifting people from extreme poverty, improve health-care, education and food security?
- How can the achievement of existing goals and targets on ICT for development, such as the international commitment to significantly increase access to telecommunication services and strive to provide 100 per cent access to the Internet by 2020 to Least Developed Countries contribute to the post-2015 development agenda?
- How can the post 2015 development agenda integrate the notion of resilience and which specific instruments and forms of cooperation, including through the implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction, can help safeguard hard-earned development gains?

DRAFT PROGRAMME

High-level Event on the

“Contributions of North-South, South-South, Triangular Cooperation, and ICT for Development to the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda”

21-22 of May, 2014, Trusteeship Council Chamber

21 May, 2014

Time	Morning
10:00 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.	Opening Session Remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Mr. John W. Ashe, President of the General Assembly• H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations• Ms. Abha Joshi-Ghani, Director, Knowledge Exchange & Learning, World Bank Institute• Ms. Silvia Ribeiro, Latin America Director, ETC Group (Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration)
10:40 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.	Keynote address by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Ms. Helen Clark, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and Chair of the United Nations Development Group
10:50 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	General Debate
Afternoon	
3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	General Debate

DRAFT PROGRAMME

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“Contributions of North-South, South-South, Triangular Cooperation, and ICT for Development to the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda”

21-22 of May, 2014, Trusteeship Council Chamber

22 May, 2014

Time	Morning
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	<p data-bbox="537 684 781 716">Panel Discussion: 1</p> <p data-bbox="537 747 1386 848">Topic: How can all forms of cooperation, namely North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation, be strengthened to promote economic growth, employment and decent work for all?</p> <p data-bbox="537 884 1386 947">Chair and Moderator: H.E. Ms. Jane Stewart, Special Representative and Director, ILO Office to the United Nations</p> <p data-bbox="639 982 769 1014">Panellists:</p> <ul data-bbox="639 1020 1386 1188" style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC);• Mr. Akihiko Tanaka, President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); <p data-bbox="639 1224 797 1255">Discussants:</p> <ul data-bbox="639 1262 1386 1430" style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Dionísio Simões Pereira, Chairman, REPAOC - Network of West African NGO Platforms• Mr. Eduardo Bohórquez, Executive Director, Transparencia Mexicana• Ms. Thais Corral, Director, Human Development Network

DRAFT PROGRAMME

High-level Event on the

“Contributions of North-South, South-South, Triangular Cooperation, and ICT for Development to the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda”

21-22 of May, 2014, Trusteeship Council Chamber

22 May, 2014

	Afternoon
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	<p>Panel Discussion: 2</p> <p>Topic: How can all forms of cooperation, namely North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation, as well as ICT for development, be utilized to achieve effective means of implementation for the post-2015 development agenda?</p> <p>Chair and Moderator: Dr. Leonel Fernández, former President of the Dominican Republic</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Hamadoun Touré, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)• H.E. Ms. Suvi Lindén, former Minister of Communications of Finland and Member of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development• Mr. David Steven, Senior Fellow and Associate Director at the Center on International Cooperation of the New York University (CIC-NYU) <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Anita Gurumurthy, Executive Director, IT for Change• Ms. Corinne Woods, Director, United Nations Millennium Campaign• Mr. Matthew Boms, Communications Manager, Communitas: Coalition for Sustainable Cities & Regions in the new UN Development Agenda

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**“Contributions of North-South, South-South, Triangular Cooperation, and ICT for
Development to the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda”**

21-22 of May, 2014, Trusteeship Council Chamber

22 May, 2014

5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Closing Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summaries by the Chairs of the panel discussions• A Vice-President of the General Assembly on behalf of H.E. Mr. John W. Ashe, President of the General Assembly
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**Summary of the key messages of the
High-Level Event of the General Assembly on the Contributions of North-South, South-South, Triangular Cooperation, and ICT for Development to the implementation of the
Post-2015 Development Agenda**

21 – 22 May 2014

United Nations Headquarters, New York

The following is a summary of the key messages that emerged from the General Assembly High-Level Event on “the Contributions of North-South, South-South, Triangular Cooperation, and ICT for Development to the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda”:

Plenary session (Wednesday, 21 May)

1. The eradication of poverty remains the topmost priority and the overarching development goal.
2. The United Nations should aim to achieve greater coordination between its subsidiary bodies, agencies and programs and national governments to avoid duplication and facilitate the share of experiences.
3. The post-2015 development agenda can be strengthened through North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation and ICTs for development.
4. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), once established, should be linked to a strong global partnership for development with clear means of implementation. Adequate financial resources, technology development and transfer and capacity building will be of the essence.
5. Several Member States stressed the need for creative partnerships to meet the many cross-cutting issues and challenges. They also highlighted the need for an accountability framework to track progress in achieving the SDGs.
6. North-South cooperation remains critical to both accelerating progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and implementing the SDGs, when they are adopted.

7. The rise of the global South offers new opportunities for new forms of development cooperation. Developing countries can gain additional access to finance, technology and markets. Investments in infrastructure can help diversify economies and advance industrialization of developing countries. South-South cooperation initiatives can increase productivity, mitigate the impacts of natural disasters, combat climate change, and fight hunger and malnutrition.

8. The United Nations should continue to support South-South Cooperation by strengthening, deepening, and broadening it. It is very important to enhance the UN Office for South-South Cooperation. In this regard, a number of Member States commented on the work undertaken by the Office and asked to strengthen its work and funding.

9. A number of Member States stressed that South-South Cooperation is based on the principles of voluntary partnership, respect for national policies (national ownership), mutual respect, non-conditionality, solidarity and knowledge sharing. South-South and Triangular cooperation are not a substitute but a complement of North-South cooperation. The obligations and conditions are different and must be differentiated. The role of new contributors to development aid needs to be carefully assessed. Irrespective of their development status, all countries have something to offer; South-South and Triangular Cooperation promote home-grown solutions and horizontal learning.

10. It is essential that Official Development Assistance (ODA) continue to flow to the countries that are in most need of it, and that it is used effectively. The issue of basing ODA on GDP was also raised. Existing commitments need to be honored. Developed countries need to fulfill their ODA commitments of 0.7% of GDP. Support from traditional donors remains crucial and cannot be replaced. Several Member States called for the post-2015 development agenda to look into the needs of countries that have graduated from the least developed country status but still need ODA.

11. Triangular cooperation has enabled developing countries to take advantage of lessons learned from countries in similar situations. It can solve challenges but also help developing countries accumulate their own experiences and build their capacities as development partners. It could continue to combine forms of North-South cooperation financing and principles of South-South cooperation.

12. The need to develop country-led systems to monitor and evaluate South-South Cooperation at the national level was stressed.

13. Several Member States highlighted that the financial crisis impacted developed and developing countries alike. Thus, official North-South financial flows will not suffice and need to be supplemented by South-South and triangular cooperation and solidarity.

14. ICTs can help achieve all three dimensions of sustainable development. ICTs are crucial to reduce inequities and eradicate poverty. ICTs present opportunities for peer-to-peer learning and knowledge sharing, especially in the global South, and they can also help countries leap-frog and bridge the gap between the North and the South.

15. ICTs are enablers of development and have the potential to create new and decent forms of employment; improve financial and social inclusion, infrastructure, new sources of data, transportation systems; foster and monitor progress on energy; banking, education, health; encourage engagement in democratic processes; reduce disaster risks; and enhance gender equality. ICTs drive innovation, production and marketing. ICTs are sources of employment in both developing and developed countries. It has improved the inclusion and empowerment of women and marginalized populations.

16. However, disparities in access to ICTs within and between countries and regions remain wide. It is therefore essential to ensure universal access to information and communications technologies (e.g., build regional infrastructure to broaden affordable access), harmonize policies, and create enabling policy environments to bridge the digital divide.

17. A number of Member States underscored that there is a strong need for a regulatory framework to ensure protection of data and privacy and that ICTs are not used to limit access to information and/or undermine democratic principles.

18. The need for a coalition of governments and private sector to ensure ICT connectivity internationally was suggested by several Member States.

19. A number of Member States stressed that the establishment of a Technology Facilitation Mechanism would accelerate ICTs development in the South.

20. It is a misconception to assert that the private sector is the only actor that has led technology innovation. Governments and the public sector researches have also contributed to this endeavor.

21. Public Private Partnerships must be promoted and strengthened. The new development agenda will require the mobilization and effective use of public and private resources to maximize the impact of development work. Engaging the private sector as partners has the potential to improve efficiency and effectiveness of development efforts. Several Member States underscored, nonetheless, that private development partners cannot replace developed countries in the development cooperation for the provision of financial, human and technical resources.

22. Trade openness by developed countries as a function of the Doha Round agreements is one of the most important development tools.

23. Some representatives called for environmentally-friendly technology transfer and an increase in R&D investment as a percentage of GDP. They also emphasized the need for disaster risk reduction and the improvement of early warning systems.

24. Several delegations reminded that the issue of international cooperation for development is being currently discussed in the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development (OWG) and in the Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. The results of these processes need to converge into the SDGs. Global goals on means of implementation must be clearly defined and quantifiable.

Panel discussion 1: How can all forms of cooperation, namely North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation, be strengthened to promote economic growth, employment and decent work for all? (Thursday, 22 May 2014)

25. The post-2015 development agenda should address the challenge of creating sustainable and equitable employment through targeted evidence-based policies and institutions that promote sustainable economic growth.

26. Key elements to be factored in the post-2015 development agenda: tackling the unfinished business of the MDGs; realizing sustained economic growth as the driver of poverty reduction and job creation; ensuring that growth is inclusive, equitable, resilient, and environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.

27. The post-2015 development agenda should be based on national ownership, supported by adequate capacity, comprehensive and equal partnerships, as well as dialogue between countries and civil society, including the private sector.

28. A number of Member States advocated that the post-2015 development agenda provides an opportunity to rethink the definition of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, and to address the level of asymmetry in terms of capacity, technology transfer, intellectual property regulatory frameworks and financial flows.

29. As the new agenda is being decided, Member States should do a costing exercise to identify the cost of implementation, how it will be funded, and what the role of the various actors will be (governments, civil society, corporations) in the development spectrum in order to achieve sustainable development all over the world. It will be necessary to rethink the international architecture of financing and engage in an enhanced dialogue with governments, international financial institutions (IFIs), banks, and corporations.

30. A new economy of care and responsibility is needed to find ways to strengthen all types of cooperation. Women's empowerment and their important contribution to development should be recognized and strengthened.

31. Knowledge sharing and mutual learning is critical in tackling the development challenges beyond 2015. South-South Cooperation can facilitate these objectives. A few representatives affirmed that South-to-North cooperation exists as well, since good ideas and know-how exist in developing countries as well. The existing bottlenecks impeding their dissemination should be removed.

32. There are two characteristics, among others, of South-South cooperation: a) it often focuses on geographic proximity, and b) sometimes cooperation cannot be monetized and easily monitored as it is in kind (oil, food etc.).

33. The post-2015 era requires strengthened development cooperation based on shared responsibility, accountability, and transparency as well as targeted on measurable results. This can be achieved through the provision of transparent, accessible and timely information and data as well as multi-stakeholder participation. A new framework based on those principles will build trust and ensure that resources will indeed reach their actual targets.

34. Inequality is a major problem and obstacle to development. Equality is a critical driver of growth and way to pull people out poverty.

35. There are emerging middle-income countries that still face serious structural problems such as poverty. They should not be penalized for transitioning but should continue receiving aid and concessionary loans.

36. It is vital to address the issue of the role of extracting industries, and the problem of rent-seeking societies. The role of private corporations operating in the developing world should be redefined; agreements and mechanisms should be established and created for better and equal redistribution of gains (financial and knowledge).

37. ODA has a critical role and should continue flowing. However, it is imperative to encourage FDIs, tackle illicit financial flows and reduce the costs of remittances.

38. The success of the post-2015 development agenda can be partly achieved by properly matching and using effectively regional and national resources for projects supporting the most vulnerable and needed areas or people.

39. The new framework must include representatives of civil society organizations. Governments should create mechanisms for effective participation and engagement of civil society at all levels of the decision-making process.

40. The United Nations should facilitate the sharing of resources between regional and national actors during the development process and the engagement of different stakeholders in society (public, private, civil society).

41. The strengthening of aid and partnerships should not only be perceived as an increase of material and financial resources given to developing countries, but also as a vision to assist them in building their economies and improve living conditions that will benefit all countries.

42. Universal use of affordable ICTs can be one way to: a) accelerate the process of capacity building in the areas of education, health, and governance. This can be achieved, for instance, through media and information literacy programs in knowledge institutions such as libraries which in turn will help to reduce the digital gap; b) support and develop further weak economies; c) support vulnerable social groups; and d) promote entrepreneurship.

Panel discussion 2: How can all forms of cooperation, namely North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation, as well as ICT for development, be utilized to achieve effective means of implementation for the post-2015 development agenda? (Thursday, 22 May 2014)

43. ICTs are essential features of modern life, to get and create jobs, as well as to provide good governance and public services. They are essential to social inclusion, health, education, women's empowerment and poverty eradication. Internet access is recognized as basic infrastructure today. ICTs will be key enablers across all of the focus areas of the SDGs once they are established.

44. The promotion of ICTs needs to play a larger role in the post-2015 development agenda than it did in the MDGs era.

45. Governments need to make internet access affordable for all. This requires public-private cooperation and a stable regulatory and policy framework. The private sector needs an enabling environment to invest in the expansion of information and telecommunication infrastructures. Technology goes hand in hand with development and requires cooperating with private partners in order to improve ICT access.

46. Capacity building and training are crucial for the expansion of broadband networks, including fostering an understanding of information security.

47. Closing the digital divide requires not only investment in technology but also investments in human and social resources.

48. The digital divide, among other negatives consequences, disadvantages education in less privileged settings. Low-income children lag far behind in digital literacy. The quality of education needs to be improved rather than only providing access to education.

49. There is a striking absence of policy and legal framework to protect civil rights online and regulate the use of data ownership and control.

50. The use of big data for development needs to consider that real-time data underrepresents marginalized groups and women.

51. There is tremendous potential for using ICTs for sustainable development, as could be seen with the My World Survey. However, in many countries online surveys are not cost-effective and we need to hear the voices of those who do not have access to ICTs. There is also a gender imbalance in responses to online surveys, like the My World Survey, with 75% of responses coming from men.

52. Knowledge sharing will be key to the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. The international copyright framework is not fit to this challenge.

53. In the age of digital media, access to information has become unaffordable in many parts of the world.

54. We have to update the international legal framework for public and private libraries and archives in order to enable research in all countries.

55. Development concepts and policies need to be conceived internally in the host country in order to be effective. National ownership is of the essence here.

56. Ending extreme poverty everywhere can only be accomplished through effective development cooperation and targeted action.

57. Strives towards the new SDGs should follow the principles of effective development cooperation, such as national ownership, alignment, harmonization, concrete results and mutual accountability.

58. An effective accountability framework will necessary to track progress towards the implementation of the SDGs yet to be established.

59. There is a need for a multidimensional perspective on development financing. All forms of cooperation, namely North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation, as well as ICT for development need to be brought together into a new and enhanced system of global partnership.

60. Participatory approach, national ownership, non-conditionality and flexibility are strengths of South-South Cooperation initiatives that will continue to contribute to more effective development cooperation.

61. All partners in Triangular Cooperation need to recognize and respect the experiences and realities of each other and strive to treat each other as equals in order to achieve effective and respectful development cooperation.

