



**Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) Special Event at the
United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)**

**“The Future We Want: The Role of
Development Cooperation in Getting Us There”**

21 June 2012, 15:00-16:30, T9, Riocentro Convention Center, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Background

The United Nations biennial Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) was created by World Leaders in response to profound changes in the development cooperation landscape and the increasing diversity of stakeholders. It reviews trends in international development cooperation and promotes greater coherence among the activities of different actors.

On 5 and 6 July 2012, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will convene the third high-level DCF (2012 DCF) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The forum will discuss aid allocation, mutual accountability, South-South cooperation, the impact of aid, and the future of development cooperation post-2015.

One key focus area for the 2012 DCF will be the impact of sustainability on development cooperation. There is now broad recognition that development cooperation can play a catalytic role in assisting developing countries to integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic growth, social equity and environmental sustainability – into their national development strategies.

It is also clear that the transition towards sustainable development requires a major rethink of the way development cooperation is pursued. The implications of this rethink have not yet been fully grasped – let alone translated into systematic policies, actions and institutional structures.

The DCF Side-Event at Rio+20

Under the theme “*The Future We Want: The Role of Development Cooperation in Getting Us There*,” the DCF side event presents an opportunity to discuss how development cooperation can best support the transition towards sustainable development from a country-level perspective.

The side event builds on key policy messages identified at the High-Level Symposium on “*Shaping a Sustainable Future – Partners in Development Cooperation*,” which was held on 14 and 15 May 2012 in Brisbane, Australia.

The objective of the event is to examine the implications of Rio+20 for the future of development cooperation. It will identify lessons learned and best practices where countries at different stages of development have integrated sustainable development principles and policies into decision-making principles, processes and institutional mechanisms related to development cooperation.

Key questions

- How can development cooperation support countries at different stages of development in implementing policies built on the three pillars of sustainable development?
- How can donor countries better gear their development cooperation towards the promotion of sustainable development?
- How can South-South cooperation and the support from non-executive actors, such as civil society, the private sector and foundations, serve as a catalyst to put development on a more sustainable footing?
- What are the implications for the future of development cooperation of putting sustainable development at the centre of a post 2015 UN Development Agenda?

The outcome of the side event will be reflected in a summary. Discussions will further inform a session on implementing the Rio+20 outcomes at the 2012 DCF on 6 July in New York.

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