



DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FORUM

DCF Preparatory Meeting

“The Changing Context of Development: What does it mean for Cooperation and Global Partnership ”

9 February 2012, UN Headquarters, New York

Background

The 2005 World Summit mandated the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to convene a biennial high-level Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) to review trends and progress in development cooperation; promote greater coherence among the development activities of different development partners; and strengthen the normative and operational link in the work of the United Nations.

The 9 February meeting was one of a series of multistakeholder meetings held in the run up to the 5-6 July 2012 DCF. Other preparatory meetings have included a High-level Symposium on *“Gearing development cooperation towards the Millennium Development Goals: effectiveness and results”*, in May 2011 in Mali and a High Level Symposium on *“Working together to increase the development impact of aid”* in Luxembourg in October 2011. The DCF Advisory Group also held High Level Special Events at the margins of the Fourth High Level Conference on Least Developed countries and the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. Forthcoming events include a meeting on development cooperation by foundations on 27 February and a High-level symposium on development cooperation for sustainable development in Australia on 14 and 15 May.

The DCF preparatory meeting

The purpose of the meeting was to help DCF stakeholders to get ready for the next DCF, which will be held on 5-6 July 2012 at UN Headquarters in New York.

The morning panel focused on *“New dynamics of development cooperation: challenges and opportunities”*. It highlighted critical development cooperation trends which the DCF will need to address in July. It was stressed that traditional aid remains important, but at the same time, other actors with innovative approaches to development cooperation are playing an ever growing

role. This challenges developing countries’ capacity to coordinate external assistance with the multitude of actors. It also makes it necessary yet difficult to take an integrated approach to the various flows of external resources. It was noted that the DCF can play an important role in bringing new actors together.

The panel also discussed the invitation of the Busan High Level Forum to the DCF to consult on the implementation of the Busan outcomes. Some countries called for a stronger cooperation between the DCF and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. Others cautioned that the Busan agreements were not UN documents and hence called for a UN process to discuss these documents.

The afternoon panel, which USG Sha Zukang moderated, focused on *“Gearing development cooperation towards sustainable development”*. It reflected on how the two strands of discussion on development cooperation and on sustainable development can be brought together. It was felt that the DCF can play an important role in doing so. It was also mentioned that the DCF could become a key platform for stronger accountability.

An important message was that Rio+20 is about equity. Some of the panelists called for a stronger focus on the social pillar in the Rio+20 outcome document. With inequalities on the rise they felt that there is an opening for a more ambitious agenda which has the “fair sharing within the planetary limits” at its heart.

It was proposed that the discussions at the 9 February meeting be continued in the context of the Rio+20 preparatory process. A GA Special Session could also be held to create momentum behind a more ambitious vision for Rio+20. Australia announced that it will host a third DCF Symposium on the nexus between development cooperation and sustainable development on 14-15 May 2012.

For more information, please contact:

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