

DCF 2014
Priorities for 2014 – 2016
Room statement by DCF CSO reference group

The UN Development Cooperation Forum offers CSOs and other non-executive stakeholders **a space for a truly multistakeholder dialogue** with Governments and multilateral organizations, which is essential for a successful post-2015 agenda. The international community has come to the point of acknowledging that **development is a multistakeholder process: there should be no going back** from this reality and the UN system cannot diminish its efforts to bring all the actors in at all levels.

The discussions of the past two days have exposed **the challenges that the international community is now facing** in the search of development frameworks that can respond to a global scenario that is quickly changing on several interlinked levels, from technology to economic relationships. Even if some of these challenges have been with us for some time, **new aspects are constantly emerging**, which require more than ever nuanced responses. In this context, the **DCF offers a unique forum to address new trends in development cooperation**, which should be appropriately valued and maintained in the next two-year cycle, specifically as regards **mutual accountability, development effectiveness, South-South Cooperation, transparency, better resource usage and allocations and policy coherence**.

As it has been noted, **the development financing landscape is highly fragmented**, which creates more of difficult challenges in terms of accountability. The DCF has developed a globally recognised role in pushing forward the mutual accountability agenda by assessing progress through regular surveys and by identifying the key features of workable mechanism. In the next two-year cycle, **DCF should prioritise mutual accountability of all development actors** (traditional and new; public and private) so as **to build on progress so far as well as to offer a critical input in the post-2015 discussion**.

DCF should further explore the **interlinkages between different levels of accountability** (global, regional, national and domestic) as well as **accountability to the communities and right holders**, including gender equality and women's rights commitments. **A global accountability framework should build upon existing mechanisms, in particular those related to a human rights framework**, in the understanding that the ultimate goal of development cooperation is the non-regression and progressive realization of all human rights for all.

DCF's work on accountability could usefully be used **to call on all development actors to implement the highest transparency standards** available, also by taking advantage of new technologies, which allow for timely, comparable and comprehensive information published in open data formats. There must be the acknowledgement of the **opportunities available now to generate data through people's active participation**, including women's rights organizations and activists, which may facilitate **a people-centred development agenda** where efforts and resources are directed to needs emerging directly from the right holders.

We welcome **DCF's initiative to provide a platform for the discussion of the role of South-South cooperation**. We have learned during this session about the progress of several initiatives such as the Global report on South-South Cooperation and the work of the south-south core group. **We would like to encourage DCF to keep supporting the development of a consistent SSC framework**, by taking into account issues of accountability and effectiveness. SSC providers cannot only be accountable to their partners but more importantly to citizens, which underscore the critical need for transparency, monitoring and evaluation systems as well as effective rights-based results. Transparency efforts in this area should focus on publishing information about the scope, conditions, results and impacts of SSC cooperation in all modalities in order to better engage with their partners and civil society.

DCF's efforts in the area of accountability and transparency can also be instrumental in **shedding light on some other critical areas** including the following.

DCF should encourage the broad community of development financing providers to **speedily implement existing quantitative commitments** given the unique role of ODA. The UN system should **uphold the need for donors to report on their actual net resource transfers**, in light of previous UN deliberations, as a matter of accountability to both right holders and tax payers, whose primary interest is the tangible resources that are directed to Partners countries and communities therein.

Better and more effective targeting of ODA and development cooperation efforts to the people and the sectors most in need, which is highly necessary given the complexity of the current development landscape. ODA should be **targeted more effectively where poverty exists**, for maximum impact in projects which will not otherwise be funded. In both contexts, ODA must be recognised for its unique role as a resource flow which is non-profit seeking, counter-cyclical, and has the objective of promoting economic development and welfare of developing countries.

The DCF should continue to call for better understanding of the appropriate role of ODA in the resource mix and encourage member states to invest in more comprehensive, timely, up to date data on poverty and wellbeing at the sub-national level. **The DCF must also encourage donors and partner countries to focus on the importance of participation** and feedback from the people and communities who are affected by development cooperation.

Framing of the catalytic role of development cooperation which is required to make sure that the fundamental principles of focus on results and accountability are fully implemented. **Making sure there is policy coherence** between development cooperation efforts and other macroeconomic policies, especially those related to trade, fiscal and monetary policies that are hampering social, economic, gender and environmental justice.

As the development agenda requires multiple responses at different levels, the **DCF is best placed to take action** to make sure that: **the international community gathers around effectiveness principles, such as those outlined in the development effectiveness agreements including Paris and Busan**, with country leadership and people's ownership at the centre; the role of the private sector in development is clearly anchored around the implementation of effectiveness and human rights principles. The DCF can also provide inclusive and legitimate views on the appropriate levels of aid targets that recognise and balance the different needs and challenges of all development stakeholders and countries.

As we acknowledge that the efforts needed to turn this promise true as well as to match the aspiration of all development actors for a participatory development process, **we would like to call on the UN Member States to extend their full support to DCF for the next two-year cycle**, also by providing the necessary material support for the action plan to be implement. The organizations gathered in the DCF CSO reference group remain committed to play their part for a successful new cycle by taking advantage of any opportunity for participation that DCF will offer.

DCF CSO reference group

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