



Preparing for the 2016 Development Cooperation Forum

**Rethinking development cooperation for the SDGs:
country-level perspectives and lessons**

**6-8 April 2016
Brussels, Belgium**

Symposium Programme

A key question following the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development is how development cooperation actors will gear their operations towards the Sustainable Development Goals and realize the commitments made in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) on financing for sustainable development. The range of actors is diverse, including governments from the South and North as well as non-state actors. Their efforts will also be strongly context-specific.

The DCF Belgium High-level Symposium will have to demonstrate how development cooperation actors embrace the new reality of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the AAAA, acting through strategic alignment and targeted day-to-day operations. The Symposium will focus on two specific themes:

THEME 1: Making development cooperation a better fit for implementing the 2030 Agenda in LDCs and vulnerable contexts

LDCs and countries exposed to vulnerabilities (economic, social, environmental, institutional) that hinder their development lack in particular capacities for implementing the 2030 Agenda, which demands policy integration across the dimensions of sustainable development and beyond. How can ODA and other types of innovative and traditional financial development cooperation support these countries in their SDG implementation efforts, including domestic resource mobilization? How should global vulnerabilities, such as climate change, be addressed in light of the 2030 Agenda, through development cooperation?

THEME 2: Adapting development cooperation institutions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

The operational business models of development cooperation institutions and agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations, are challenged by the 2030 Agenda. How will relevant government entities in all countries work together, aiming to integrate policy making and promoting policy coherence? How will public entities engage with other actors, such as the private sector and civil society, in partnerships that add value? How can cross-cutting issues be mainstreamed into the work of different organizations in an effective way? How to sustain knowledge sharing and mutual learning?

The Symposium will produce concrete policy guidance on development cooperation in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by introducing and discussing country experiences on each of the topics to promote mutual learning and knowledge sharing. The deliberations will feed the preparations for the 2016 high-level meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum and other functions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, which has a major role in the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda and AAAA at global level.

WEDNESDAY, 6 APRIL

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

8 BIS

REGISTRATION IS ALSO OPEN ON TUESDAY, 5 APRIL AND THURSDAY, 7 APRIL FROM 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM AND ON FRIDAY, 8 APRIL FROM 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM IN 8 BIS

MASTER OF CEREMONY (FOR 6 APRIL):

Mr. James Mackie, Senior Adviser, European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM)

10:30 AM-12:30 PM ARENBERG ROOM WORKSHOP I – THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF DIGITAL FOR LDC'S IN THE 2030 AGENDA- HOW CAN LDCs HARNESS THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF THE DIGITAL AGE?

Digital transformation has proven to be a powerful driver of economic growth, social change and human rights. Some of these transformative trends are already shaping lives in developing countries. Development cooperation initiatives have taken stock of the effectiveness and efficiency gains that can be made through the use of new technologies. But are we doing more of the same with new tools or are we really harnessing the transformative power of the digital age for international development?

Panelists

- **Moderator: H.E. Mr. Alexander De Croo**, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Development Cooperation, Digital Agenda, Telecom and Post, Belgium
 - **Ms. Elaine Weidman-Grunewald**, Vice President of Sustainability and Corporate Responsibility, Ericsson
 - **Mr. Ben Ramalingam**, Leader, Digital & Technology Cluster, Institute of Development Studies
 - **Ms. Ornella Nsoki**, NGO Nzolani
 - **Mr. Eddy Hartog**, Head of Unit International, DG CONNECT, European Commission
 - **Mr. Ronny Depoortere**, Senior Vice President, Zetes
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12:30 – 2:00 PM**LUNCH**TAPESTRY AND
MIRROR ROOM**2:00 – 3:00 PM****SPECIAL BRIEFING – THE ECOSOC DIALOGUE ON THE LONGER-TERM POSITIONING OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM**

ARENBERG ROOM

The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and the evolving development cooperation have profound implications for the UN development system, the top recipient of multilateral aid. The UN development system needs to make itself a better fit for supporting countries in achieving the SDGs. This would involve a critical review and adaptation of its strategic orientation and operations against the 2030 Agenda, taking into consideration the emerging role and approach of development cooperation in different contexts.

In response to this changing development landscape, and in the context of the 2030 Agenda, the Economic and Social Council, decided to convene a transparent and inclusive dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system. The Dialogue aims to bring forward concrete ideas and options to strengthen the UN development system in response to the requirements of the 2030 Agenda. The briefing will provide an overview and opportunity for discussion on the ECOSOC Dialogue.

- **Moderator Mr. Navid Hanif**, Director, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations
- **Opening by H.E. Mr. Oh Joon**, President of the Economic and Social Council, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, New York
- **Discussant: Mr. Michael O’Neill**, Assistant Secretary-General & Assistant Administrator, Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy, UNDP

3:00 – 3:15 PM**COFFEE BREAK**

TAPESTRY ROOM

3:15 – 5:15 PM**WORKSHOP II – CAPACITY BUILDING EXPERIENCES IN LDCs – BUILDING ON EXISTING MECHANISMS AND HARNESSING INNOVATIVE IDEAS**

ARENBERG ROOM

The workshop will share knowledge acquired through the implementation of capacity building projects in LDCs, focusing on the LDC portal, a web-based platform that catalogues information on LDC international support measures and on the ePing notification system. EPing aims to enhance the communication among stakeholders in LDCs on changes of technical barriers to trade (TBT) and SPS (sanitary and phytosanitary) regulations which are notified to the WTO. The workshop will provide an overview of approaches taken in building up multi-stakeholder partnerships for project implementation; present project outcomes and review lessons learned in delivering concrete results; and generate recommendations for the future operational models for development cooperation in LDCs.

- **Moderator: Mr. James Mackie, Senior Adviser**, European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM)
- **Presenter: Ms. Ana Luiza Cortez**, Chief, Secretariat of UN Committee for Development Policy, Development Policy and Analysis Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations

Panelists

- **Mr. George Opiyo**, Secretary National TBT/SPS Committee Uganda National Bureau of Standards, Uganda
- **Mr. Abdoulie Jammeh**, Director of Trade Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment, Banjul, The Gambia
- **Mr. Navaraj Dhakal**, Under Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Supplies, Nepal

PREPARING FOR THE SYMPOSIUM: CONSULTATIONS IN STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

5:15 – 6:30 PM

LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

ARENBERG AND
ORANGE ROOMS

**JOINT MEETING BETWEEN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS,
PARLIAMENTARIANS AND LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS**

6:30 – 8:30 PM
MIRROR ROOM

DINNER

THURSDAY, 7 APRIL

SYMPOSIUM

CO-CHAIRS: **H. E. Mr. Alexander De Croo**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Development Cooperation, Digital Agenda, Post and Telecom, Belgium

Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations (UNDESA)

MODERATORS: **Ms. Conny Czymoch**, Moderator

Ms. Eliza Anyangwe, Freelance writer and moderator

FORMAL OPENING SESSION

9:00 – 9:45 AM **OFFICIAL OPENING**

ARENBERG ROOM **Her Majesty the Queen of the Belgians**

H. E. Mr. Alexander De Croo, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Development Cooperation, Digital Agenda, Post and Telecom, Belgium

H.E. Mr. Oh Joon, President of the Economic and Social Council, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, New York

Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations (UNDESA)

SETTING THE SCENE FOR DISCUSSION

9:45 – 11:15 AM **THE KEY ROLE OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN MAKING THE**
ARENBERG ROOM **WORLD A SAFER PLACE**

Although the world has progressed significantly since the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals, many regions remain unstable and there are numerous global level concerns to be tackled, within and beyond the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. What is the key role of development cooperation in making the world a safer place to live?

How can we challenge old ideas on what development cooperation should do, now that we have a universal agenda for sustainable development and we are faced with even more inter-linkages between conflict prevention, peace, humanitarian action, migration, development and environmental concerns?

After the keynote address all participants will engage in an interactive discussion on their personal expectations for the Symposium as well as to exchange thoughts on how development cooperation can be an integrating force to respond to the current challenges faced in the world today, followed by reporting back and wrap-up.

- **Keynote address: Ms. Romilly Greenhill**, Team Leader Development Finance, Overseas Development Institute (ODI)
- **Comment: Mr. Luca Maestripieri**, Deputy Director General for Development Cooperation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy
- **Comment: Mr. Modibo Makalou**, Special Adviser, Office of the President, Mali
- **Interactive discussion**

11:15 – 11:30 AM COFFEE

TAPESTRY ROOM

THEME I: MAKING DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION A BETTER FIT FOR IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA IN LDCs AND OTHER VULNERABLE CONTEXTS

SESSION I

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM BUILDING CAPACITIES FOR INTEGRATED AND COHERENT APPROACHES TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN LDCs AND OTHER VULNERABLE CONTEXTS

ARENBERG ROOM

LDCs and countries exposed to vulnerabilities (economic, social, environmental, institutional) that hinder their development lack, in particular, the means and capacities for implementing the 2030 Agenda, which demands policy integration across the dimensions of sustainable development and beyond.

From the perspective of LDCs and others in vulnerable contexts, does the 2030 Agenda demand significantly different development cooperation, in terms of its role, priority, form, approach and monitoring? Is development cooperation fit-for-purpose to face these challenges? What would be the most fundamental change expected? How can development cooperation advance context-specific solutions? How can development cooperation support LDCs and others to reach the most marginalized, isolated and vulnerable groups within countries, based on dis-aggregated data?

- **Mr. Erik Solheim**, Chair, Development Assistance Committee, OECD

- **Mr. Stephen Omollo**, Director of Partnerships and Resource Development Department, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- **Interactive discussion**

1:00 – 2:30 PM

LUNCH

TAPESTRY AND
MIRROR ROOM

SESSION II

2:30 – 4:00 PM

**DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FOR DOMESTIC RESOURCE
MOBILISATION IN LDCs**

ARENBERG ROOM

The 2030 Agenda and Addis Ababa Action Agenda recognize that domestic resources need to be the spine of country financing strategies for achieving the SDGs. However, many countries, particularly LDCs and other countries in vulnerable contexts, have limited domestic resources to invest. The role of development cooperation in helping to strengthen domestic resource mobilization (DRM) is attracting increasing attention, including with the launch of the Addis Tax Initiative, in which participating countries committed to double technical cooperation for tax capacity by 2020. This session will focus on the role of development cooperation in supporting LDCs and other countries in vulnerable contexts to implement progressive, pro-poor tax policies and to develop country-owned DRM strategies for achieving the SDGs.

What constraints to increasing DRM can external partners help countries overcome through development cooperation? What specific challenges will countries in vulnerable contexts, particularly in conflict or post-conflict situations, face in DRM for the SDGs? What examples are there of best practice in effective development cooperation partnerships, including South-South cooperation, for supporting DRM in these countries? How can strong and transparent mechanisms be built to effectively monitor development cooperation for DRM, including both spending and the results that development cooperation achieves for DRM in the SDG era?

- **Mr. Christiaan Rebergen**, Director General for International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands
- **H.E. Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri**, Ambassador of India to the European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg, India
- **Mr. Daniel Coppard**, Director of Research, Analysis and Evidence, Development Initiatives
- **Interactive discussion**

4:00 – 4:30 PM

COFFEE

TAPESTRY ROOM

SESSION III**4:30 – 6:00 PM**

ARENBERG ROOM

MAKING DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION A TRUE CATALYST TO ADDRESS GLOBAL VULNERABILITIES – A CLIMATE CHANGE CASE

The 2030 Agenda calls for taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts as well as other global vulnerabilities. No country in the world can avoid seeing first-hand the drastic effects of climate change. It is a global challenge that does not respect national borders and has far-reaching short-term and long-term impact. Strengthening the resilience of vulnerable regions, such as land-locked countries, least developed countries and small island developing states is needed, as well as efforts to raise awareness and integrate measures into national policies and strategies. Integrated responses also require increased cooperation in donor countries. Development cooperation plays a unique role in mitigation and adaptation. With the reaffirmation of financial and other commitments to addressing climate change at COP 21, the session aims to look at how development cooperation can best address the needs of the most vulnerable countries in their efforts to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

How to strike a balance between mitigation and adaptation given limited development cooperation as compared to the large-scale vulnerabilities caused by climate change? What are concrete development cooperation modalities and interventions to support favorable access to environmentally sound technologies by countries in special situations?

- **Mr. Uwe Gehlen**, Head of Department, Effectiveness and transparency, quality standards, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany
- **Mrs. Chitembo Kawimbe-Chunga**, Principal Planner, Ministry of Development Planning, Zambia
- **Mr. Isaac Anthony**, CEO, Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF)
- **Ms. Veerle Vandeweerd**, Entrepreneur, former Director, Environment and Energy, UNDP
- **Interactive discussion**

6:30 – 8:30 PM**CULTURAL EVENT/DINNER**MIRROR ROOM AND
MARBLE GALLERY**FRIDAY, 8 APRIL**

THEME II: ADAPTING DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION INSTITUTIONS TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA

SESSION IV

9:30 – 11:00 AM

ARENBERG ROOM

PROVIDING MULTI-SECTORAL, INTEGRATED AND COHERENT POLICY RESPONSES – PART I

New types of cooperation are needed within governments and between various partners to successfully implement the SDGs. The session aims to generate advice on how development cooperation can support integrated policy making, policy coherence for sustainable development and whole-of-government approaches towards SDGs achievement. The discussion will also look at possible challenges arising from partnering with stakeholders working in areas not directly related to development cooperation, as well as how to integrate cross-cutting issues into the operations of development organizations. One key point of view will be how to promote and sustain knowledge sharing and mutual learning in light of implementing the 2030 Agenda. This session will be informed by specific country experiences.

What institutional changes are needed at the local and national level to promote policy coherence and coordinated implementation of the SDGs? What have been the lessons learned? How can development cooperation support the establishment and effective operation of the mechanisms for integrated policy-making in developing countries?

- **Ms. Ana Ciuti**, General Director of International Cooperation, General Directorate of International Cooperation, Ministry of External Relations and Worship, Argentina
- **Ms. Nadereh Lee**, U.S. Representative to the OECD-DAC, USA
- **Hon. Idrissa Sankare**, Member of Parliament, Mali
- **Mr. Joakim Reiter**, Deputy-Secretary-General, UNCTAD
- **Mr. Michael O'Neill**, Assistant Secretary-General & Assistant Administrator, Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy, UNDP
- **Interactive discussion**

11:00 – 11:30 AM

COFFEE

TAPESTRY ROOM

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

ARENBERG ROOM

PROVIDING MULTI-SECTORAL, INTEGRATED AND COHERENT POLICY RESPONSES – PART II

The second part of the session will tackle questions such as: How do we promote coherent policies at local and national level and how do we make sure that we develop truly whole-of-government approaches to development? How can development cooperation balance genuine bottom-up processes and more traditional top-down approaches? What capacities do development cooperation institutions need to acquire and how to gain and retain the capacity through knowledge sharing and mutual learning?

- **Mr. Noel González Segura**, Acting Director General for Policy and Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico
- **Ms. Nomveliso Nyukwana**, Mayor of Emalahleni, South Africa, UCLG Champion

- **Mr. Tony Tujan Jr.**, International Director, IBON International
- **Mr. Martin Rivero Illa**, Coordinator of the Social Cohesion and South-South Cooperation Area, Ibero-American General-Secretariat (SEGIB)
- **Interactive discussion**

1:00 – 2:30 PM

LUNCH

TAPESTRY AND
MIRROR ROOM

SESSION V

2:30 – 3:30 PM

WRAPPING UP: KEY MESSAGES AND WAY FORWARD

ARENBERG ROOM

- **Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya**, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative, UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries (OHRLLS)
- **Ms. Leena Al Olaimy**, Managing Director, 3BL Associates
- **Interactive discussion**

CLOSING SESSION

3:30– 4:00 PM

H.E. Mr. Oh Joon, President of the Economic and Social Council, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, New York

ARENBERG ROOM

Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations (UNDESA)

Mr. Peter Moors, Chief of Cabinet Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Belgium

5:00 – 7:00 PM

DINNER

TAPESTRY AND
MIRROR ROOM