



## Preparing for the 2016 Development Cooperation Forum DCF UGANDA HIGH-LEVEL SYMPOSIUM

### *Development cooperation for a new era: making the renewed global partnership for sustainable development a reality*

4-6 November 2015, Kampala, Uganda  
OFFICIAL SUMMARY

The Government of Uganda and UNDESA co-organized the DCF Uganda High-level Symposium in Kampala on 4-6 November 2015, in preparation for the 2016 high-level meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum. The Symposium provided a first opportunity to discuss how development cooperation can support implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda since their adoption.

The Symposium echoed the collective commitment among all stakeholders to implement the 2030 Agenda. It made a strong call to make best use of the early implementation phase, by adapting existing policies, tools and platforms to ensure cross-sectoral linkages for delivery on the new Agenda at all levels. Participants expressed a sense of urgency to sustain momentum, eagerness to learn, keenness to share and readiness to act. The Symposium showed that, for effective efforts to reach the SDGs, open exchanges about development cooperation will have to remain at the center of a revitalized global partnership for sustainable development.

The Symposium brought together over 150 participants, including senior government officials and representatives of parliament, civil society, private sector, academia and international organizations. H.E. Mr. [Matia Kasaija](#), Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Uganda and Mr. [Wu Hongbo](#), Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, UNDESA co-chaired the Symposium. The Prime Minister of Uganda, H.E. Mr. Ruhakana Rugunda opened the Symposium on behalf of H.E. Mr. [Yoweri Kaguta Museveni](#), President of the Republic of Uganda.

Informed by [6 policy briefs](#) prepared by UNDESA, the host country and independent experts, the Symposium discussions yielded the following findings and recommendations:

**The 2030 Agenda is our achievement and now our challenge.** It is built on a bold vision shaped by all actors and provides an unprecedented opportunity to eradicate poverty and shape a sustainable future together. Building on their respective strengths, stakeholders must energize each other and change their own mind-sets, opening up to innovation and partnerships that add value. Full implementation of the Agenda, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, requires leadership and political will of all nations, localization of SDGs in national plans, adaptation of national policies and institutions, policy shift and coordination by relevant global institutions and incentives for all partners to assume their share of global responsibility. Momentum to implement the Agenda should not wane with changes of government.

**Development cooperation is the “glue” of the 2030 Agenda.** As a driving force of efforts to leave no one behind, development cooperation is a critical means of implementation and can help tap the potential of all partners. Results-based development cooperation, in all its forms, should support integrated approaches to sustainable development in all policy areas. Development partners, including new actors, should be encouraged to gear their assistance towards supporting national efforts to achieve the SDGs. Mutual learning among these actors can help them further develop their own development cooperation policies and institutions.

**Development cooperation entails a web of activities, all key to supporting implementation.** Implementing the 2030 Agenda requires financial resources, capacity building, technology development and transfer, policy advice, and multi-stakeholder partnerships. These are all part of the vital web of activities considered development cooperation under the 2030 Agenda, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

**Development cooperation authorities and institutions in particular need to acquire new capacities and skill-sets.** They must be able to assess the opportunities and challenges in engaging non-state actors, tap into their strengths and develop new modalities, e.g. public-private partnerships which may maximize the sustainable development impact of the limited resources from the official sector through leveraging when appropriate.

**There are no one-size-fits-all solutions.** All countries have to be creative in finding solutions tailored to national contexts and priorities, and stakeholders will need to learn from each other. This requires trust and leadership. Mapping the new Agenda against existing plans and strategies can help set the course.

**Implementation is already under way.** Many countries have already begun implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in pursuit of unfinished MDG business and sustainable development strategies. In this regard, developing countries may have a head start in the implementation of the Agenda and can offer best practices.

**The 2030 Agenda has to be localized to maximize impact.** The goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda should be incorporated in national and local development strategies and policy frameworks, whenever possible. Engagement of local actors – mayors, civil society, parliamentarians in their districts – throughout the policy cycle can ground implementation in realities of people. In this way, globally shared aspirations can guide well informed policy and budget decisions as well as international development cooperation.

**Development cooperation actors need to understand the regional context and priorities in order to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.** Development cooperation must be able to support the promotion of synergies and building complementarities between global and regional agendas, including between the 2030 Agenda and the AU Agenda 2063, to ensure a mutually reinforcing implementation. Supporting regional sectoral frameworks, such as the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), as well as regional review and monitoring mechanisms such as the Africa Peer Review Mechanism, can also contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

**Monitoring and review of the 2030 Agenda should encourage a culture of citizen leadership.** The new Agenda calls for a transformative shift from input-based to results-based monitoring and review. Governments, development partners, civil society and citizens have a collective responsibility for monitoring and review of progress towards the SDGs and of the effectiveness and impact of development cooperation on sustainable development. In this context, local authorities and citizens will serve as knowledge brokers with best understanding of local needs. The systems for monitoring and review of sustainable development efforts broadly and of development cooperation specifically must be meaningfully linked at local and national levels.

**Public awareness, change in mind-sets and buy-in to the agenda will drive policy change.** Outreach and advocacy are key to attract and inspire relevant actors and to inform evidence-based decisions for policy making.

**The 2030 Agenda requires better data and usable information.** There is a strong need to generate more and better quality data and to convert data into meaningful and useable information for implementation, reflection, review and decision making processes.

**Policy coherence becomes even more important for implementing the 2030 Agenda.** Integration and coherence across the range of policies that shape sustainable development are fundamental but challenging. National coordination mechanisms can help to break down existing silos. A whole-of-government approach, championed by the highest authority and engaging all stakeholders, can ensure coherence between sectors and consistency with SDGs. Development cooperation partners need to take a holistic approach to their partnerships, pursuing policies in different sectors that are complementary rather than contradictory.

**The 2030 Agenda requires changes in global institutions.** Effective implementation will require global institutions, old and new, to align their priorities, corporate strategies, operational approaches, funding and capacity with the SDGs and 2030 Agenda, as called for in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. In some cases, fundamental institutional reforms are needed. These reforms should not only optimize organizational efficiency, but also make them fit for implementation of the 2030 Agenda. With proliferation of global development actors, better coordination among global institutions becomes critical as well.

**Strengthening trust among partners will require delivery on existing commitments.** Meeting the goals of 0.7% of GNI to ODA and the \$100 billion to combat climate change by 2020 must be fully realized. In addition, significant international support in critical areas such as curbing illicit financial flows is needed to support domestic resource mobilization. International public finance should prioritize those most in need and least able to balance trade-offs in the global economy. Improving transparency and communication of results can help tax payers to better relate development cooperation to their own values, concerns and interest. Efforts to modernize ODA and to develop the new statistical measure of official support for sustainable development should be open, inclusive and transparent and can bring important incentives to mobilize financing for sustainable development.

**Key principles of effective development cooperation remain valid for the 2030 Agenda.** National ownership and leadership, an enabling environment, alignment, results, putting in place appropriate incentive structures to make progress will, among others, remain guideposts for making development cooperation interventions effective. Aid effectiveness principles should be built upon in pursuit of concrete and sustainable development results, including through synergies and mutual reinforcement across sectors.

**Fostering capacity building and knowledge sharing will drive implementation,** supporting countries in their efforts to manage the breadth and complexity of the new Agenda and achieve long-term sustainability. All strands of development cooperation can inject value by supporting catalytic exchanges of knowledge and drive technology transfer, capacity and innovation, including also through South-South interventions.

**Technology and capacity building are key enablers of the 2030 Agenda.** The ambition of the SDGs calls for a change in the way technology and capacity building support sustainable development. Effective support to technology development, deployment and diffusion will require better understanding of technology cycles, capacity gaps, the roles of different actors, and obstacles to producing sustainable technologies for addressing developmental challenges.

**Innovation requires careful support, without being prescriptive.** Developing and scaling up technology is key for development, yet also brings with it risks and uncertainties. Successful technology facilitation depends on systematic collaboration throughout a non-linear, iterative process. Different types of financial support, capacity and policy support can promote partnerships, knowledge sharing and global attention to technology and long-term capacity for science, technology and innovation.

**Development cooperation in support of technology facilitation and capacity building must be innovative and driven by agreed principles.** Assistance must respond to capacity needs and local realities, be country-owned and driven, coordinated among all stakeholders, coherent and systematic.

The efficient allocation of resources, in areas of high priority set by partner countries, can ascertain the benefits of development cooperation, in particular by focusing on enabling LDCs to partake in the technology creation process, lowering costs of technology and developing solutions for underprivileged populations.

**The Technology Facilitation Mechanism is an important platform for knowledge sharing and mutual learning.** The mechanism can help promote access to financing and leverage partnerships towards technology development, deployment and transfer, in line with national priorities and the 2030 Agenda. South-South knowledge and technology exchange is a powerful catalyst to this end. The DCF can further support dedicated informal knowledge exchange on how development cooperation can support science, technology and innovation (STI) and conduct dedicated research, e.g. on the cost effectiveness of South-South cooperation for STI.

**Serious capacity building requires greater investment in education and national human development.** Training and investment in science and skills, thereby empowering human resources, can promote in-country long-term capacity building. Development cooperation can help to create universities, nurture scientific networks and introduce high-school curricula with emphasis on STI and ICT for development, for example.

**Developing and fully using tools to monitor and review development cooperation requires more resources at country level.** Existing development cooperation policies, results frameworks and related tools are proven drivers and building blocks for domestic and mutual accountability and self-determined, impactful development cooperation. National governments should lead in designing them, with full engagement of parliament and civil society. Where these tools already exist, they must be simplified and adapted to the new Agenda. Given the breadth and complexity of the Agenda and of development cooperation, resources must be stepped up for robust national-level monitoring and review of development cooperation, supported by effective global follow-up and review.

**A better understanding of private sector engagement in development cooperation is needed to strengthen private sector contribution and accountability in the longer run.** While private sector actors show a growing willingness to look beyond profit, most of the private sector is profit-oriented. FFD-3 has opened a window of opportunity to develop better tools to incentivize private investment in global goals and blended development cooperation, as well as ways to measure its impact, including for investments that may undermine sustainable development. Using public resources to attract private investment towards sustainable development must be carefully considered to ensure that the public sector does not take on all the risk, while the private sector takes on the profit.

**The DCF will continue to generate ideas that inform global level follow-up and review of the new Agenda.** As the global policy space for knowledge sharing on development cooperation, in an informal and evidence-based setting, the DCF will generate messages and policy guidance on the above issues to be taken into account by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development. The DCF also informs the ECOSOC Dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the UN development system. Findings of the DCF Uganda High-level Symposium will help to shape a common understanding of how development cooperation can contribute to implementing the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

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Summaries of the pre-meeting workshops on **Country Results Frameworks** and **National Development Cooperation Policies** are available [here](#).

For questions, please contact the DCF Team at [dcf@un.org](mailto:dcf@un.org).

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