

**Draft Closing Statement by Mr. Naivd Hanif,
Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, UNDESA
2023 Development Cooperation Forum
New York, 15 March 2023, 5:30 pm, ECOSOC Chamber**

Madame President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests and Speakers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of addressing you at the close of the 2023 Development Cooperation Forum.

The emerging message of the 2023 DCF is clear: that is that all development cooperation actors can – and must – do more to meet the scale of today’s challenges while ensuring that their development cooperation sustains impact by building resilience of the most vulnerable.

The proposed recommendations based on your respective experiences in these four sessions are invaluable and will guide the thinking and outcomes at the SDG Summit and High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development in September.

Your examples and insights also serve as practical guideposts for how we can better protect the lives and livelihoods of the most vulnerable through strengthened development cooperation for climate adaptation, social protection and digital transformation.

ECOSOC’s DCF and its associated intergovernmental, analytical and capacity development workstreams supported by UNDESA are here to support all of these efforts. The DCF is your United Nations platform for identifying new challenges and opportunities in development cooperation. It can also help to strengthen its quantity, quality, impact and effectiveness.

In response to some of the emerging recommendations and needs identified over the past two days, allow me to offer a few thoughts for how this Forum can support you in the months ahead.

First, build on the Forum’s clear mandate to scout new trends and challenges in development cooperation and to forge more effective partnerships with each other. Ongoing DCF policy dialogue and peer learning throughout the year are key opportunities in this regard.

Second, contribute your own data, feedback and recommendations on development cooperation through UNDESA-led research and analysis on development cooperation, including the biennial DCF Survey exercise, to be launched later this year, as well as regional capacity

development workshops and other events. The DCF Survey provides important evidence on the state of play in development cooperation on the ground, going beyond traditional approaches of the development effectiveness agenda. One month ago, UN DESA has launched an innovative digital knowledge platform to facilitate ongoing peer-learning in development cooperation.

Third, channel your collective thinking and innovation on development cooperation in relation to current crises and toward long-term progress on relevant elements of Our Common Agenda, such as a renewed social contract, the delivery of global public goods, addressing future risks and intergenerational solidarity, among others.

Madame President,
Ladies and Gentlemen

As the DCF Secretariat, UNDESA is committed to working with all of you to unlock the enormous potential of more risk-informed development cooperation that addresses vulnerability in its multiple dimensions.

I strongly encourage participants to remain connected in the work ahead.

Thank you.