

Background on the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF)

Mandate

The UN General Assembly established the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) in resolution A/RES/60/1 on the outcome of the 2005 World Summit, requesting ECOSOC to “(b) Hold a biennial high-level Development Cooperation Forum to review trends in international development cooperation, including strategies, policies and financing, promote greater coherence among the development activities of different development partners and strengthen the links between the normative and operational work of the United Nations.”

Over the years, several resolutions have referred to the DCF further elaborating its mandate as follows:

2005: A/RES/60/1 World Summit Outcome	“Hold a biennial high-level Development Cooperation Forum to review trends in international development cooperation, including strategies, policies and financing, promote greater coherence among the development activities of different development partners and strengthen the links between the normative and operational work of the United Nations;”
2007: A/RES/61/16 Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council	<p>3. Further decides that the biennial high-level Development Cooperation Forum will be held within the framework of the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, while stressing the need to preserve the distinct identity of the Forum so as to facilitate high-level participation, with a view to enhancing the implementation of international development cooperation issues affecting the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to promote dialogue to find effective ways to support it;</p> <p>4. Decides that the biennial Development Cooperation Forum will be held in alternate years in the framework of the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council and that it should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Review trends and progress in international development cooperation and give policy guidance and recommendations to promote more effective international development cooperation; (b) Identify gaps and obstacles with a view to making recommendations on practical measures and policy options to enhance coherence and effectiveness and to promote development cooperation for the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals; (c) Provide a platform for Member States to exchange lessons learned and share experiences in formulating, supporting and implementing national development strategies;
2013: A/RES/68/1 Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council	The Development Cooperation Forum should continue to take into consideration the Istanbul Programme of Action when it reviews the trends in international development cooperation, as well as policy coherence for development.



2015: A/RES/69/313 Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development	<p>We welcome continued efforts to improve the quality, impact and effectiveness of development cooperation and other international efforts in public finance, including adherence to agreed development cooperation effectiveness principles. We will align activities with national priorities, including by reducing fragmentation, accelerating the untying of aid, particularly for least developed countries and countries most in need. We will promote country ownership and results orientation and strengthen country systems, use programme-based approaches where appropriate, strengthen partnerships for development, reduce transaction costs and increase transparency and mutual accountability. We will make development more effective and predictable by providing developing countries with regular and timely indicative information on planned support in the medium term. We will pursue these efforts in the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, and, in this regard, we also take account of efforts in other relevant forums, such as the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, in a complementary manner.</p>
2021: A/75/L.101 Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council	<p>The Development Cooperation Forum will continue to be convened every two years before the forum on financing for development follow-up, with the next forum to be convened in 2023.</p>
2022: A/RES/76/258 Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries	<p>The Development Cooperation Forum should continue to review trends in international development cooperation, as well as policy coherence for development, including for least developed countries and graduated countries.</p>

Modalities

The agenda and programme of work for the biennial high-level DCF meetings are set by the President of ECOSOC in consultation with the ECOSOC Bureau, which in turn consults Member States through their UN regional groupings. The outcome of the DCF meetings is a President's Summary, a mandated input to both the High-level Political Forum and the Financing for Development Forum.

Since 2009, the DCF biennial survey gathers data on country experiences, practices, and perceptions regarding the effectiveness of international development cooperation in supporting country efforts to achieve their national sustainable development priorities, supporting evidence-based policy discussions.