

Realigning international development cooperation with needs, priorities and vulnerabilities of developing countries”

2025 Development Cooperation Forum Survey Study **Launch Event**

Concept note and programme

Background

The Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) plays a critical role in assessing the quality, impact, and effectiveness of international development cooperation. It facilitates dialogue on adapting cooperation to an evolving global environment, shifting country priorities, and emerging vulnerabilities.

Since 2009, the biennial DCF Surveys have provided empirical evidence to advance mutual learning among Member States and stakeholders. These voluntary surveys help governments assess how effectively development cooperation supports their national sustainable development strategies while encouraging frank discussions among partners and other stakeholders.

The DCF survey studies examine five key enablers that have proven essential for effective development cooperation: national development cooperation policies, country results frameworks, development cooperation information systems, national development cooperation forums, and capacity support. These enablers, identified through early DCF surveys and discussions, serve as practical tools for improving coordination, monitoring, and mutual accountability.

The 2025 DCF survey study is the eighth in the series, taking place nearly a decade after the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, and Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The study aims to generate actionable insights to inform ongoing efforts to strengthen development cooperation and make it more effective in addressing current and future global challenges. The study will contribute to discussions at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development and beyond to ensure cooperation remains fit for purpose in addressing today’s challenges and advancing necessary reforms.

Key Questions of the 2025 DCF Survey Study

- To what extent has progress been made in enhancing the effectiveness and coherence of international development cooperation in supporting national sustainable development strategies?
- What key challenges and emerging issues at the global and country levels impact the quality, effectiveness, and impact of development cooperation?
- What practical steps can strengthen international development cooperation at the country and global levels?
- How can the five core enablers be strengthened or adapted to address today's complex challenges including climate change and digital transformation? What new enablers might be needed?

Who should join

We welcome government ministers and officials, development cooperation and agency leaders, civil society organizations, private sector and philanthropic representatives, local authorities, parliamentarians, and international organizations, multilateral development banks and national development finance institutions. This diversity of voices is essential for developing practical and innovative solutions.

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Wednesday, 2 July 2025 | 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.
Side Event Room 20, FIBES, Seville, Spain

Moderator: Mr. Paul Smoke, Professor of Public Finance and Planning at the NYU Wagner Graduate School of Public Service and Acting Director of the NYU Center on International Cooperation

Time	Agenda
2:30 – 2:40 p.m.	I. Welcome Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Bob Rae, President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
2:40 – 2:55 p.m.	II. Presentation of the Survey Study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
2:55 – 3:30 p.m.	III. Sharing of experiences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Kenyeh Laura Barlay, Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Sierra Leone Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam, Secretary (East), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh Mr. Sattambiralalage Don Jude Nilukshan, Director General of the Department of National Budget, Sri Lanka Mr. Edmond Jackson, Director General, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Ms. Soili Mäkeläinen-Buhanist, Ambassador for Financing for Sustainable Development, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland
3:30 – 3:50 p.m.	IV. Interactive discussions
3:50 – 4:00 p.m.	V. Concluding Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Caroline Lombardo, Chief of International Tax and Development Cooperation Branch, Financing for Sustainable Development Office, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs