

BACG meeting –Paris, October 2010
Background note on DCF
LDF, October 12

KEY REASONS FOR NGOS TO STAY ENGAGED WITH THE DCF

The Development Cooperation Forum, New York -29th and 30th, June 2010

The conclusions of the New York event highlight the potential of DCF to change the landscape of the governance in development cooperation. DCF can play an even greater role in the aid effectiveness agenda, especially in view on the Korea High level forum on AE, given its specific feature as a multi-stakeholder forum.

Here are some key messages from the President's Summary:

- Policy coherence. Emphasis is given to the role of policy coherence for development in the President's summary: "Policy coherence is important for development. It must be anchored around national development strategies of programme countries, which highlight their needs and priorities". At the same time, it is acknowledged that there is still a long way to go in order to implement the needed coordination between aid and non-aid policies to eradicate poverty. Also, importance is attached to migration and debt work out mechanisms. But it is a source of concern that there are references to a leverage role that ODA might play.
- Development Cooperation Effectiveness. There is a call for accelerate progress in the implementation of the Paris declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action, and the proposition that there is no "one size fits all" approach. The DCF plans to look into the concept of development effectiveness: "The DCF should aim to look into the broader concept of development effectiveness, taking into account the impact on development outcomes of aid and other development cooperation flows and policy coherence".
- Aid quantity. DCF calls on donor countries to abide by the commitments on ODA quantity targets endorsed over the past few years.
- Public funding for climate change needs to 100% additional to the ODA needed to reach the IADG.
- Emphasis given to the need to develop innovative sources of development financing, including the tax on financial flows and carbon tax.
- Promotion of South South cooperation.

The UN HLP on MDGs (Sept 2010) strengthen the DCF mandate.

The HLP conclusions acknowledge that key role DCF has been playing "64. We welcome the increasing efforts to improve the quality of official development assistance (ODA) and to increase its development impact, and recognize that the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, along with ..., make important contributions to the efforts of those countries...

Also, the HLP conclusions take a substantive stand on the role that DCF will have in the future:

- 65. We encourage continued efforts in the Development Cooperation Forum, as the focal point within the United Nations system, to carry out a holistic consideration of issues related to international development cooperation, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders.
- 80. We reaffirm the role that the Charter of the United Nations and the General Assembly have vested in the Economic and Social Council as a principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development and for the follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals, particularly through the annual ministerial review and the Development Cooperation Forum. We look forward to the upcoming review of the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council during the current session of the Assembly.

The most recent developments: DCF and PD coming together?

The DCF activities are back in full swing after the UN HLP on the MDGs: the survey on Mutual Accountability is under way; the full report on Development Cooperation should be soon available; ECOSOC will soon bring together the permanent representatives in a retreat where a number of issues will be discussed, including DCF's future plans till 2012.

On survey on Mutual Accountability, here are some updates:

- the questionnaire is currently under review. The second survey will put greater emphasis on the impact of the mechanisms on behavioural change and development results on the ground;
- the DCF's and Paris Declaration's surveys: three of the survey questions from the first DCF questionnaire have been taken up by the OECD-DAC's Paris Declaration Monitoring Survey to substitute / provide relevant answers for the Indicator 12 ("existence of a mutual assessment review"). The results of the 2011 DCF Survey will also feed into the section on Indicator 12 in the narrative report / country chapters of the PD Survey Monitoring Report;
- there will be more of joint activities between the PD survey and DCF. In the case of the PD Survey, regional workshops will take place to brief national coordinators - and a limited number of 2 BetterAid representatives per region - on the details of the PD Survey. Cluster D of the Working Party (coordinating the PD Survey), with support of UNDP, offered to also introduce the objectives/tasks involved in the 2011 DCF survey during these meetings;
- the DCF and the PD Monitoring Survey should take place during the same period of time, ie. first quarter 2011, to avoid overburdening of stakeholders on the ground. Relevant government units are requested to host meetings - with participation of CSOs and MPs - to fill out the DCF Survey;
- beyond the list of countries in the PD survey, a few countries involved in the first survey will also be included; it could be up to 90 countries.
- Critical challenges to the NGO communities for the next few weeks:
 - influence the content of the questionnaire
 - ensure full involvement of key stakeholder in survey countries
 - get from the DCF the list of countries in a timely manner
 - warn our colleagues in survey countries
 - timely compile a list of key reference NGO people in survey countries (is there already the list of BA representatives for the PD survey?).
 - ensure the real consultation takes place.

To sum up, there are several reasons for NGOs to stay engaged with the DCF, including:

- **DCF is echoing many of NGO communities' concerns and positions;**
- **the DCF will be the major entry point of the entire UN system in the development cooperation debate**
- **there are tangible developments signalling the DCF influence over other key processes, including the PD.**

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