

Draft action plan for DCF-GPEDC complementarity and synergies

An informal working group, comprised of members of the DCF Advisory Group and the GPEDC Steering Committee, was tasked to prepare this draft action plan for strengthening complementarity and synergies between the DCF and GPEDC processes based on their respective comparative advantages. This document covers the period from 1 December 2014 to 31 July 2016, for consideration and approval by the Chair of the DCF Advisory Group (AG) and the Co-Chairs of the GPEDC Steering Committee (SC).

The group suggests that the DCF has a particular role as global body for policy advice on global development cooperation trends. It can also feed GPEDC contributions into UN discussions and processes on the post-2015 development agenda, including on its financing and other means of implementation. The GPEDC has a particular role in operationalizing and advancing country-level implementation of effective development cooperation, and sharing policy lessons. It was also noted that the work of the DCF will be taken into consideration by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, per the HLPF mandate (A/RES/67/290).

Both processes bring together specific and mutually reinforcing expertise from multiple stakeholders. Emphasizing the complementarity of their efforts, and avoiding duplication, will be key to demonstrate a united effort of policy makers, practitioners and other development actors at global level to promote effectiveness of development cooperation post-2015 and the respective added value and concrete results of the DCF and the GPEDC.

With this vision and the distinct mandates and histories of both processes in mind, the group recommends closer collaboration among the stakeholders of the GPEDC and the DCF in specific areas of common interest with direct relevance to the post-2015 development agenda, and, with support by the two secretariats to feature and promote initiatives by all stakeholders related to this action plan.

The group also welcomes continued engagement and dialogue, and further encourages, existing efforts to collaborate and maximize synergies, in particular the continuation of joint meetings for members of the DCF Advisory Group and the GPEDC Steering Committee back-to-back with scheduled meetings of the fora (*see annex for draft schedule of events for the period covered by this action plan to identify opportunities for joint meetings*). These meetings also offer opportunities for taking stock of the implementation of the action plan.

The action plan covers the five action items agreed at the first exchange of members of the Advisory Group and the Steering Committee in Ethiopia (June 2013), and proposes actions on: collaboration on technical analysis; coordination and mutual engagement in events; and effective exchanges between the two Secretariats.

The action plan is devised to minimize implications on human and financial resources of the two processes by building on existing practices.

1. Sharing and strengthening complementarity of technical analysis

The group considers sharing of analysis key to mutually reinforce an informed policy debate that connects policy making with country-level implementation, and vice-versa, to ensure that discussions on development cooperation in either process are informed by the most relevant analysis available.

A number of upcoming meetings and events present opportunities to translate technical analysis and policy recommendations from both processes into meaningful and inter-governmentally agreed commitments and to spur meaningful action at global, regional, or country level on effective development cooperation. These include: the Third Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 13-16 July 2015); upcoming DCF High-level Symposiums, including the DCF Republic of Korea Symposium (Incheon, 8 -10 April 2015), and related regional and thematic workshops, planning and pre-meetings.

- (a) The group noted that inter-related areas of immediate relevance for the **design and implementation of the post-2015 development agenda** include:
- i. **Means of implementation** and the role of different types of financing for sustainable development.
 - ii. **Monitoring, review and accountability** of development cooperation commitments and results post-2015¹ and knowledge sharing and mutual learning at all levels, including the nexus of domestic and national mutual accountability and the collection of disaggregated information on development cooperation, to feed the broader debate on a renewed global partnership for development.
 - iii. **Effective partnerships** at country and local level among all governmental and other development actors, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, including issues of enabling environment.
 - iv. **Effectiveness of development cooperation**, including measuring and supporting progress on impact/results; upholding existing effectiveness commitments and the importance of shared effectiveness principles; and taking into account relevant recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing.
 - v. **Examining the role of the private sector** in development cooperation and the effective use of public funds to catalyze private financing for development.

The group recommends:

1. DCF and GPEDC stakeholders, in coordination with the DCF Advisory Group and the GPEDC Steering Committee, to share where needed relevant concepts, work plans, and results of analytical work undertaken by members on the above themes, in order to: ensure good sequencing; ease country-level burden of providing inputs; engage a wide set of stakeholders; and ensure ownership.

- (b) The group also suggests exploring synergies and strengthening complementarity of analysis conducted under the auspices of the two processes and other independent work in the following substantive areas:
- i. **Monitoring, review and accountability of development cooperation commitments and knowledge sharing and mutual learning in the post-2015 agenda**, including: enhancing complementarity between the DCF national mutual accountability survey and the Global Partnership monitoring efforts as well as to minimize reporting burden to developing

¹ This refers to accountability of development cooperation only, and not that of the post-2015 development agenda as a whole.

- countries; strengthening country results frameworks, participatory M&A and capacity for M&A and information gathering; and reviewing effectiveness of development cooperation.
- ii. How to design and implement an **enabling multi-stakeholder environment for development** to support inclusive and stakeholder-owned debate on effective development cooperation post-2015, bearing in mind challenges related to measuring and monitoring progress (Busan indicator #2²). Special emphasis can be placed on making national dialogue structures more inclusive and participatory; good practices of stakeholder engagement at all levels; and the roles of different types of actors in multi-stakeholder partnerships, e.g. private sector and civil society. The work of the Task Team on CSO development effectiveness and the voluntary initiative on a CSO enabling environment framework and guidelines could be major driving forces in this effort. AG and SC should also emphasize multi-stakeholder participation within the DCF and GPEDC.
 - iii. Challenges related to the coordination and management of a larger variety of development cooperation actors; the effective role of the **private sector, civil society, philanthropic foundations, and local and regional authorities** in development cooperation.
 - iv. **The conditions of LDCs and Fragile States where external assistance will remain key**, and efforts to harmonize and align activities to national plans and results frameworks.

The group recommends:

2. DCF and GPEDC secretariats to keep each other closely informed of preparations and execution of the DCF survey on national mutual accountability and the GPEDC monitoring process, including on details related to the rollouts.
3. Secretariats to encourage exchanges between members working on technical analysis to avoid duplication, strengthen synergies and share information on expected policy recommendations early on to inform DCF and GPEDC deliberations.
4. Relevant analysis to be featured on respective websites and in outreach and advocacy products, and other official documents where feasible.
5. GPEDC Building Blocks and Voluntary Initiatives can share relevant analysis with DCF to ensure complementarity.
6. Secretariats to consult Advisory Group and Steering Committee members for reviews of analytical work where feasible.
7. GPEDC inputs can be made available to UN processes via the DCF and DCF policy advice can inform GPEDC's efforts to operationalize and advance country level implementation.

2. Coordination and mutual engagement in events

The group recommends strengthening coordination of events. **DCF and GPEDC events** should be coordinated to the extent that this maximizes synergies in areas of mutual interest, continued momentum towards shared objectives and contribution to key processes, including post-2015. At the

²Review of this indicator will depend on the work of the future GPEDC monitoring Independent Advisory Group

same time, scheduling should not overburden government officials and stakeholders, cognizant of the different mandates of both processes.

The group recommends:

8. To hold **back-to-back meetings** (e.g. of DCF Symposiums and GPEDC workshops) where appropriate and feasible.
9. **Strategic sequencing** of key meetings to maintain global momentum, including DCF and GPEDC HLMs, (e.g. possibly twelve months apart from each other when feasible), with due respect to the GPEDC timeline as outlined in the Mexico Communiqué and the DCF time schedule.
10. To facilitate all of the above, continue the **practices of holding joint meetings of members of the DCF Advisory Group and GPEDC Steering Committee**, and inviting **Advisory Group and Steering Committee members as well as senior officials of both Secretariats to events of both processes.**

3. Exchanges among Secretariats

The group suggests to continue regular and open exchanges at working and senior management level, including via videoconferencing, and to **invite stakeholder representatives** to these exchanges as appropriate. The Secretariats should **keep the AG and SC abreast** of conclusions of these exchanges.

Annex: Draft schedule of events *(to be regularly updated)*

	Date and time	Venue	Format	Focus
2015	16 January	UNHQ, New York	Post-2015 Stakeholder Preparatory Forum	Organised by UNDESA and UN-NGLS
	19-20 January	The Hague, Netherlands	GPEDC Steering Committee Meeting	<i>NB. This will be followed by a planning workshop in Brussels, 21-22 January.</i>
	19-21 January	UNHQ, New York	Post-2015 Intergovernmental Negotiations	Stocktaking
	21-22 January	The Hague, Netherlands	GPEDC Planning workshop	Strengthening co-ordination to deliver results within the GPEDC
	21-24 January	Davos, Switzerland	World Economic Forum Annual Meeting	
	27-29 January	UNHQ, New York	FFD3 Preparatory Process	FFD3 First drafting session
	30 January	UNHQ, New York	ECOSOC Dialogue	UNDS long-term positioning
	30-31 January	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	African Union Summit	
	2-3 February	UNHQ, New York	Economic and Social Council	Youth Forum
	9-10 February	UNHQ, New York	General Assembly High-level debate	Means of implementation for post-2015
	17-20 February	UNHQ, New York	Post-2015 Intergovernmental Negotiations	Declaration
	20 February	UNHQ, New York	Economic and Social Council Special Event	Monitoring and review of global multi-stakeholder partnerships
	23-25 February	UNHQ, New York	Economic and Social Council	Operational Activities Segment
	4-5 March	UNHQ, New York	FFD3 Preparatory Process	Informal interactive hearings with civil society and the business sector
	6 March	UNHQ, New York	General Assembly High-level debate	Advancing gender equality post-2015
	17-18 March	Accra, Ghana	Development Progress	"Financing the Future: Fresh Perspectives on Global Development"
	23-27 March	UNHQ, New York	Post-2015 Intergovernmental Negotiations	Sustainable Development Goals and Targets
	30 March - 1 April	UNHQ, New York	Economic and Social Council	Integration Segment
	6 April tbc	UNHQ, New York	General Assembly High-level debate	Promoting tolerance and reconciliation
	8-10 April	Incheon, Republic of Korea	1 st DCF High-level Symposium in 2016 DCF	Development cooperation for people and planet – what will it take?
	13-17 April	UNHQ, New York	FFD3 Preparatory Process	FFD3 Second drafting session
	17-19 April	Washington, D.C.	BWI Spring Meetings	
	20-21 April	UNHQ, New York	ECOSOC Special High Level meeting	Meeting with the World Bank, IMF, WTO and UNCTAD
	21-23 April	Indonesia	World Economic Forum for East Asia	
	20-24 April	UNHQ, New York	Post-2015 Intergovernmental Negotiations	Means of Implementation and Global Partnership for Sustainable Development
	6-8 May	Mexico	World Economic Forum for Latin America	

	15 May	UNHQ, New York	General Assembly High-level debate	Strengthening cooperation between the UN and regional and sub-regional organizations
	18-22 May	UNHQ, New York	Post-2015 Intergovernmental Negotiations	Follow up and review
	28 May	UNHQ, New York	Economic and Social Council	Partnership Forum
	3-5 June	South Africa	World Economic Forum for Africa	
	7-8 June	Germany	G7 Leaders' Summit 2015	
	15-19 June	UNHQ, New York	FFD3 Preparatory Process	FFD3 Third drafting session
	17-19 June	Geneva	Economic and Social Council	Humanitarian Affairs Segment
	22-25 June	UNHQ, New York	Post-2015 Intergovernmental Negotiations	Intergovernmental negotiations on the outcome document
	29 June	UNHQ, New York	General Assembly High-level debate	Combatting climate change
	June/July tbc	Mexico	GPEDC Steering Committee Meeting	
	26 June – 8 July	UNHQ, New York	3 rd High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development	<i>NB. 6-8 July meetings will be held under the aegis of the Economic and Social Council High-level Segment</i>
	6-10 July	UNHQ, New York	Economic and Social Council	High-level Segment
	13-16 July	Addis Ababa	Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD3)	
	20-24 & 27-31 July	UNHQ, New York	Post-2015 Intergovernmental Negotiations	Intergovernmental negotiations on the outcome document
	15 September	UNHQ, New York	Opening of the 70 th Session of the United Nations General Assembly	
	25-27 September	UNHQ, New York	United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda	
	9-11 October	Lima, Peru	BWI Annual Meetings	
	September (tbc)	Antalya, Turkey	G20 Leaders' Summit 2015	
	Between late Oct and Dec	tbc	2 nd DCF High-level Symposium in preparation of the 2016 DCF	tbc
	December (tbc)	tbc	GPEDC Steering Committee Meeting	tbc
2016	March/April (tbc)	Belgium	3 rd DCF High-level Symposium in preparation of the 2016 DCF	
	June/ July (tbc)	New York	2016 High-level Meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum	
	13-26 September	UNHQ, New York	71 th Session of the United Nations General Assembly	
	tbc		2 nd Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation High-level Meeting	