



Development Cooperation Forum Side Event
“New measures for development financing in a Post-2015 world”
Co-organised by UNDESA, OECD and DCF-CSO Reference Group

10 July 2014, 13:15-14:45 pm, Conference Room 5, North Lawn Building,
United Nations Headquarters, New York

Overview

The international community is working to establish a set of goals which will go beyond the Millennium Development Goals and encompass sustainability and the provision of global public goods. Their implementation will be supported by a post-2015 financing framework - and renewed global partnership for development - to be agreed at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in July 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, building on the Doha (2008) and Monterrey (2002) conferences on Financing for Development.

Moving towards a unified and universal agenda in a changing development landscape, with new development challenges and an increasing number of actors, has important implications for the role of development cooperation. Within the development financing mix, ODA will remain essential. Yet, the way it will be used and targeted will need to evolve to effectively support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. The changing role of ODA and its increased use to leverage other sources of development financing, already increasingly felt today, has important implications for the way ODA is being measured.

The OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) has provided the statistical system used to track ODA for over 50 years. There is a growing sense that the present ODA definition and the broader statistical system is no longer fit for purpose to adequately measure the recipients' resource receipts or donor efforts. There is also recognition that the present definition of ODA does not sufficiently encourage an allocation of aid to areas where it is most needed and where it has the greatest long-term development impact. Nor does it capture new and innovative financing instruments.

While a reform of ODA is widely welcomed, there is at the same time some concern that modernizing its definition could lead to a dilution of ODA with the inclusion of a range of flows not traditionally assessed as aid, making it easier for donors to meet their commitment to provide 0.7 per cent of GNI to ODA without an additional donor effort. There is also concern that the revisions being discussed do not adequately address recipient country resource needs. DAC members, however, have agreed that any modernisation of ODA should be able to withstand a critical assessment from the public, and avoid creating major fluctuations in overall ODA levels. Any changes to the ODA measure must support its credibility and help to mobilize more resources - whether public or private - and their effective use in the future in support of the post-2015 goals.

Participation

The side event will provide an opportunity for the diverse group of stakeholders attending the ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum to discuss how ODA and other sources of development cooperation should be measured in a post-2015 era. Views are sought on the benefits and risk of an ODA modernization. It will also serve an occasion to reflect on the implications of the review of the ODA definition for the 0.7 target and related commitments. It will also provide the opportunity for organisers of the side event to outline other currently planned upcoming engagement activities.

Guiding questions:

1. **Why do we need to modernize the present ODA definition?**
2. **What should such a modernized ODA measure include to help recipient countries, take a strategic approach towards financing their development priorities?**
3. **How can a modernized definition create incentives for donors and recipients to target ODA where it has the greatest development impact and is most needed?**
4. **Are there any implications of a modernized ODA definition for the United Nations 0.7 per cent of GNI target and its achievement?**
5. **How can a modernized definition of ODA help strengthen the effectiveness of aid by promoting greater accountability?**

Format

The side event will be moderated by Henry Bonsu, Journalist, Broadcaster, Conference Host and Keynote Speaker, and consist of panel presentations by the below speakers:

- Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UNDESA
- Erik Solheim, OECD/DAC Chair
- Emilia Pires, Minister of Finance, Timor-Leste
- Jeroen Kwakkenbos, Policy and Advocacy Manager, Eurodad
- Patrick Guillaumont, President, Fondation pour les Études et Recherches sur le Développement International (FERDI)

Following a first round of presentations, a moderated open discussion will take place with interventions made from the floor. Following a second round of presentations by DCF-CSO reference group and FERDI, there will be a second round of discussions. The meeting will close with a short wrap up by the moderator.

Background Documents

Background documents will be made available on the DCF website and a limited number of hard copy documents will be made available to participants in the room at the side event.

- [UNDESA Report of the Secretary-General on Trends in International Development Cooperation](#)
- [OECD: DAC Senior Level Meeting Paper “Modernising the DAC’s Development Finance Statistics” – March 2014](#)
- [The New Development Landscape: Developing Countries Perspective - Working Draft June 2014](#)
- [Eurodad: A matter of high interest](#)
- Concord Paper on Post-2015 Financing
- FERDI, Measurement of ODA

Outcome:

A short written summary of the event will be made available online.