



## Briefing Summary

### DCF Republic of Korea High-level Symposium

Co-organized by UNDESA and the Republic of Korea  
Tuesday, 14 April 2015, UN Headquarters, Room 12, 1:15 pm – 2:30 pm

The briefing was chaired by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Oh Joon. Other speakers were Mr. Yoon Sanguk, Director, Development Policy Division, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, ROK; H.E. Ambassador George Talbot, Co-facilitator for the preparatory process of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and Permanent Representative of Guyana to the UN and Mr. Navid Hanif, Director, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, UNDESA.

**The Chair** welcomed participants to the briefing and emphasized the High-level Symposium's role in preparations for the 2016 Development Cooperation Forum. 2015 is a landmark year for international development with the three key summits ahead. The DCF Republic of Korea High-level Symposium had a significant role in feeding into these discussions.

**Mr. Yoon Sanguk** expressed gratitude towards the Symposium participants and towards DESA for co-organizing the event. He approached the briefing from a host country perspective. Korea has been seeking ways to make tangible contributions to the post 2015 process, as much as possible and constructively. By hosting the DCF Symposium they showed goodwill, providing stakeholders a platform to enter important discussions.

As key results of the Symposium Mr. Sanguk listed tangible and thought-provoking discussions on alignment, universality, better allocation of ODA, a transformative approach, innovative partnerships and national ownership, among others. The Symposium contributed to solidarity and provided a solid foundation for negotiations in NY.

There are many international events organized in Korea in the near future, such as the World Water Forum and the World Education Forum contributing to addressing global issues. Korea is committed to contribute constructively to the discussions at global level, and all key summits should dovetail each other.

**Ambassador Talbot** said that the DCF Symposium entailed frank dialogue on development cooperation. Development cooperation for people and planet and the three dimensions of sustainability were very much part of the discourse. Focus was also on international public financing. Ambassador Talbot shared some key messages:

1. Public financing including ODA will remain vital, 0,7 % target should be met without delay. Commitments should be fulfilled and honored.
2. ODA to focus where most needed (LDC's, SIDS, etc.). Also poverty eradication should be a key focus. ODA leveraging other resources and using ODA to enlarge the pool of resources at hand.
3. ODA is potentially catalytic. Proportion of ODA should be directed towards domestic resource mobilization (DRM).
4. Successful DRM also relies on global tax cooperation. There is a need for a global intergovernmental platform on tax matters.
5. The relevance and complimentary role of South-South cooperation will continue with increasing importance.
6. All modalities of Development Cooperation have a special and unique role to play. Each country's situation is to define which instrument and modality to use. As the agenda has broadened, there is a major ramp up of mobilization from all sources needed.
7. Strong emphasis on the need for policy coherence. Holistic and coherent national strategies are critical but coherence is also needed at global level. Development Cooperation can be an increasingly integrating force for sustainable development.
8. The Third FFD has to provide a framework to gear all resources to implement the Post-2015 agenda.
9. Non-financial MOI (technology transfer, capacity building, policy change, etc.) are integral to the pathway towards sustainable development.
10. Recognition that the uptake of technology does not only come from external sources, but also out of local needs.
11. Need for a strong follow-up process to guarantee ultimate success for our efforts. Careful consideration by all partners is needed. The role of ECOSOC should be central as it is closely connected with key institutions.
12. Engagement of different stakeholders is essential. A mechanism for the full harnessing of voices to engage actors more fully on actions taken at global level. Increase interface with people who are affected by decisions. Inclusion is an essential component.
13. The importance of mutual learning and minimizing the repetition of mistakes should be further highlighted. DCF is serving for the process of learning.

**Mr. Hanif** thanked the Korean government for cooperation and hospitality. Looking at Korea, there is every reason to be hopeful. So much positive change has happened in the country. A change of mindset is needed. Development Cooperation is proven to work very effectively when national mechanisms are present.

Participation at the symposium was very good – many high-level participants were present. All in all, the centrality of public finance was widely acknowledged. The planet and people equation was discussed: We have social development goals, economic growth remains the objective, and then sustainability came along after Rio. All three areas require heavy investment, public and private. How do you deploy the existing ODA so that all three areas are well-financed – this was the question at the table. Sustainability requires immense investments and we have to be creative in deploying public financing. ODA can be catalytic, but trust and confidence needed, as well as other resources. In addition to DRM, international cooperation on tax matters was on the agenda.

The DNA of Development Cooperation is changing, it is under mutation. The new agenda cannot be funded through traditional development cooperation, which must be captured in Addis. MOI and technology are so far kept separate in Addis negotiations. However, non- financial transfers are also part of the bigger framework. The alignment of Rio and Monterrey tracks and the future of Development Cooperation will be further discussed in the 2016 DCF. Studies commissioned by DESA on these topics can be found on the DCF website. The next DCF High-level Symposia will be held in Uganda and Belgium.

### **Comments from the floor**

**Mr. Ravi Sharma / Convention on Biological Diversity** noted that the Symposium was very useful and productive, and his organization learned a lot. He asked to make two points: Policy coherence is one important element, also coherence among reporting frameworks, which is currently missing. They are currently looking at how the private sector can report, especially related to biodiversity. There is already an interest towards this in the private sector, and they are developing a methodology. Reducing the reporting burden of countries is essential.

Another key question is the reform of subsidies. What kind of a reform would lead to best results?

#### **Mexico:**

How to link results of DCF with results of the Dhaka Conference on South-South and Triangular Cooperation and take them to Addis? The results will probably differ. Also referred to importance of reporting coherence within the UN system.

**Ambassador Talbot** stated that the question on subsidies is an active part of FfD III discussions. Likelihood that this aspect of text will survive in some form as there is recognition that action is needed in this regard. Reporting coherence is important

especially for smaller countries facing multiple reporting demands. Any move towards simplifying is good, also from a quality point of view.

We are bringing together different elements in the run up to Addis. This is a multipronged approach, but the host country has the responsibility to bring messages to institutions for negotiations. The transfer of information is not automatic as such, but must be channeled in the right direction.

**Mr. Hanif** reminded that before reporting we must focus on measuring. We have very different measuring frameworks than for instance the private sector. OECD is already reforming how to measure ODA. Some coherence is indeed needed on reporting.

South-South Cooperation is one strand of DCF work. Conference in Dhaka works on operational aspects, whereas DCF mostly focuses on the policy level. There are various channels to communicate key messages to co-facilitators.

**The Chair** concluded the meeting.

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