**2023 Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) (14- 15 March)**

*Draft concept note and programme (as of December 2022)*

1- **Tagline:** Prioritizing the lives and livelihoods of the most vulnerable through risk-informed development cooperation

2- **Background and meeting objectives**

The 2023 DCF will emphasize the human dimension of development cooperation, with a focus on the experiences of people that development cooperation policies and practices are meant to serve. It will provide a critical platform to shape high-impact development cooperation that responds to multiple crises while maintaining a laser focus on rescuing and realizing the SDGs in their totality. As such, it will put in place a firm foundation for collective policy actions in 2023 at the FFD Forum, High-level Political Forum, the SDG Summit and the High-level Dialogue on FFD. Specifically, the DCF will foster better understanding and concrete opportunities to:

- identify and assess growing, multi-faceted vulnerabilities amidst the evolving risk landscape;
- strengthen development cooperation in priority areas targeting multi-dimensional vulnerabilities, such as climate change adaptation, digital transformation and universal social protection;
- empower local governments and communities at the forefront of multiple crises to play a bigger role in development cooperation; and
- strategize on how development cooperation gains can be sustained in the long-term.

As the principal analytical input into the 2023 DCF, the Report of the Secretary-General will support these discussions with research and analysis of the latest trends, progress and challenges; fresh data from the 2022 DCF survey exercise and study; and insights from DCF policy dialogue and peer learning events.

3- **Proposed sessions**

### Day 1: Tuesday, 14 March 2023

**Opening**

10:00 – 10:30 AM

- President of the Economic and Social Council
- Keynote address

**Session I: Protecting lives and livelihoods of the most vulnerable for more effective development cooperation**

10:30 AM – 1:00 PM

- Introduction of the Report of the Secretary-General
- Round table and interactive discussion

This discussion will explore how countries are balancing the various priorities of development cooperation to manage multiple crises simultaneously. Participants will include representatives from developing countries, development partners, philanthropy and development banks on how to allocate limited resources effectively in this difficult context. Representatives from vulnerable groups would also highlight in their own words the distinctive challenges they are facing, while providing insights on good practices in mobilizing high-impact development cooperation that responds holistically to multidimensional vulnerabilities.
Session II: Scaling up effective development cooperation for climate resilience
3:00 – 6:00 PM

- Fireside chat
- Panel presentations and interactive discussion

Objective: Explore opportunities for mainstreaming climate resilience into development cooperation to address multidimensional vulnerabilities

Development cooperation, in all its forms – financing, capacity support, collective action for policy change and multi-stakeholder partnerships – can and should do more to support developing countries in meeting their climate goals. Latest outcomes from COP27 have underscored the importance of Loss and Damage finance through the establishment of a fund to support developing countries to navigate the impacts of climate change. Work now begins on how to structure and operationalize the fund to address the gaps in the current climate finance architecture and ensure that the most vulnerable countries will get timely access to needed resources. While commitments have been made by several countries, a broader donor base will be needed to respond to the scale of loss and damage. The same is true for adaptation finance. The 2022 Adaptation Gap Reports details that international adaptation finance is five to ten times below estimated needs, which are anticipated to be over $300 billion annually by 2030. The lack of agreement on a global goal for adaptation or framework continues to undermine progress on climate adaptation. Momentum will need to be built toward COP28 to arrive at a meaningful outcome which meets the scale and scope of climate adaptation finance needs.

Day 2: Wednesday, 15 March 2023

Opening of Day 2 and recap of Day 1 discussions
10:00 – 10:30AM
- Interactive recap from Day 1

Session III: Building momentum for effective social protection measures
10:30 AM – 1:00 PM

- Fireside chat
- Panel presentations and interactive discussion

Objective: Highlight how development cooperation can help to fill gaps in social protection systems, reducing vulnerabilities and building resilience

Committed, strategic investment in people, including through universal social protection, is essential to building long-term resilience of individuals and countries. During the pandemic, developing countries intensified existing social protection measures, and in some instances introduced new social protection programmes to support the most vulnerable. In the 2022 DCF Survey Study, developing countries highlighted ongoing challenges to their social protection systems: coverage of the most vulnerable; financing; weak legislative and policy frameworks; and insufficient institutional and human resource capacities. Many of these challenges have only been exacerbated by the triple food-energy-finance crisis and subsequent cost-of-living crisis of the past year. Strengthening development cooperation for social protection can ensure that social protection measures protect against diverse risks and enhance their age-, gender- and climate-responsiveness.

Session IV: Strengthening capacities to overcome the digital divide
3:00 - 5:30PM
• Fireside chat
• Panel presentations and interactive discussion

Objective: Identify pathways for boosting digital connectivity and resilience through development cooperation in its diverse forms

The pandemic illustrated that in an increasingly digital economy, a deepening digital divide impacts the most vulnerable and exacerbates inequalities. Effective development cooperation should respond to the needs of developing countries to narrow the digital divide and expand access of developing countries to digital infrastructure and technology. Technology transfer and capacity building should be scaled up to support inclusive livelihoods in developing countries through opportunities facilitated by the digital economy and e-commerce. South-South Cooperation could play a significant role through enhanced technology transfer and technical cooperation.

Closing
5:30 – 6:00

• President of the Economic and Social Council

4- Stakeholders: Outreach will be made to all Member States and specific outreach to country groups, such as LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, as well as key OECD/DAC members and Southern partners. Given the earlier DCF meeting date, clear linkages between the DCF and the FfD Forum programmes will be made, with DAC members evenly distributed between the two forums based on relevant subject matter. The 2023 DCF will welcome all UN Member States, Director-Generals and heads of development cooperation agencies, relevant line ministries and the range of non-government actors, including civil society, private sector, philanthropy, women, youth and other vulnerable groups, plus members of Parliament, mayors and other local authorities, international organizations and development banks.

5- Format: In line with other ECOSOC meeting formats, it is proposed that the DCF will be an in-person meeting, with option for virtual participation by some presenters if/as needed. DESA/FSDO would not co-sponsor any side events but provide support to advertise independent side events and compilation of a calendar.