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Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Topic 2: Implementing the development cooperation forum (DCF) in order to strengthen transparency in financial investments for UN funds

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I. INTRODUCTION

Now that society is developing faster than in any previous century, the need for states to collaborate in order to protect the world has acquired greater importance. International cooperation is an issue which affects every aspect of political life, as proven during the Cold War period when the United States reached a compromise with the Soviet Union thus lowering the immediate risk of war. In fact, since then, almost every year has seen some agreement on disarmament, peace or even environmental problems. All Member States of the UN have worked together to solve these issues in order to maintain a certain peace in the world. At present, the UN is the main organ working to assure this peace and encourage governments to collaborate. As a result, today the ECOSOC conference has introduced the Development Cooperation Forum. This organ aims to achieve more progress towards collaboration between states, and thus operates in every area of politics and finance. One of its main purposes is to improve the quality of financial collaboration in order to promote adherence to the principles and agreements reached during past conferences. This could be one of the solutions to the problem of international cooperation, but also to the problem of financial transparency, which probably has a greater effect on the society in which we live today, based, as it is, on money and investments. In fact, every year the UN allocates a budget for agencies and projects which require a substantial amount of money: there are some requirements for accessing this budget and through an optimization of DCF

everyone can be sure that the funds will go to those who are most in need, and that the requirements are strictly followed.

II. DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Development Cooperation Forum: the DCF is an Economic and Social Council organ of great importance; it brings together not only members of parliament from states all over the world but also banks, civil organizations and local governors, in order to discuss the trends in international cooperation.

UNDESA: the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, whose offices are located in Italy, is a branch of the Economic and Social Council; it promotes international cooperation between members of the UN in order to solve global challenges, and furthermore encourages initiatives to strengthen cooperation.

Financial Investment: economic act whereby a person aims to increase his capital by allocating money to be invested in some future activity. The benefits deriving from the investments are called *returns* and the period in which to regain the initial capital is called the *payback period*.

Transparency: the ability of a State to be completely clear and honest towards other States with regard to governmental decisions and global problems.

Mutual accountability: the process including two or more states where each one is responsible not only for itself but also for other countries.

Policy guidance: the outline of a country's policies regarding its government and laws.

III. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The DCF (Development Cooperation Forum) was an idea that came out of the World Summit in 2005 following an increase in the number of members and changes in cooperation between countries. Its primary role was to manage trends in development cooperation, promote activities to strengthen collaboration and cooperate with the work of the United Nations. However, in 2006 the UN General Assembly declared that the DCF should also give policy guidance in order to improve cooperation, promote collaboration to reach international development goals and generally to monitor activities of partnership between state members.

The DCF was created on July 5th 2007 as a part of the Economic and Social Council by the Secretary General Ban-Ki Moon and the President of ECOSOC, Mr. Dalius Čekuolis. It is supported also by the Monterrey Consensus (during the Follow-Up Conference of 2008, in the Doha Declaration), the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Declaration. It is part of

the global partnership for sustainable development. Since its creation, the DCF has held a meeting every two years.

In 2015 during the AAAA (Addis Ababa Action Agenda), all Members States agreed to pursue the work of the DCF in order to take some towards global cooperation and sustainable development. Furthermore, the General Assembly, in the same year, decided that the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) should take into account all the work carried out by DCF and ECOSOC. During this year, the TAP (Transparency, Accountability and Participation) Strategy was developed: in order to have a clear financial situation in the UN, each state must support the others to create a significant change in global finance.

The next step for DCF is to ensure that all the measures of the 2030 Agenda are implemented: more collaboration between developed and developing countries in order to “leave no-one behind” (1).

IV. MAJOR COUNTRIES INVOLVED

The countries involved in this intensification of DCF power are obviously all the members of DCF itself and ECOSOC: Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, India, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Norway, Peru, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela, Zimbabwe. These are the states involved in ECOSOC, which are presently involved in the DCF; nevertheless, DCF is open to every member state of the UN, not only ECOSOC members.

V. UN INVOLVEMENT

As already underlined in the third paragraph, the UN is heavily involved in this matter: the DCF is one of its organs and the issue in focus is UN funds. Since its foundation, the UN has offered many opportunities to work with them; furthermore, it provides funds for worthy projects created by governments or enterprises. Since the DCF is a young institution, not yet well-known around the world, but with a serious intent, it needs to be strengthened: if the DCF manages to ensure cooperation between countries based on transparency, the UN will assign its funds correctly to those in genuine need. Since 1945, the year of foundation of the United Nations, there has been close collaboration with all its branches, including ECOSOC, and since 2007, DCF. This clearly shows that the UN trusts all its partners and that in order to improve collaboration there must be transparency between all members and states.

VI. USEFUL LINKS

DCF <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/about-the-dcf>

UNDESA <http://www.undesa.it/index.php/about-us/>

International Cooperation <http://www.globalpolicyjournal.com/brookings-audit/international-cooperation-stepping-stone-world-government>

VII. BIBLIOGRAPHY

(1): quote from the official web site of DCF, ECOSOC