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## **Statement**

**by**

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**United Nations Under-Secretary-General  
Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic  
Commission for Europe**

**at the**

**DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FORUM**

**Switzerland High-Level Symposium**

**“Development cooperation in a post-2015 era:  
Sustainable development for all”**

**Montreux, Switzerland, 24 October 2013**

**“Preparing for a post-2015 development agenda: a regional perspective”**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Co-Chairs,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I thank the Government of Switzerland for hosting this important event. The question of what a renewed partnership for development needs to look like in order to effectively underpin the post-2015 agenda is indeed a 'make or break' issue for the negotiation of the new agenda and for its successful implementation.

I would like to share with you the considerations of the United Nations system in Europe and Central Asia on what we call 'the partnership dimension of the post-2015 agenda'.

In terms of the global partnership for development, this region plays a vital role in financing for development and can be expected to do so for the foreseeable future.

Twenty-three of the 27 'traditional' donor members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) are in the UNECE region, which at the same time is home to some of the world's most important emerging donors, including Kazakhstan, Poland, the Russian Federation and Turkey. In 2012, DAC members provided over \$125 billion in net official development assistance (ODA).

Although this figure represented a decline (in real terms)

from previous years' levels and 'only' 0.29 per cent of the combined gross national income of DAC members, it constituted the bulk of global ODA. By contrast, the region's low- and lower middle-income countries are net ODA recipients. This assistance may well have contributed to peace and security in countries that suffered from conflict in the 1990s.

The shortfall and decline of ODA from traditional donors and the emergence of new donors, as well as new forms of aid (via foundations, innovative financing or special-purpose funds) raise new questions about aid coordination and effectiveness. Moreover, ODA for some countries is dwarfed by remittance inflows which constitute a major source of intraregional development finance.

While it is critical to strike a balance between domestic and external sources of financing, ODA remains important, especially for low-income countries. Yet it is also clear that the key to resolving today's challenges is not merely the amount of ODA transferred, but rather the quality and inclusiveness of solutions offered, the relevance of knowledge that is transferred and the breadth and depth of the partnerships forged. This region can help to develop some of these new alliances and modalities in a dynamic development cooperation landscape.

What needs to happen?

A critical feature in development partnerships in the post-2015 environment will be “co-creation”, that is, moving away from a passive relationship between donor and recipient towards one of customized partnership and genuine exchange. Co-creation will be critical to opening up relationships at a subnational level, between poorer and richer regions within countries. The subnational dimension will be particularly important given the diversity and inequalities within countries. Development partnerships will also demand a new compact between the State and civil society and between the public and private sectors, as well as between new and traditional donors. The ability to forge such alliances across borders, sectors and development cooperation frameworks will be key to addressing the sustainability challenges faced by this and other regions. Development cooperation will therefore be as much about what is happening within countries as between individual countries and groups of countries.

You will find more detailed proposals about “co-creative partnerships” and the overall vision from the UN system in the region on the priorities for the post-2015 agenda in the report that ECE and its partners have produced and which is available in the room.

Sustainable development should not only be at the core of the post-2015 agenda, but also of future development cooperation. The yardstick for the renewed global partnership is whether it helps balancing social, economic and environmental concerns, reducing all forms of inequalities, and effectively implementing the new development framework. The Development Cooperation Forum is an important platform to discuss how this can be achieved in a new development cooperation architecture. In particular, the 2014 Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) will take place at a critical juncture in the process of shaping the new agenda and will further strengthen the role of the DCF.

I look forward to the discussions at this symposium and I thank you for your attention.

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