

OFFICE RESPONSE

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- ▶ **Overall Office response:** The Office welcomes the high-level evaluation of the Development Cooperation Strategy and its recognition of the central role of development cooperation in delivering a wide range of services to ILO constituents and advancing the ILO mandate. The increase in voluntary funding and in the diversity of partnerships demonstrates the continued interest of partners in development cooperation activities and their trust in the ILO. While highlighting that this High-Level Evaluation is focused on the Development Cooperation Strategy itself and does not assess ILO's DC projects and activities, the Office is committed to address the evaluation findings and integrate the recommendations provided into the implementation of the current strategy and other related initiatives, as relevant. It is worth mentioning that the Office started in 2023 a process to review the implementation of ILO's development cooperation activities with the aim of identifying potential bottlenecks and areas of improvement.
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- ▶ **Recommendation 1 Office response:** The Office welcomes the recommendation and its proposed actions. As has been the practice, an inclusive and transparent consultation process will begin in 2024 to develop a more focused and forward-looking strategy that considers the evaluation findings and responds to the needs of ILO constituents and the priorities of development partners in line with the strategic plan for 2026–29 and the related programmes and budgets 2026–27 and 2028–29.
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- ▶ **Recommendation 2 Office response:** Despite the fact that this recommendation relates more to the implementation of DC projects, rather than to the Strategy itself, the Office agrees with the need to further develop policies and tools for monitoring development cooperation activities, enhance coordination and planning, and reinforce accountability for programmatic delivery. As earlier indicated, the Office started in 2023 an analysis of the administrative processes in the implementation of DC activities to identify areas of improvement. The Office will build upon the findings and recommendations in this evaluation and integrate them into its ongoing analysis. New or updated internal governance policies and procedures might be required to enable swift responses to performance issues of technical or operational nature in development cooperation, ensuring the programmatic fit of development cooperation with the priorities of ILO constituents as reflected in the programme and budget and in DWCPs or other national frameworks.
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- ▶ **Recommendation 3 Office response:** As indicated under recommendation 2, the Office aims to strengthen accountability systems and, as far as possible, simplify and standardize functions and services across the operating environment, including the provision of technical support provided to DC staff. Further alignment of human resource policies, processes and contracts, improved induction and training, along with greater use of standardized information systems across all activities, will aim to improve efficiency and consistency. Focused risk analyses need to be strengthened at the onset of projects to ensure that the Office has the capacity and capability to deliver results within the negotiated timeframes.
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- ▶ **Recommendation 4 Office response:** The Office will strengthen its communication strategies, products and staff skills by using communication technologies and tools to further emphasize the Organization's unique value added based on its normative and tripartite approach, and to enhance its reputation as a knowledge leader, effective development partner and dynamic collaborator in the multilateral system. Communication efforts will focus on the results achieved by DC projects and the broader impact and contribution of programmatic activities to the Decent Work Agenda. It will also continue to highlight the added value that the ILO's work brings to constituents and development partners.
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