

Background Note

Statement for the Secretary-General

Changing the Conversation on Development Finance, World Bank,
Preston Auditorium

Excellencies,
Distinguished Prime Minister and Ministers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank you for this opportunity to address you.

I particularly would like to thank the World Bank President for his efforts at leading the multilateral institutions in their efforts to think about how they can contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

Excellencies,

This is a crucial year for global action to secure our global future.

We are in the final stretch to the target date of the Millennium Development Goals.

At the same time, we will adopt a post-2015 development agenda, including a set of Sustainable Development Goals, that will chart a path for the next generation of development.

And momentum is growing towards a meaningful, universal climate change agreement in Paris in December.

The success of all of these efforts will hinge on changing the conversation on development finance.

The world is changing with new challenges facing us. Yet we retain a development finance system that has not kept pace with the changes.

We will gather for the pivotal Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa in July. The Conference must be a success and I count on leaders to make serious commitments.

Without resources, and a cohesive framework for financing, our commitments to sustainable development will amount to little more than fine words on paper.

Without concrete deliverables, we will not begin the journey to a world free from poverty in all its forms.

Without a framework for follow-up and monitoring, we will not ensure no one is left behind.

Excellencies,

We need a holistic approach to financing for development, with financing and other means of implementation aligned.

Everyone must play their part and we must optimise the contributions of all sources of finance, public and private, domestic and international.

Ultimately, delivering on poverty eradication and sustainable development is a national responsibility.

There will be need for strong national sustainable development strategies.

There should also be robust arrangements for financing these strategies.

Finance must be matched by commitments on broader systemic issues and the creation of enabling environments, nationally and globally.

National efforts will have to be supported by a revitalised and stronger global partnership for sustainable development.

That partnership will also rely on the efforts of civil society, labour, academia, businesses, investors, and other stakeholders to implement our vision.

I encourage you to share your ideas and be bold in your recommendations.

Together, we can build a more prosperous, resilient and sustainable world.

Thank you.