

**Latvia's statement at the Third International Conference on
Financing for Development**

14 July 2015

President, excellencies,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me first thank the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the President of the General Assembly as well as Ambassador Talbot and Ambassador Pedersen for your hard work and leadership throughout this complex and challenging process.

Today we are at a historical moment. We have come here to endorse the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. We must act and come to an agreement now.

It will enable us to keep the political momentum for the September summit on the universal and transformative Post-2015 agenda and the climate agreement to be adopted in Paris in December.

Latvia is proud to stand behind the statement made by the European Union.

It was during the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the EU, when all EU member states agreed on a united and strong position for Addis.

We remain engaged constructively to a new global partnership to implement the post-2015 agenda. We express our full support and appreciation to the Ethiopian government in their work to bringing this process to a successful conclusion this week.

This global partnership must be rooted in the principles of universality, shared responsibility, mutual accountability, consideration of respective capacities, and a multi-stakeholder approach. It is a universal project, where every country, every stakeholder, all financial and non-financial resources have a role to play.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In addition to the remarks already made by the EU, I would like to highlight three elements that we believe are crucial for the new implementation framework to be ambitious and transformative.

First, transformation is only possible if the process is truly inclusive. This requires a partnership between the national and sub-national (regional and local) governments, social partners, civil society, academia and the private sector.

To illustrate, Latvia has one of the most developed central-local governments' consultation and social and civic dialogue system for participatory policy-making and budgeting. The system is enshrined in laws and regulations.

This approach gives us more than 20 years of experience in safeguarding the interests of all stakeholders. We share this expertise also with our partner countries.

Latvia's transition experience has shown, the implementation of any policy requires professional, responsive and accountable institutions – public, private and civil society. We believe, capacity building and exchange of knowledge is an essential element for the success of the new development agenda.

At the same time also the role of parliaments cannot be underestimated. They will design the national policy framework, adopt budgets and ensure accountability.

No international efforts can be fruitful without national ownership and leadership. Implementation at the national level is key to reach the sustainable development goals.

Second, we need to unlock the potential of private sector for development. Approximately two thirds of full-time jobs in developing countries are provided by small and medium enterprises.

We must allocate sufficient resources to strengthen the capacity of the private sector. We need to close the gap in access to financing. Unmet need for credit for the SMEs has been estimated to be up to 2.5 trillion US dollars in developing countries and around 3.5 trillion US dollars globally.

Thirdly, we believe - Addis outcome has to become the Means of Implementation pillar of the post-2015 agreement. To track progress on the commitments we make here in Addis, we need a single and effective monitoring, accountability and review mechanism.

Addis outcome has to live up to the ambition which the Post-2015 agenda embodies.

The one who is going to last is the one who is willing to transform!

Thank you.