



# REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

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**Informal consultations on the draft conclusions and recommendations  
of the 2017 Economic and Social Council Forum on Financing for  
Development follow-up**

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY**

**His Excellency TOMMO MONTHE,  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Cameroon**

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United Nations Headquarters**

*Check against delivery*

MISSION PERMANENTE DU CAMEROUN  
AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES

22 East 73rd Street New York, N .Y. 10021  
Tel : (212) 794-2295 Fax : (212) 249-0533

Web: [www.delecam.us](http://www.delecam.us)

E-mail: cameroon.mission@yahoo.fr

PERMANENT MISSION OF CAMEROON TO  
THE UNITED NATIONS

Dear Co-facilitators,

Allow me firstly to align these remarks I am delivering on behalf of the African Group with those made by the distinguished representative of Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Co-facilitators,

The African Group shares the view that the report of the Inter Agency Task Force (IATF) is an important input with regards to the conclusions and recommendations of the Forum on Financing for Development follow-up. In this regard, we would like to thank members of the Task Force for their commendable work in producing the report.

In our perspective we need to consider as well other available documents, particularly inter-governmental outcomes and reports that emanated from multilateral processes, which could enrich the business of the Forum. Having said that, the African Group is of the view that there are some issues whose coverage by the IATF report is negligible and that are worth shining a light on because they could prove useful in ensuring that the conclusions and recommendations of the FfD Forum address pertinent areas of concern not only for the region but also for developing countries, in general. Firstly, we find that the IATF report is silent on what has not been achieved in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. It therefore does not address the obstacles and challenges, and in this regard robs us of an opportunity of ensuring that the conclusions and recommendations of the FfD Forum address these gaps.

Secondly, Africa is missing in the report! The various chapters of the IATF report do not specifically make mention of Africa when addressing countries in special situations. This is an unfortunate development that has a potential to skew the manner in which the FfD Forum conclusions and recommendations address the development needs of countries in special situations.

Thirdly, there are certain contradictions within the report that we believe are not beneficial to developing countries. For example the assertion by the report that public finance is on the increase when our experience is that it has been on the decline. Developing countries feel the pinch more than ever and thus of the view that this reality should have been reflected in the report. Fourthly, addressing the scourge of illicit financial flows is one of

the crucial steps towards ensuring that developing countries have domestic resources they can mobilise towards addressing their development needs. The African Group is of the view that the report fails to address the issue of illicit financial flows with the seriousness it deserves and in this regard would want to call on the co-facilitators to ensure that the conclusions and recommendations of the FfD Forum give this issue due attention.

Fifthly, we think that it is important that the FfD Forum conclusions and recommendations should address the essential need for an international economic environment that is friendly and that enables development to flourish and most importantly make it possible for additional resources to be mobilized.

Co-facilitators,

Other issues whose coverage by the IATF report is negligible, but that the African Group nonetheless find important towards addressing its sustainable development needs, and which should find reflection in the conclusions and recommendations of the FfD Forum include:

- Infrastructure development and connectivity;
- Industrialization;
- Technology transfer;
- Overseas Development Assistance (ODA);
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), including a need for long-term investment, not just an over-emphasis on short-term investment.

In conclusion, the African Group would like to urge the Co-Facilitators to release the zero draft of the outcome document in good time as it has been promised, in order to allow for adequate inter-governmental negotiations to take place. We are also of the firm view that it is of vital importance that the Forum on Financing for Development follow-up adopts substantial conclusions and recommendations. Towards this end, delegations of the African Group stand ready to put their shoulder to the wheel and assist you in steering this process towards a fruitful and meaningful outcome.

Thank you!