

US Statement, FFD Informal, April 21, 2017

Thank you and good afternoon.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide further input on the IATF report. We would first like to thank the IATF for its hard work in producing a comprehensive report which can serve as a solid reference for future discussions. The report provides an in-depth discussion of each of the Addis chapters, and we appreciate the balanced approach. The discussion of domestic resource mobilization in particular adequately captured some of the nuances associated with combatting illicit financial flows.

In terms of suggestions for improvement, we are interested in exploring creative approaches to making the report more practical. The report is quite lengthy and sometimes buries its main messages. In future reports, the IATF could tie the case studies and stories more directly to the findings and recommendations to better streamline the report. We would also ask the authors to consider intensively reviewing one chapter, while briefly discussing the other chapters, in an effort to develop a more succinct report. These are just ideas for consideration, and we are happy to brainstorm with others to determine the best approach.

Regarding the outcome document, we reiterate that the outcome document should remain short and that it avoid UN jargon, so that it remain accessible and useful. We look forward to receiving the zero draft next week and agree that the negotiations should conclude before the actual Forum. We would also again state our view that all negotiations should take place during normal working hours, as our ability to participate in after-hours sessions is very limited.

As we said at the last informal, the most important item for us is that the outcome document is balanced and that it focuses on real pragmatic issues that can drive progress on the ground, rather than theoretical and overly politicized debates.

We would also like to take this opportunity to provide a little more detail to our comments regarding trade from the last informal. We acknowledge the importance of international trade to our economies, and that international trade is an engine for development and inclusive economic growth. However, we would like the document to avoid language, for example, that interferes with the WTO by urging WTO Members to take action on market access, preferential rules of origin, or on any other trade issue, or language that calls for states to resist protectionism. The FfD Forum negotiation is not an appropriate venue to speak to what the WTO or WTO Members should do on trade issues.

And, as always, we remain opposed to language that could incur budgetary implications.

I'd like to thank you once again and pledge our support in your efforts to achieve a consensus outcome for the Forum.