

Statement
Like-Minded Group of Countries Supporters of Middle-Income Countries
Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up

April 18-20, 2016. New York

Mr. President

- I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of a core Group of Countries Supporters of Middle-Income Countries: Armenia, Belarus, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama and the Philippines.
- We would like to highlight the importance of this Forum for middle-income countries. The follow-up and review process of all FFD conferences will be essential for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and their means of implementation, and for all the other internationally agreed goals recognized in those conferences. This process should assess progress, identify obstacles and challenges, promote the sharing of lessons learned at the national and regional levels, address new and emerging issues and provide policy recommendations for action. And under the principle of leaving no one behind, the sustainable needs and specific challenges of middle-income countries should be properly addressed.
- In this regard, Mr. President we would like to reaffirm the importance of addressing the challenge of financing for development, respecting each country's policy space and creating an enabling international economic environment that can support national efforts.
- Achieving sustainable development will require eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions and combating inequality within and among countries. Addressing the gap between countries will require stepping up international cooperation in science, research, technology and innovation, focusing on the needs of developing countries. In particular, the development, dissemination, diffusion and transfer of environmentally sound technologies will be essential for middle-income countries.
- We reiterate our call on the United Nations system, in consultation with the IFIs, to develop transparent measurements of progress on sustainable development that go beyond per capita income, building on existing initiatives as appropriate. These should recognize poverty in all of its forms and dimensions, and the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of domestic output and structural gaps at all levels.
- Capacity development will be integral to achieving the 2030 sustainable development agenda. And in this regard, we call for enhanced international support and establishment of multi-stakeholder partnerships for implementing effective and

targeted capacity-building in middle-income countries, to support national plans to implement all the SDGs.

- As indicated by other delegations, we would also like to take note of actions taken to implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and welcome the following initiatives:
 - the launch of the annual Economic and Social Council Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up, in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 130, 131 and 132 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;
 - the establishment by the Secretary-General of the Inter-agency Task Force (IATF) on Financing for Development and the first IATF report. We welcome the proposed three-pronged approach of the 2016 IATF report, and look forward to future IATF reports which contain a discussion of the global context and its implications for the follow-up process; an overview of each chapter of the full Addis Ababa Action Agenda; and analyses of thematic issues; and we stress the importance for these reports to highlight the advancement in the implementation of our commitments in middle-income countries;
 - the launch of the Global Infrastructure Forum, led by the multilateral development banks (MDBs), on 16 April 2016 in Washington, D.C. and look forward its conclusions and recommendations and to have a more open dialogue on the need to include middle-income countries perspectives in the discussions taking place in this forum;
 - the launch of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, including the establishment of an inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the sustainable development goals, and call for its full and effective operationalization, including the establishment of the online platform, and look forward to the first annual Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals to be held from 6 to 7 June 2016 in New York.

Mr. President,

- We believe in the need to enhance cooperation with relevant UN Agencies that could support this process, to advance the linkages between infrastructure development, inclusive and sustainable industrialization and innovation; and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as the focal point within the United Nations system for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, debt, investment and sustainable development.
- In this regard, we highlight the importance for UNIDO to report on the progress in the implementation of our commitments in the following Forum and according to its mandate. We will also value UNCTAD reporting and substantive support to the FFD Forum while we welcome the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XIV) to be held in Nairobi, 17-22 July 2016.
- Thank you Mr. President