

# SWEDEN



## STATEMENT

on behalf of Sweden

by

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at the

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**United Nations**  
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**-Check against delivery-**

## Intro

Ministers, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

2015 was the year when the world came together to agree on three milestones: the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Agenda 2030 and the Climate Agreement in Paris. Let us all be proud of this! But let us also admit that plans and visions aren't enough. Now we need action.

For that reason, I am glad to participate in this inaugural forum on financing for development, the main forum for reviewing implementation of the Addis agenda.

## Coherence

And Implementation is urgently needed. When we look at the challenges in the world: climate change, the refugee crisis, or the fact that over one billion people are still lacking energy, one could argue that there is a huge need for more resources. Especially if we are to fulfil the Agenda 2030 and eradicate poverty.

This is indeed true, but at the same time we see that large amounts of money are spent on arms, on fossil subsidies, or simply lost in corruption. Or the fact that billions are being hidden in tax havens over the world, which has been very clear the last weeks.

The fulfilment of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Agenda 2030 is not only about *quantity*, equally important is the issue of *quality*: resources must be used in the best way possible. And equally important is the issue of good policy and coherence: all policy areas must work in the same direction.

It doesn't matter *how much* money we spend, if we spend it on the wrong things.

Sweden was a pioneer when the parliament adopted the policy coherence for development act in 2003. Every policy area has to produce own action plans on how to achieve sustainable development.

I'm not saying that Sweden is perfect. But I believe that some of the lessons that we learned could be relevant in the process of implementing the Addis Agenda and the Agenda 2030.

And I think three issues are especially important in this matter: domestic resource mobilisation, climate and gender.

No country in the history has ever managed to create sustainable economic and social development without a proper system of taxation. We all must continue the work for greater transparency and donors must increase support to tax authorities in developing countries. Our message must be loud and clear: Tax evasion is not acceptable in the 21st century!

The need for climate finance is urgent. Countries, institutions and the private sector must work together to deliver the resources needed. But climate finance cannot be seen as a channel separated from other financial flows. *All* investments must be sustainable, not only the ones with a climate stamp. Sweden has set up a goal to be one of the world's first fossil-free welfare states. Leading the way in this transition is not only morally right, it is economically smart as well.

Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will be absolutely necessary in fulfilling the agenda. There is a clear linkage between women's economic participation and increased growth resulting in increased resources for development. As a representative of the Swedish *feminist* government I would in this regard like to highlight the Addis Ababa Action Plan on Transformative Financing for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. This plan was launched in Addis by UN Woman and a number of countries and serves to translate the commitments on gender equality of the agenda into concrete actions.

And of course, Official Development Assistance also has an important and unique role to play, especially in the least developed countries. Sweden, as one of few countries, set aside 1 % of its GDP and we urge other donors to reach 0.7% of GNI to ODA. But it is not only about numbers. The resources must reach those in most need of it, and we must make sure that all aid is coherent with countries own development plans.

### **Reviewing Implementation of AAAA**

Lastly, I would like to say something about the reviewing of progress in implementing the agenda – the reason why we will meet in this Forum once a year. Credible and timely monitoring and analysis will be required to inform this process.

To put it in concrete terms – the monitoring framework we select to tell us about the achievements in different action areas of the agenda will form our understanding of its implementation. If we look at irrelevant, weak or false data, the results will be misleading and not lead to factual changes on the ground.

If we don't know where we stand, we don't know where extra efforts are needed.

In this regard, I would like to thank the Inter Agency Task Force for its inaugural report, which provides a good start in building a comprehensive monitoring framework.

Since national implementation is at the core of the agenda, experiences from member states will be crucial. I look forward to continued dialogue and learning from each other in this process.

### **Conclusion**

Ministers and delegates,

The negotiation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda was challenging, but the real test now is to implement it. Action is needed at all levels –global, regional and national – and by all actors, public and private. We have now 15 years ahead of us to achieve the sustainable development goals. We are indeed in a hurry and we need to get to work.

Thank you!