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Statement

By

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behalf of the African Group**

During

The ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development Follow up

**New York
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Mr. President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group. Let me take this opportunity to associate the African Group with the Statement delivered by Thailand on behalf of G77 and China.

Mr. President, the African Group has great interest in the outcome of this Forum because we see it as a significant cornerstone in the process of implementation and follow-up of both the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. We therefore look forward to the accelerated rate of implementation of both Agendas in a coherent manner after this forum. In this regard, it is our understanding that while the Addis Ababa Action Agenda will supplement the means of implementation to the 2030 agenda, the former will outlive the later and continue supporting sustainable development programmes well beyond 2030.

We also look forward to strengthened partnership in addressing the pressing obstacles to sustainable development particularly in Africa. These obstacles include but are not limited to inadequate resources exacerbated by illicit financial flows and unmet ODA commitments, unfair international trade rules, debts and debt sustainability, systemic issues in the international financial institutions, transfer of technology and capacity among others.

Mr. President, as we strive to address the above obstacles, we must not forget the unique challenges faced particularly by African countries, least developed countries (LDCs) and landlocked developing countries, small-island developing States, as well as the specific challenges facing middle-income countries and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations.

To this end, we welcome the launch of the annual Economic and Social Council Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up in accordance with the provisions of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the establishment by the Secretary-General of the Inter-agency Task Force (IATF) on Financing for Development, the launch of the Global Infrastructure Forum (GIF), and 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. We also welcome conclusion of the Paris Agreement on climate change and look forward to its signature on April, 22 2016.

The Group recognizes that the principle of national ownership remains relevant and we are committed to take the lead in formulating policies which will facilitate integration of both Addis Ababa Action Agenda and 2030 Agenda into our national plans and priorities to achieve maximum targets.

Mr. President, the African Group is anxiously looking forward to future sessions of the Forum on Financing for Development Follow up and will remain available for engagement in future sessions.

I thank you