



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

13 October 2014

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 13 October 2014 from the Co-Facilitators for the preparatory process of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, H.E. George Wilfred Talbot, Permanent Representative of Guyana, and H.E. Mr. Geir O. Pederson, Permanent Representative of Norway.

In this regard, I would like to call upon you to participate actively at the first informal meeting to be held on Friday, 17 October 2014, at 3.00 p.m and to share your views on the proposed road map detailing the preparatory process and the tentative programme of work for the substantive informal sessions.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam K. Kutesa', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sam K. Kutesa

To All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York



**PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF GUYANA TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS**

13 October 2014

Excellency,

The President of the General Assembly by way of letter dated 08 October appointed us as co-facilitators to lead open, inclusive and transparent consultations on his behalf on all issues related to the third International Conference on Financing for Development and its preparatory process, as provided in resolution 68/279 of 30 June 2014 entitled "Modalities for the third International Conference on Financing for Development".

Resolution 68/279 provides, among other things, for the holding of substantive informal sessions on relevant thematic areas, of a maximum duration of eight working days plus two working days for informal interactive hearings with representatives of civil society and the business sector during the period from September 2014 to March 2015.

In discharging our mandate, we propose to launch the series of substantive informal sessions with a first consultation aimed at setting the stage. At this first meeting, delegations will have the opportunity to provide their views on the proposed roadmap and the programme of work for the substantive informal sessions. We also especially look forward to receive general views on expectations of the Conference as a whole.

We have the pleasure, as co-facilitators, to invite you to the first informal meeting to be held on Friday, 17 October 2014 at 3 pm in the ECOSOC Chamber.

A roadmap detailing the preparatory process right up to the Conference itself and a tentative programme of work for the substantive informal sessions are attached as an annex to the present letter.

We count on your active participation in and support to this process.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Geir O. Pedersen  
Permanent Representative of  
Norway to the United Nations

George Talbot  
Permanent Representative of the Republic  
of Guyana to the United Nations

**Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers**

## **Financing Sustainable Development – Setting the Stage**

First Substantive Informal Session of the Preparatory Process for the third International Conference on Financing for Development

**17 October 2014, 3 p.m. – 6 p.m., ECOSOC Chamber**

An ambitious and transformative post-2015 development agenda will require a comprehensive financing framework for sustainable development. To this end, the General Assembly decided to convene the third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 13 to 16 July 2015.

This first substantive informal session will serve to introduce the roadmap for the preparatory process for the Conference. It will provide an opportunity to reflect on the proposed work programme and will set the stage for deliberations on financing for sustainable development over the coming year.

### **Background**

The third international Conference on Financing for Development will assess the progress made in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration, reinvigorate and strengthen the financing for development follow-up process, identify obstacles and constraints encountered in the achievement of the goals and objectives agreed therein, as well as actions and initiatives to overcome these constraints, and address new and emerging issues, including in the context of the recent multilateral efforts to promote international development cooperation, taking into account the current evolving development cooperation landscape, the interrelationship between all sources of development finance, the synergies among financing objectives across the three dimensions of sustainable development, as well as the need to support the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015.<sup>1</sup>

In preparation for the Conference, the General Assembly decided to hold a maximum of eight working days of substantive informal sessions on relevant thematic areas, and two working days of informal interactive hearings with representatives of civil society and the business sector.<sup>2</sup>

### **Substantive focus of the preparatory process**

The proposed roadmap of substantive informal sessions builds on the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, and further takes into account new and emerging sustainable development challenges to accurately reflect changes and continuities in the international development and financing landscape. It is based on the conceptual framework provided by the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development. It also takes into account the report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing<sup>3</sup> as well as the report by the

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 68/204

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution 68/279

<sup>3</sup> A/69/315

Open Working Group on sustainable development goals.<sup>4</sup> The substantive informal sessions will also be informed by the Secretary-General's synthesis report.

The six chapters of the Monterrey Consensus focus on mobilizing financing for development from all available sources, with chapters on domestic (public and private) financial resources, international private flows and international financial and technical cooperation (international public flows), as well as on the importance of the enabling domestic and international environment for development, including in chapters on trade, external debt and systemic issues.

A holistic financing framework for sustainable development will need to build on these chapters and address additional challenges. Specifically, it will need to:

- be mindful of changes and continuities in the financing landscape
- extend the focus to encompass a universal agenda, incorporating global sustainable development considerations into the agenda – including climate finance and combatting climate change
- take into account the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in an integrated manner, mindful of the proposal for sustainable development goals
- consider financing and other means of implementation in a holistic way
- address the importance of intermediary institutions and financial instruments to address the question of *how* to design policies to incentivize the flow of financing from all sources towards global goals
- consider the follow-up process

## **Proposed roadmap**

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<sup>4</sup> A/68/970

The proposed roadmap towards Addis Ababa based on these considerations is presented below. A more detailed proposed work program follows.

<b>Substantive informal sessions</b>	
17 October 2014 (half day)	Opening session - <i>Financing sustainable development - setting the stage</i> - <i>Discussion of the proposed roadmap</i>
10 November (half day)	Global context - <i>Global context, financing needs and major trends in sustainable development financing</i>
11-13 November 2014	Mobilisation and effective use of resources - <i>Domestic and international public finance</i> - <i>Private (domestic and international) and blended finance</i>
9-11 December 2014	Enabling environment and systemic issues - <i>Enabling and conducive policy environment</i> - <i>Trade, technology and capacity building</i> - <i>Governance</i>
<b>Date could be either:</b> 12 December 2014 or 14 January 2015	Learning from partnerships and follow-up process - <i>Learning from sector partnerships and funds</i> - <i>Interplay of financing sources at the national level and national sustainable development financing strategies</i> - <i>Strengthening the follow up process</i>
<b>Interactive hearings</b>	
15-16 January 2015 <sup>5</sup>	Informal interactive hearings with civil society and the business sector
<b>Regional consultations</b>	
Dates tbd	Held by the UN Regional Commissions
<b>Drafting sessions on the outcome document</b>	
27-29 January 2015	First drafting session
13-17 April 2015	Second drafting session
15-19 June 2015	Third drafting session
<b>Conference</b>	
13-16 July 2015	Third International Conference on Financing for Development

<sup>5</sup> Tentative dates

## **Proposed work program for the substantive informal sessions**

### **1. Financing sustainable development (0.5 days) - 17 October 2014, 3-6 pm**

- Setting the stage
- Discussion of the proposed roadmap

### **2. Mobilisation and effective use of resources (3,5 days)**

#### *The global context (0.5 days) – 10 November 2014, 3-6 pm*

- The global context, financing needs and major trends in financing across the three dimensions of sustainable development

#### *Domestic public finance (1 day) - 11 November 2014*

- Raising domestic public resources:
  - policy reforms
  - taxation and capacity development for effective collection
  - sustainable debt financing and international cooperation for debt resolution
- Domestic public finance: mainstreaming sustainable development criteria
- Fighting illicit flows

#### *International public finance (1 day) - 12 November 2014*

- Increasing international public finance: aid commitments
- International public finance, including environmental financing/climate finance
- South-South and triangular cooperation
- Innovative mechanisms of financing

#### *Private finance (domestic and international) and blended finance (1 day) - 13 November 2014*

- Inclusive finance, including SME financing
- Long-term investment
- International capital flows
- Sustainable finance (EESG considerations)
- Local capital market development
- Public-private partnership (PPPs)
- Remittances and private development assistance

### **3. Enabling environment and systemic issues (3 days)**

#### *Enabling and conducive policy environment (1 day) – 9 December 2014*

- International monetary and financial system and financial market stability
- Balancing access to credit with stability in regulatory regimes
- International tax cooperation
- Debt crisis prevention and resolution
- Key policy reforms to implement individual SDGs

#### *Trade, technology and capacity building (1 day) – 10 December 2014*

- Trade reforms and facilitation
- Trade and investment regimes for sustainable development
- Fostering science, technology and innovation for sustainable development
- Capacity building

*Governance (1 day) – 11 December 2014*

- Enabling and conducive national governance, including capacity development, transparent and accountable institutions
- Enabling and conducive international governance, including global economic governance, transparent and accountable institutions
- Use of data

**4. Learning from partnerships and follow-up process (1 day) – 12 December 2014 or 14 January 2015**

- Learning from sector partnerships and funds (e.g. global funds, partnerships)
- Interplay of financing sources at the national level and national sustainable development financing strategies
- Strengthening the FfD follow-up process