



The President
of the
Economic and Social Council

2 January 2020

2020 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up

Excellency,

I have the honour to invite you to the fifth [annual ECOSOC Forum](#) on Financing for Development follow-up (FfD Forum), to be held from 20 to 23 April 2020, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

As mandated by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Forum has universal, intergovernmental participation and applies the modalities of international conferences on Financing for Development. It results in **an intergovernmentally negotiated outcome** which provides guidance to the overall follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

The year 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the United Nations. It also marks the beginning of the **Decade of Action** to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The Economic and Social Council has adopted the theme of “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development” for its 2020 session. As we embark in this historical push, we are reminded that we are off-track in achieving the SDGs. One reason for the faltering progress is the lack of financing and necessary policy change. Mobilizing sufficient resources to finance sustainable development remains a major challenge. This will be exacerbated by a deteriorating global outlook held back by policy uncertainties, trade tensions, high debt levels, as well as climate risks.

No country or organization can overcome these challenges on its own. The ECOSOC FfD Forum, at the **center of the dedicated FFD follow-up process** established by the **Addis Ababa Action Agenda**, has a track record of bringing different views together and achieving steps forward through consensus. Four forums held since 2016 have all adopted outcomes by consensus. Over the years, the Forum has stood out as an intergovernmental space that 1) drives consensus; 2) strikes a balance in the consideration of economic and non-economic factors; 3) pays special attention to countries in special situations; and 4) makes evidence-based recommendations.

The 2020 FFD Forum offers an opportunity to **make a major push for progress** in financing the SDGs. Building on the forum’s strong engagements of ministers, IFIs, the business sector and other stakeholders, I intend to create greater space for interaction with and among these stakeholders. The issues to be addressed by the forum will be guided by the outcome of the 2019 General Assembly High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, my consultations in the months ahead, as well as the [priorities of my Presidency in implementing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#) (e.g. **women’s economic empowerment, domestic resources mobilization, taxation, illicit financial flows, and debt**). The SDG Investment Fair will be held in parallel with the Forum.

I am committed to making the fifth FFD Forum **the moment of global action on financing for development in the year of 2020**. Towards this objective, I invite your government to share

policy developments and national actions that have successfully boosted financing for sustainable development in your own country, at regional or global level, as well as new initiatives which could be launched at the Forum. These will be carefully reviewed in the preparation for the 2020 Forum, with some to be featured at the forum.

The participation of your Ministers (e.g. Finance, Foreign Affairs, Central Bank/Treasury, Development, Economy/Planning) is strongly recommended. I invite you to kindly submit your nomination of high-level officials and other delegates for participation at the 2020 FFD Forum **by 14 February 2020** to ffdforum@un.org; with copy to liuh@un.org and erfurth@un.org. Should you have further questions, please consult the Forum homepage at <https://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffdforum/#> or contact Mr. Huanyu Liu (email: liuh@un.org; tel: 917-367-2902) and Mr. Philipp Erfurth (email: erfurth@un.org; tel: 917-367-4938).

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurance of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mona Juul". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mona Juul

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