



Opening remarks

H.E. Mr. Oh Joon

President of the Economic and Social Council

ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up

New York, 18 April 2016

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon,
Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honour to welcome you to the inaugural ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up on the overall theme of “Financing for sustainable development: follow-up to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.”

Please allow me to thank you, Mr. Secretary-General, for being with us this morning. My special welcome also goes to the Ministers and other senior officials, heads of institutions, and the representatives of civil society and the business sector here today.



Last July, Heads of State and Government adopted the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which provided a comprehensive financing framework to support the achievement of 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Member States are implementing this important agenda through a dedicated and strengthened FfD follow-up process.

The launch of the ECOSOC FfD Forum today marks a new chapter in the history of the Financing for Development process. The Forum is mandated to enable an integrated follow-up to FfD outcomes and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In this process, we are advancing on the solid ground laid out by our predecessors. The Monterrey and Doha Conferences generated a strong momentum in advancing financing for development issues among Member States, major institutional stakeholders, and others.

The ECOSOC special high-level meetings with the Bretton Woods Institutions, WTO, and UNCTAD, as well as the General Assembly High-level dialogues on financing for development, have strengthened political momentum leading up to Addis. We

must now forge ahead with elevated ambition and innovation based on the lessons learned from these experiences.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda envisages a Forum with unique functions.

First, the Forum serves as a primary platform for policy dialogue on financing for development follow-up. It is tasked to assess progress, identify challenges, and facilitate the delivery of the means of implementation. It is also expected to promote sharing of lessons learned at the national and regional levels, while addressing new and emerging topics.

Second, the Forum provides a platform for concrete action. We will come up with intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations to guide the implementation of the Addis Agreement by the international community.

Third, the Forum enables broad engagement by relevant stakeholders as well as Member States. It follows the modalities of participation of the international conferences on financing for development, which proved to be conducive to consensus-building and to encouraging active implementation in the field.



Fourth, the Forum carries out its work in accordance with a strong evidence-based approach. The Inter-agency Task Force convened by the Secretary-General galvanizes major institutional stakeholders and the UN system to produce evidence, in the form of a report, for the Forum's consideration.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our three-day starts this morning with presentations by the heads of major institutional stakeholders and the intergovernmental bodies. This will be followed by the General Debate where we will hear how governments are mainstreaming the Addis Agenda into national strategies and taking steps towards the implementation. In the afternoon, there will be an interactive dialogue with the Bretton Woods Institutions, WTO, and UNCTAD. The next two days of the Forum will include a series of round tables, which will feature focused discussions on action areas of the Addis Agenda.

Allow me now to highlight a few areas which are not only at the heart of the functions of ECOSOC, but also key to success of this Forum.

We must align the incentives and actions of all actors with the SDGs and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Over the past decade, we have seen many new actors emerging in financing for development with diverse incentives and agendas. We can catalyze policy coherence by bringing these actors together around the agreements reached in Addis Ababa. The enhanced engagement with major institutional stakeholders, as part of the Forum, will play a critical role in this regard moving forward.

The interlinkages and coherence among intergovernmental processes must be also strengthened. The Forum will conduct a review for the 2030 Agenda, both in the progress in financing for development and in the means of implementation. Relevant intergovernmental processes should be more closely coordinated in order to avoid duplication of discussions.

The purpose of the follow-up and review is to promote implementation on the ground. We must always keep our focus on implementation, not least at the national level. The preparatory process and the Forum itself should benefit from the experiences of country-level implementation.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

This inaugural FfD Forum will focus on the monitoring and review of the commitments of Addis and the 2030 Agenda.

The two co-facilitators I have appointed, Ambassador Zinsou of Benin and Ambassador Drobnjak of Croatia have been working hard to work out agreed-upon conclusions and recommendations.

I wish to commend their dedication and skilful stewardship, which will bring this process to a successful conclusion. As mandated in the Addis Agenda, the outcome of this Forum will then be fed into the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

Let me also thank you, Mr. Secretary-General, for his leadership and the outstanding support from the Secretariat.

I trust that this Forum will provide the right space for exchange on early action taken and will chart the roadmap for future implementation of the Addis Agenda.

Thank you.