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United Nations Economic and Social Council

TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES

Opening remarks

H.E. Mr. Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava

President of ECOSOC

ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up

(New York, 22 May 2017)

Deputy Secretary-General,
Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour to welcome you to the second ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up.

I welcome the many Ministers, Vice-ministers and high-level officials, heads of institutions, and the representatives of civil society, the business sector and other stakeholders here today. I also thank the Deputy Secretary-General for sending a video message to the Forum.

Almost two years ago, in July 2015, Heads of State and Government adopted the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and, with it, a comprehensive financing framework to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. As we meet today, the world is facing a host of economic, social, environmental and humanitarian challenges. Many of those challenges have global repercussions and cannot be addressed by any one actor alone.

Realizing the SDGs in this difficult environment makes the full and timely implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda more important than ever. The eyes of the world are upon us and peoples and stakeholders everywhere have high expectations from this gathering. In this context, the Forum comes at a crucial juncture in time and has no option but to deliver and live up to expectations.

As the primary platform for policy dialogue on financing for development follow-up, the Forum brings together all relevant stakeholders to assess progress, identify obstacles and challenges to the implementation of the FfD outcomes and the delivery of the means of implementation for the SDGs.

It also provides a platform for concrete action. Its intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations include a wide range of policy measures and actions that can change the trajectory of the global economy and support countries toward achieving the SDGs. The outcome document makes it clear that a steadfast commitment to multilateral cooperation for sustainable development is as crucial as ever.



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As we embark on our ambitious programme of work over the next four days, we must galvanize further momentum for implementing our transformative vision for sustainable development.

Today, we will begin our discussions in the context of the Special High-level Meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, WTO and UNCTAD. The Special High-level Meeting holds historic significance. Since the adoption of the Monterrey Consensus in 2002, it has served as a focal point for major institutional stakeholders to interact with Member States on financing for development. As such, it provides us with an invaluable opportunity to promote coherence, coordination and cooperation in our common efforts to implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and other financing for development outcomes.

The strong representation of major institutional stakeholders today is a testimony of the robust relationship that we have built over the years through this platform. This morning, representatives of these stakeholders will share with us their achievements and plans of action in implementing the Financing for Development outcomes and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

This afternoon, we will engage with our counterparts from Washington D.C. and Geneva through an interactive dialogue. Let me take this opportunity to add my special welcome to the President of the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD, as well as Executive Directors of the World Bank Group and the IMF.

Tomorrow we will hold ministerial round tables on “Steps taken towards implementation of commitments contained in the Addis Agenda and other FfD outcomes.” These round tables have attracted great interest from Member States and other relevant stakeholders. They will be instrumental in sharing lessons learned from experiences at the country levels in mobilizing resources for sustainable development, from both public and private sources at the national and international levels.

Looking forward, I believe such discussions hold great potential in promoting an ongoing dialogue among countries on how to respond to the call in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to implement “cohesive nationally owned sustainable development strategies, supported by integrated national financing frameworks”.

The last two days of the Forum provide us with an opportunity to delve deeper into the seven action areas of the Addis Agenda, by assessing progress, identifying obstacles and discussing corrective actions, while also addressing new and emerging topics.

Towards that objective, we have attempted to bring a balanced mix of expertise and perspectives to these round tables. Policy makers and practitioners will share their successes



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and challenges in mobilizing finance and other means of implementation from all sources and at all levels. They will also address the need for a more enabling environment.

The rich findings of the first substantive report of the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development will provide important guidance to the discussions.

I also look forward to our stakeholder dialogue on Thursday, as well as our final session, which will hear progress reports from mandated and voluntary fora related to the Financing for Development process.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In concluding, allow me to congratulate the two co-facilitators I appointed, my dear colleagues, Ambassador Marc Pecsteen of Belgium and Ambassador Jerry Matthews Matjila of South Africa, on their impressive efforts to reach consensus on the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the Forum which will be adopted tomorrow.

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

Let me also thank the Secretary-General and in particular the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for their outstanding support throughout this process.

As you can see, we have a rich programme in front of us. I urge you to remain fully engaged until the very last day. It is our moral duty to use this opportunity wisely in order to advance the world toward achieving the SDGs and to ensure that promises made are promised kept.

I wish you fruitful deliberations!