



ECOSOC

United Nations Economic and Social Council

TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES

**Opening statement by
H.E. Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava, President of the Economic and Social
Council**

**ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up: Ministerial round tables
(Trusteeship Council Chamber, 23 May 2017)**

Excellencies,
Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the ministerial round tables of the 2017 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up on the overall theme: *Steps taken towards the implementation of commitments contained in the Addis Agenda and other FfD outcomes.*

Responding to the mandate of the Addis Agenda for the FfD follow-up process to promote the sharing of lessons learned from experiences at the national and regional levels, the ministerial round tables are the main innovation of the 2017 Forum. The round tables have attracted a substantial number of ministers, vice-ministers and other high-ranking government representatives from all regions from ministries of finance, foreign affairs and development cooperation. I thank them all for their participation, and continued engagement in this important process.

All three ministerial round tables will bring together voices from developed and developing countries, major institutional stakeholders, and other stakeholders including the business sector, civil society and local authorities. Most importantly, each dialogue will be informed by the prevailing national realities of Member States. This type of constructive dialogue is what will help us all to implement the Addis Agenda and achieve the SDGs.

With that, I would like to open the first ministerial round table and give the floor to Mr. Tao Zhang, Deputy Managing Director of the IMF, who will moderate the session. Mr. Zhang, you have the floor.