



# ECOSOC

United Nations Economic and Social Council

**TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES**

**Opening Remarks**  
**H.E. Ms. Marie Chatardová**  
**President of ECOSOC**  
**ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up**  
**(New York, 23 April 2018)**

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

It is my honor to welcome you to the 2018 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development. We are now in the third year of implementing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Over those years, we have seen significant progress in all action areas of the Agenda. But implementation gaps remain. To accelerate our efforts towards financing the 2030 Agenda, today's Forum must send several important messages to the international community.

First, let us be clear that our resolve to implement the Addis Agenda is stronger than ever. The recent upturn in the world economy is encouraging and provides a platform for further progress. But we know that lingering economic vulnerabilities, escalations of geopolitical tensions and natural disasters can quickly derail development progress. There is no better prevention of crises than development. Achieving sustainable development helps mitigate the impacts of financial crises, natural disasters and climate change. It also minimizes the risks of instability and conflict.



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DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

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Second, we must follow through with our promises and take concrete actions on the ground. We need to put in place integrated national sustainable development strategies that provide a long-term vision for financing the SDGs. How we design our policies, plans and regulatory frameworks will have implications until 2030 and beyond. The ministerial round tables today and tomorrow provide important space to share our national experiences in this regard.

Third, we need to encourage long-term investment into the SDG at a larger scale. Private finance and investment, public and blended financing all remain indispensable. Yesterday, we met for the first SDG Investment Fair held in conjunction with the Forum to discuss how to mobilize capital for sustainable and long-term investment. I was impressed by the level of commitment from governments, private investors and development finance institutions to explore innovative solutions to scale up long-term investments into the SDGs.

Fourth, we must renew our commitment to multilateralism in implementing the Addis Agenda. Development cooperation remains a central element in financing sustainable development. Developed countries must deliver on both ODA and climate finance commitments. Multilateral development banks, development finance institutions and South-South cooperation providers should scale up their contributions to the 2030 Agenda.

Fifth, SDG investment must be inclusive and leave no one behind. Too much of the world's population still suffers from extreme poverty, including women, persons living with disabilities, indigenous peoples, children and youth, and the elderly. Let us close the financing and capacity gaps in the most vulnerable countries. Greater international support will help these countries meet the SDGs.



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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am convinced that the FFD Forum provides us with a vital opportunity to build further momentum towards the full and timely implementation of the Addis Agenda. The Forum has established itself as the central platform for reviewing the progress and challenges in the implementation of the Financing for Development outcomes.

This year's Forum builds on a strong preparatory process. In November last year, the State of Qatar, in cooperation with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, hosted a successful High-level Conference on Financing for Development and the Means of Implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The well-attended event resulted in 10 "Doha Messages" aimed at strengthening the coherence and cooperation for the implementation of the Addis Agenda and the SDGs.

Please allow me to conclude by congratulating our two co-facilitators, Ambassador Rattray of Jamaica and Ambassador Duarte Lopes of Portugal, for so expertly guiding the negotiations of the Forum's intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations. I applaud your dedication and commendable stewardship in bringing the negotiations to a successful conclusion.

The outcome document contains a wide range of actionable recommendations and concrete commitments that should pave the way for significant progress. It represents an inspiring precedent for future negotiations on financing for development.

I further want to thank the Secretary-General and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for their distinguished support throughout this process.



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The next four days will be filled with rich discussions about how all stakeholders can advance the implementation of the Financing for Development outcomes. I encourage you to stay engaged throughout the entire Forum. The strength of our collective commitment to implement the Addis Agenda and the SDGS is the key to realize a better future for everyone.

Thank you.



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