

African Group statement during the second drafting session on the Outcome document of the Third International Conference on FFD

Delivered by

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Co-facilitators

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group.

The African Group associates itself with the statement made by H.E Mr. Jeremiah Nyamane Kingsley Mamabolo, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

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The Group thanks you for producing the zero draft that compile positions not only put forward by member states and underscores the need to follow up the spirit of paragraph 12 of Res.68/279.

The African Group emphasizes the importance of achieving an ambitious outcome document in Addis Ababa, given the need to review the progress in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration, reinvigorate and strengthen the financing for development follow-up process, identify obstacles encountered for the achievements of the goals therein and actions to overcome these constraints, as well as support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

We adhere to the Monterrey structure with two addition pillars; on technology, innovation and capacity building and; on monitoring, data and follow-up.

We stress that the FFD Accord should be based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and take into account the right to development.

We stress also the importance to fully take into consideration the respect of development policy space for developing countries to make use of policy tools and measures that are required to implement their policies for poverty eradication and other developmental plans and programs.

We underline that People must be at the center of sustainable development and, in this regard, in the outcome document, we must strive for a world that is just, equitable and inclusive and the commitments should be made to promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection and thereby to benefit all.

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If Addis Ababa is not a pledging conference, how will it address MOI for the SDGs. Let Addis be a commitment guided discussion, otherwise it will be just another season for jamboree which will be followed by another one after 2030.

The Group emphasizes on the need to analyze the financial gap for the implementation of the post 2015 development agenda, and significantly mobilize resources from a variety of sources and also stresses that greater coherence and coordination among the various funding mechanisms and initiatives are crucial, as well address the access to the funds.

We need to deliver specific measurable commitments addressing the goals and targets of the sustainable development agenda. In this regards, we underline that the Addis Ababa Accord shall include significant financial and non-financial commitments from variety of sources, as well as other form of engagements addressing, among others, infrastructure and sustainable energy, industrial diversification, trade, economic transformation, rural development and agriculture transformation, education, health, women and youth, children, debt cancellation and alleviation, technology facilitation mechanism, capacity building, repatriation of illicit financial flows, reform of the institutions of global governance on economic and finance, strengthening cooperation in the fields of taxation, commodity price volatility, exchange rate, and data revolution, in order to support the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development goals.

We call, in particular upon developed countries to agree and commit to a new phase of international cooperation through a strengthened and scaled-up global partnership for development, which should be the centrepiece and anchor for both completing the unfinished business of the MDGs and implementing the post-2015 development agenda, taking into account the lessons learnt from the gaps in the implementation of MDG8.

We also need an enhanced partnership which has multi-stakeholders needs to identify roles of each of the players. Let them make commitments. In this regard, we underline the need to strengthen the United Nations leadership role in promoting development

On other Specific comments, the Group underlines that the Zero draft tried to address the mobilization of means of implementation but lacks the appropriate language of being specific and time bound. If the FfD is to address the MOI for the ambitious SDGs, it has to be more inspiring with specific commitments. If we need to take action, then FfD language has to be action oriented. However, the Zero draft is not all that inspiring and action oriented.

The Group wants also to categorically underline the need to delete all references to sub Saharan Africa, it's an UN system based approach that is not relevant to the current realities and African vision. We want to see the reference to Africa only, and any categorization should be in line with the African approach based on regional economic communities as pillars of African integrations.

The Group underscores that the zero draft doesn't materialize some of the commitments taken in the Open working Group outcome document, and the level of ambitions seems to be reduced to the minimum. In particular, beyond rhetoric, we don't see clear indications on the mobilization of resources from a variety of sources to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular African countries, SIDs, LDCs, LLDCs, Middle income countries to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions, and promote sustainable development.

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The Group highlights the importance to support Africa efforts at regional and sub-regional level namely through Agenda 2063, the new shared continental socio-economic transformation framework and its continental programmes embedded in NEPAD.

We underline the importance of regional integration as a fundamental tool for realizing development effectiveness for inclusive growth and development in Africa. In this regards, we highlight that regional investments in key priority sectors require the expansion of innovative financing mechanisms, and the possibility for multilateral institutions to directly support regional organizations particularly the RECs.

We are of the view that beneficiation, valorization and value addition of African natural resources will translate into substantially improved fiscal positions for governments. In this regards, we call for the International community to support African countries efforts to Develop human resource capacities for better contract negotiation, elaborate standard contract arrangements, and facilitate increased participation by local communities, as well as new revenue (derived from royalties, income tax, land tax and lease rents, etc.) distribution mechanisms for sharing and retention within local communities, portions of centrally collected rents.

We believe that the International public finance should complement and facilitate national efforts. Long term investments, including FDI are needed in critical sectors, especially in sustainable energy, infrastructure and transport, information and communications technologies as well as the diversification of the African economies.

We noted with concern that the lack of early stage project preparation support, alongside the capacity constraints to render such support, is key obstacle for the implementation of infrastructure development. Therefore, we call for support to project preparation facilities (PPFs), such as the NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility (IPPF).

We want to see strengthened the international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology.

We call for the International financial institutions and Regional development banks to upscale their operation, including concessional loans and technical support for projects in infrastructure areas where private sector investment has in the past been limited.

We underscore the need to sustain sufficient and stable private financial flows to developing countries, in particular African countries.

Regarding Illicit financing flows, the Group is surprised to see the reference urging just african countries to implement the recommendations of the Mbeki report, while the entire illicit Financing flows leave the african continent. To implement the recommendations, we need a strong international cooperation to curtail, reverse and facilitate asset recovery and repatriation of funds to countries of origin.

The Group also emphasizes on the need to reduce transfer costs of remittances as agreed in the OWG, which cannot be considered as a substitute for public sources of financing for development, and enhance their effective management.

We highlight that peace and development are mutually reinforcing, therefore, we should pursue our shared vision for a better future, by eradicating poverty, reducing inequality among and within countries, and address the root causes of conflicts.

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The Group also underline the need to fulfill by 2018 the existing ODA commitments of 0.7 to developing countries, with 0.15-0.20 of GNI to LDCs to address the unfinished Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the context of the post 2015 development agenda.

We also urge developed countries to increase ODA by 2020 to 1 per cent of GNI to developing countries with 50 per cent of it to be allocated to the least developed countries in order to fastrack the implementation of the post 2015 development agenda.

We also emphasize that the proposal of redefining the parameters and objectives of ODA and its criteria of allocation should be discussed openly and transparently and agreed upon by all member States under the auspices of the UN. In this regards, we suggest to adress the criteria for LDC graduation flexibility and substantially increase the share of country programmable aid in total ODA to Africa.

We underline that Climate finance must not be double counted as ODA and therefore must be considered as separate from and additional to ODA.

We call for the need to address issues of particular concern to African countries in international trade to enhance their capacity and finance their development, including trade barriers, trade-distorting subsidies and other trade-distorting measures, sanitary and phytosanitary measures; the lack of recognition of intellectual property rights for the protection of traditional knowledge and folklore; the transfer of knowledge and technology.

We call for the reform of the international financial and monetary system and highlight the need to address the exchange rate issue and develop a new mechanism for loans in domestic currencies.

We underline the critical importance for the establishment of a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on concessional and preferential terms.

Capacity Development is the core vehicle to actualize the Continent's exit strategy from Aid and take full control of its development. Africa has recognized Capacity Development as an agenda in its own right and has set its own priorities with the Capacity Development Strategic Framework (CDSF) adopted by the 14th African Union Summit of February 2010, as Africa's common reference and policy guide on building, harnessing, nurturing, utilizing, adding value and retaining capacity.

We emphasize the need for enhanced capacity building for sustainable development and, in this regard, we call for the strengthening of technical and scientific cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.

We also call for greater and equitable representation of African Countries on IMF and World Bank Global standards and monitoring bodies.

We need to upgrade the Statistical Commission of the United Nations for the participation of all member states.

The Draft zero doesn't give clear indications with regards to the need to establish a robust mechanism to review the commitments for the implementation of the agreed goals and targets. what do you review if there are no benchmarks with timeframes?

The General Assembly, the high-level political forum should play a key role in this regard.

In conclusion, in term of linkage between the FFD process and the means of implementation, the Group underlines the need for a complementing and stronger synergy between the processes. However, because of the level of ambition we have, any commitments that fall shorter in the FFD process to adress the goals and targets should be carried forward in the means of implementation section under the Post 2015 development agenda.

We have also to take into consideration that the FfD is a separate process and its scope goes beyond merely financing the SDGs.

I thank you