



**Financing for Development
Second Drafting Session
General Discussion
13 April 2015
Statement by OHCHR**

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

OHCHR welcomes the opportunity to participate in these important discussions. The outcome of the 3d summit on Financing for Development will affect the ability of States to fulfil their human rights obligations and to achieve the targets being set for the post-2015 development agenda. International human rights instruments agreed to by member States outline basic parameters for financing development. They call for the mobilization of maximum available resources for the progressive realization of human rights. They promote transparency, participation and accountability in decision-making. They emphasize the need for all States, and other actors, to take joint and separate action to promote inclusive and equitable development that benefits all people, without discrimination, and particularly the most vulnerable.

Human rights commitments must be adequately reflected in the Financing for Development outcome. While the zero draft contains many positive elements, there are several areas where language should be improved to ensure coherence with international human rights obligations. For example, the draft does not adequately integrate the human rights commitment to mobilize maximum available resources for the progressive realization of human rights. It emphasizes the need to establish an enabling environment for businesses, but does not sufficiently address the corresponding duties and responsibilities of States to protect people from harms caused by the private sector, and of businesses to respect human rights in their activities. Most notably, it omits any reference to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the globally recognized standard in this area. The draft speaks of policy coherence but fails to explicitly call for coherence with international human rights standards. It speaks of promoting fair and equitable trade and investment regimes but fails to call for ex ante and ex post human rights impact assessments to ensure that agreements are actually fair and equitable.

OHCHR looks forward to further addressing these and other issues in the coming days, to ensure that the outcome reinforces, rather than undercuts, all human rights, including the right to development. Thank you.