

Funding Proposal

Organization of the 2018 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up (New York, 23-26 April 2018)

I. Background

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (Addis Agenda), adopted in 2015, serves as a new global framework for financing sustainable development by aligning all financing flows and policies with economic, social and environmental priorities. In the Addis Agenda, Member States and other stakeholders also agreed on a comprehensive set of policy actions, with more than 100 concrete measures that draw upon all sources of finance, technology, innovation, trade, debt and data in order to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda). The Addis Agenda also established a dedicated mechanism for the follow-up and review of the FfD outcomes and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda: the annual ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up (FfD Forum). The FfD Forum results in intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations, which feed into the overall follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda during the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

Following the inaugural FfD Forum in 2016, the second Forum was held on 22-25 May 2017. Its 26-paragraph substantive outcome document reaffirmed key elements of the Addis Agenda and contained new commitments on policies and actions to ensure the full and timely delivery of the means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. It was widely considered a success by Member States and provided input to the 2017 HLPF. The report of the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development (IATF) provided the major input into the Forum and served as the basis of the outcome document.

Furthermore, the outcome document included an invitation to “international, bilateral and other potential donors to consider contributing generously to the Trust Fund to Support Activities for the Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, in particular to support the travel to and participation of representatives from developing countries, in particular least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, in the annual Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up” (para 24).

A key innovation of the 2017 FfD Forum was the organisation of ministerial round tables, which served as an inclusive platform for sharing national experiences in the implementation of the Addis Agenda. The 2017 FfD Forum brought together 20 ministers and vice-ministers, numerous high-level officials from ministries of finance, foreign affairs and development cooperation and thus succeeded in establishing itself as an inclusive platform for discussion on broad range of issues in FfD and a welcome alternative to the annual meetings of the BWIs in Washington DC. The expert segment of the FfD Forum featured vibrant multi-stakeholder discussions, which resulted in concrete policy proposals representing the views and expertise of a wide range of stakeholders.

In the outcome document of the 2017 FfD Forum, Member States decided that the third FfD Forum would be held on 23-26 April 2018. As the Forum secretariat, the Financing for Development Office (FfDO) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) is responsible for providing support to the President of ECOSOC in organisation of the Forum. In preparing for the 2018 Forum, FfDO seeks to capitalize on the successes of the previous Forums, and to improve it further, by taking into account lessons learned and views expressed by Member States. One of the key objectives will be to sustain the active engagement of government representatives from both developed and developing countries, to the extent possible at the ministerial level. In response to views and support expressed by Member States, FfDO will try to enhance the ministerial segment of the FfD Forum by engaging ministers in longer and more substantive reviews of steps taken by their governments towards implementing the Addis Agenda. Additionally, the FfDO will aim to increase the quality and interactivity of panel discussions among government representatives, experts, civil society and the private sector.

Furthermore, responding to a call to increase the engagement of the private sector, with the ultimate goal of facilitating concrete investment in developing countries, FfDO and the DESA Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) will organize the “SDG Investment Fair” (SDGI Fair) on the eve of the 2018 FfD Forum (in the afternoon of 22 April 2018) among ministers and high-level representatives of the private sector. The SDGI Fair will be a high-profile event of 100-150 high-level representatives from governments and the investor community, which will aim to match funding opportunities with SDG-focused projects and discuss the country-level challenges in scaling-up SDGI. The event would create space for interactive engagement through Davos-style discussions, break-out sessions, bi-lateral meetings and exhibits.

II. Objectives

The overall objective of this project is to raise the profile of the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up and to further increase its value-added as an inclusive and interactive platform for discussion on broad range of issues in FfD and a welcome complement to the annual meetings of the BWIs in Washington DC. To that end, this project seeks to: (1) ensure the participation and engagement of ministers and other high-level representatives of developing countries in the 2018 FfD Forum; (2) increase the interactivity, multi-stakeholder nature and depth of discussions during ministerial and expert segments; and (3) promote and galvanize support for the Forum through public outreach and communication activities.

III. Outputs and Activities

Output 1: The participation and substantive engagement of ministers and other high-level representatives from developing countries, especially from Least Developed Countries

(LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) will ensure inclusive and balanced deliberations during the 2018 FfD Forum, and increase the buy-in of these countries for the Forum's outcome document.

Activity

1.	Travel of up to 60 funded government representatives from LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, including 20 panellists and discussants
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Output 2: The organisation of interactive (Davos-style), multi-stakeholder and substantive panel discussions during ministerial and expert segments will allow to further increase the value-added of the FfD Forum as an inclusive and interactive platform for discussion on broad range of issues in FfD.

Activities

2.1	Hiring of moderators and resource persons to facilitate interactive (Davos-style) discussions
2.2	Contracting the necessary in-house technical services and support to set up Davos-style discussions
2.3	Participation of up to 10 representatives from civil society and the private sector as panellists and discussants

Output 3: Dedicated support to the FfD Office's public outreach and communication activities will increase awareness of and mobilize political support for the FfD Forum. Such activities would include the development of promotional communication materials, maintenance of the FfD Forum website and production of the 2018 Forum publication.

Activities

3.1	Hiring of contractor to support outreach and communication activities
3.2	Printing and distribution of Forum summary publication

IV. Estimated Budget

Activity	Amount (USD)
1.1 Travel of up to 60 funded government representatives from LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, including 20 panellists and discussants <i>Round trip air fare, 5 days of DSA in New York, terminal expense allowance</i>	378,000
2.1 Hiring of moderators and resource persons to facilitate interactive (Davos-style) discussions <i>Fees, round trip air fare, DSA in New York, terminal expense allowance</i>	37,100
2.2 Technical services and support to set up Davos-style discussions	20,000
2.3 Participation of up to 10 representatives from civil society and the private sector as panellists and discussants	43,000
3.1 Hiring of contractor to support outreach and communication activities <i>\$6,500 x 4 months</i>	26,000

3.2 Printing and distribution of forum publication (<i>Printed publication, USB flash drives</i>)	6,000
	510,100
Programme support costs	66,313
Total	576,413

V. Indicators of Success

Activity	Indicator of Success
1.1 Participation of up to 60 funded government representatives from LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, including 20 panellists and discussants	Attendance in all segments of the forum
2.1 Hiring of moderators and resource persons to facilitate interactive (Davos-style) discussions	Feedback from participants that discussions held during the ministerial and expert segments are more substantive and interactive.
2.2 Technical services and support to set up Davos-style discussions	All technical services and support are provided as needed throughout the ministerial and expert segments.
2.3 Travel of up to 10 funded representatives from civil society and the private sector as panellists and discussants	Attendance in all segments of the forum.
3.1 Hiring of contractor to support outreach and communication activities	Timely dissemination of information, including through the FfD website; Timely preparation of the Forum publication
3.2 Printing and distribution of Forum publication	Timely release of the Forum publication

VI. Contact Person

Mr. Tim Hilger

Economic Affairs Officer
Multi-Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach Branch
Financing for Development Office
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Email: Hilger@un.org| Phone: +1 (212) 963 6459