



UAE Statement
3rd Forum on Financing for Development
Delivered by Ms. Hessa Alateibi, Third Secretary
23-26 April, 2018

Thank you, [Chair].

The UAE aligns with the statement delivered on behalf of the G77 and China. In my national capacity, I would like to address two additional points:

- 1) the continued importance of ODA to achieving the SDGs; and
- 2) the greater role the UN can play in private sector resource mobilization.

First, while ODA will be a small share of the overall financing for SDGs, it remains one of the most potent tools, especially in fragile states, LDCs, and SIDS. Many of the SDG targets are sub-commercial; meaning that we will only see progress on them when international public finance is available. Increasing ODA availability must remain a priority in SDG implementation and UN efforts, and should not be abandoned in hopes that private finance will rush in to markets where the risk of being left behind is greatest.

On the other hand, ODA of course should never be viewed as blank cheque or cure-all. It must be targeted to create conditions that enable other forms of finance.

From a national perspective, the UAE is honored to maintain its high levels of ODA to this end. In 2017, ODA accounted for 1.31% of our GNI. We are now targeting our ODA on both policy and market levers that hold back development and the private sector. Our foreign assistance policy identifies three focuses that we believe



form a foundation for new finance: i) transport and urban infrastructure; ii) empowerment and protection of women and iii) government effectiveness. We view private sector and trade development as cross-cutting elements and catalysts, from financing women-owned businesses in the MENA region, to infrastructural developments in fragile settings.

Second and related, we believe that UNDS reform provides a unique opportunity for the UN to reposition its services to Member States in support of private sector resource mobilization. Loan guarantees, technical assistance on public-private partnership frameworks, and funding for preparatory work to make infrastructure projects bankable are all existing parts of the UN arsenal. However, they need to be scaled up and better-funded, and they need to become principal focuses of the conversation between the UN and Member States when determining their UNDAFs. We would like to see the UN in the next few years helping all interested Member States with policy guidance and measures to attract private finance – as well as measuring its own impact by the amount of finance raised.

We hope very much that the Secretary-General will seize the window of reform to put Member State services for resource mobilization at the heart of what the UN does.

The UAE is certainly committed to advancing down this track – and learning from others – in our own international engagement.

I thank you, Mr Chair.