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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE FEDERAL
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Opening Remark by H.E. Dr. Abraham Tekeste, State Minister of
Ministry of Finance and Economic Development of the
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**

At

**Preparatory Process for the
Third International Conference on Financing for Development**

First drafting session

28 January 2015

New York

Excellencies Co-facilitators Ambassador George Wilfred Talbot and Ambassador Geir O. Pedersen,

Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under Secretary-General for Economic Affairs,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to make an opening remark on the first drafting session of the preparation for the Addis Ababa International Conference on Financing for Sustainable Development.

First of all I would like to begin by expressing appreciation for the very excellent work being done by the co-facilitators, Ambassadors George Talbot, Geir Pedersen and UNDESA. They have been really very helpful. We hope that the productive and positive spirit during the thematic dialogues and discussions in the UN over the past few months will continue as we progress towards the Addis Ababa conference in July. I would also like to recognise the work that has gone to consolidate those discussions into the elements paper, which the co-facilitators have circulated. I am sure that this was not an easy task!

As already noted, 2015 is an important year. With the agreement to the post 2015 sustainable development goals in September, the climate COP meeting in Paris in December, and the Finance for Development Conference in Addis Ababa in July, we have a great opportunity to set the stage for the next 15 years. It should be one for all partners-public and private, national and international-working together for sustainable development, economic growth and transformation, and ending poverty.

This opportunity is not the one to be missed.

Ethiopia is very pleased to be hosting the Finance for Development Conference in July. We are working hard to get ready for a successful Conference. We are looking forward to welcoming you all to Addis Ababa to attend and participate in the Conference. We are looking forward to the constructive discussions and agreement on the means of implementation for the Sustainable Development Goals and how global sustainable development should be resourced in the post 2015 period.

In July, we want a positive atmosphere, where everyone chooses to play its part. We want each group of countries to come to the table with an offer, as well as ask. What will we *all* do in areas such as domestic resource mobilisation, infrastructure, structural economic transformation, trade, investment, innovation and technology transfer, aid and the international architecture? And how can the private sector, civil society, private philanthropy, and academia help deliver our goals in a way that all benefit?

The proposals that are put forward for consideration should be looked from both short and long term benefit in accommodative manner. Let us consider our citizens and customers or clients of the future and what they might think about our actions and decisions in Addis Ababa. Let us consider what makes sense for our countries or businesses or organisations to act on now, in order for it to be better in the future.

Now let me turn to the legacy of Financing for Development. I would like to congratulate Excellency, the representative from Mexico for hosting of the Monterrey conference in 2002. You, the UN team and member states delivered an excellent document in the Monterrey consensus, and it established a broad foundation for Financing for Development, taking into account mobilisation of domestic resources, foreign direct investment, ODA, trade, debt and systemic issues.

But what was important was that the Monterrey Consensus wasn't just a document. Key areas, such as the principles on aid effectiveness became absorbed into development culture, and changes were made in our behaviour because of it.

During the conference in Doha, critical issues that had changed the global landscape in the time period between those two meetings such as global financial stability, climate change and the special challenges faced by Africa, the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, lower middle income and conflict affected countries were identified and widely discussed.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Allow me to reflect the benefits and impacts of the FFD discussions and decisions from national point of view. Ethiopia has planned to achieve middle income country status by 2025. We recognise that this vision could be seriously affected by almost all of the themes and agendas under FFD discussions. For instance, the World Bank suggests that Ethiopia's potential growth will be reduced by half over the next 25 years due to climate variability and impacts of climate change.

Hence, our plan for growth and industrialization must take climate change into account. We are taking action in this regard. We have designed a Climate Resilient Green Economy strategy, which can help us achieve our vision with no net increase in carbon emissions. Ethiopia also understands the importance of macroeconomic stability, as a basis for investment – both domestic and international. We have plans to invest in infrastructure for growth, build on our agricultural base, enhance light manufacturing and agro-processing, make the most of urbanisation, and increase private investment.

These all show that the Financing for Sustainable Development discussions here and in Addis are critical for us. We strongly believe that we should all exert efforts to make them succeed.

In July we want to create an Addis Ababa Accord that is actionable and transformative, that will enable us to achieve our post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals and shape our actions in the years to come. We want an Accord that incorporates the challenges identified since Doha, and considers the future challenges of achieving the post 2015 goals in a context of changing climate.

We in this room are setting ourselves a significant challenge, but one we can achieve. And as we get into the detail of the "elements paper" in the coming days, I would ask that every person here contemplates back to our ultimate goal of what we are trying to achieve including ending global poverty. In 15 years' time, we should be able to point out to our citizens that we came together, and put aside our differences for the global good.

Thank you for your attention!