

*Mission Permanente  
de la République du Bénin  
auprès des Nations Unies*



*Permanent Mission of  
the Republic of Benin  
to the United Nations*

## **SIXTY NINTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**\*\*\*\*\***

### **FIRST DRAFTING SESSION OF PREPARATORY PROCESS FOR THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT (General discussion: views on the elements and the zero draft)**

#### **STATEMENT BY**

**H.E.MR. JEAN -FRANCIS R. ZINSOU  
AMBASSADOR PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BENIN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS,  
CHAIR OF THE GLOBAL COORDINATION BUREAU OF LDCs**

**NEW YORK, 28 JANUARY 2015**

Distinguished Co-facilitators  
 Excellencies  
 Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of LDCs. The Group aligns itself with the statement of South Africa on behalf of the G77 and China.

The Group of LDCs commends the Co-facilitators, the Permanent Representatives of Norway and Guyana, for submitting the suggested “elements” along with its annex on “indicative list of policy ideas” for the draft outcome of the Third International Conference on FFD. The Group is of the view that this paper can serve as an important basis for our future discussions. The LDCs are happy to note that a good number of their proposals have been taken into account both in the main document as well as its annex. However, many of our proposals, presented earlier, need to be incorporated in the text. We will make our specific proposals on each of the thematic areas of the financing for development.

As a prelude to our specific proposals, we would like to make the following comments, in the form of our general reactions to the text:

**First:** All existing reports, documents and research papers are in consensus to suggest that global public and private savings would be sufficient to meet the needs for implementing the new development agenda. We concur with the observations made in the draft elements of the co-chairs that “the solution lies in an integrated policy framework that changes existing patterns, to mobilize and effectively use all sources of finance – public and private, domestic and international”.

However, what is missing in all existing documents is to concretize and conceptualize this “integrated policy framework” to further strengthen the global partnerships for sustainable development. This is a major and complex task ahead of us and we hope that under the very able stewardship of the two Co-chairs, we will be able to deliver on this ambitious “integrated policy framework”. This will be the main barometer for the success of the FFD Conference.

**Second:** The Group would reiterate that the Addis Ababa Conference must come up with a highly ambitious global financing framework. The outcome of the FFD Conference will play a key role to the success of the September Summit on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals. We should keep in mind that the Monterrey Conference took place on the heels of the MDGs which had eight goals and 18 targets.

Conversely, the post-2015 development framework would surely be much broader and wider than MDGs with a balanced treatment to economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development. Therefore, we need to have a new global compact on the means of implementation

that would be much more ambitious than the existing ones. The new partnerships agenda should be a strengthened one with horizontal and vertical expansions.

**Third:** We understand that the suggested elements are primarily based on Monterrey and Doha. This is a good starting point. However, we need to keep in mind that apart from these two landmark Conferences, many UN Conferences and Summits as well as documents agreed at the intergovernmental level, have dwelled on the means of implementation. The fourth UN Conference on LDCs is an important case in point, which has gone a long way beyond Monterrey and Doha outcomes in the area of partnerships.

Therefore our suggestions would be to take into consideration all existing global commitments on the means of implementation agreed upon in various treaties and outcome documents agreed at intergovernmental level. The Addis Ababa outcome should encapsulate those commitments and project them in the future, while adapting them to the challenges of Sustainable Development.

**Fourth:** The Group of LDCs is a recognized category of countries under various global legal and political intergovernmental documents. Since the inception of this group in early seventies, it has been recognized as the most vulnerable group of countries. This group represents 25% of the UN membership and 13% of the world's population.

LDCs would need additional, preferential, concessional and most favorable treatment for their access to markets, finance, technologies, know-how and other resources and differential and flexible treatment in undertaking international commitments and obligations which is called "Differential and Preferential Treatment for LDCs (DPTL)".

This principle should be applied in all areas of the outcome of the Third UN Conference on FFD. We may recall that a number of special support measures and mechanisms are already in place exclusively tailored to LDCs particularly in the areas of ODA, trade, investment, debt relief, capacity building and technology transfer and acquisition. These need to be maintained and further enhanced without any dilution.

**Fifth:** The least developed countries are especially vulnerable to various kinds of shocks, such as natural disasters, commodity price fluctuations and volatility in financial flows including instability in aid and the public health emergencies such as the outbreak of Ebola. At the same time, LDCs do not have effective shock absorbing systems. Therefore, special "crisis mitigation and resilience building funds" for LDCs need to be created to meet their special development needs and to enable them to respond to various kinds of shocks. This should be added as a new thematic area or building block in the FFD outcome.

**Sixth:** The Addis outcome must set quantifiable targets under each area of the means of implementation with a timetable for donors to meet their commitments. We need to ensure how much ODA is being made available for development expenditures at the country level (country

programmable aid), and need an expansion of that portion of aid. The LDCs have requested that at least 50% of ODA disbursements be provided to LDCs and at least 50% of the amounts disbursed be channeled to productive capacity development in the LDCs.

**Finally:** LDCs would need a strong and adequate voice in the formulation of the means of implementation for the post-2015 development agenda as well as in the follow-up and monitoring mechanisms. Since LDCs are the main beneficiary of this new global development agenda, their presence needs to be ensured and their voice needs to be heard in every phases related to the FFD agenda.

I thank you all for your kind attention.