

Statement by Publish What You Fund at the First Drafting Session of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development

Session on International Public Finance, 29 January, 2015

Thank you co-facilitator for the opportunity. I'm speaking on behalf of the campaign for aid transparency, Publish What You Fund. We welcome very much your remarks on the elements paper that international public finance will play an important role in the post-2015 development agenda and the implementation of the SDGs. This has also been expressed by several member states. In this regard, we would like to address some of the calls that developing countries have expressed in different fora, here at the UN and elsewhere on the importance of transparency and mutual accountability. Countries need to know what resources are being made available, where they go and what they deliver, so they can coordinate, plan, and effectively allocate resources into key sustainable development sectors while having full ownership of their priorities. Transparency is also important for civil society in order to participate in the monitoring and implementation of sustainable development commitments at national and international level.

In the last years, we have seen some progress in the implementation of transparency commitments through the adoption of several open data and open government initiatives including the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), a common standard for the publication of development flows which allows governments and stakeholders to trace resources from source to implementation, including information on conditions, forward looking budgets and results. IATI publishers include, traditional bilateral donors, multilateral development banks, climate funds, private foundations, public private partnerships and NGOs. There is work currently in progress to integrate information about international public finance flows into country budget systems and promoting the use of data and information at national level.

The Adis Ababa outcome document can help accelerate progress on the transparency of financing for development in a way that addresses the information needs of developing countries, civil society, and of UN system's efforts to monitor the implementation of the Post-2015 sustainable development agenda. The Adis Ababa outcome should build upon existing transparency initiatives so that information on international public finance and other flows are published in an open, timely, comprehensive and comparable way. Thank you'