

First informal regarding the Financing for Development Forum – process for draft conclusions and recommendations

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Delivered by Amy Haddad, Counsellor, Australia Mission to the United Nations

Good afternoon co-facilitators, thank you for convening this meeting today.

I am pleased to be here to make some brief remarks on behalf of Canada and Australia on the ‘inter-governmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations’ from the first Financing for Development Forum.

As we have heard many times in different fora, 2016 is an important but also slightly unusual year, and we are all finding our feet in these processes.

As a starting point Australia and Canada would look to support processes which begin to build an approach for the Financing for Development discussions which reflects its own unique role, but also its importance as a broader part of the 2030 Agenda follow up and review process.

In terms of the structure, tone and length of the outcome document, we would like to emphasise the following points:

First, on structure and tone, we note that paragraph 132 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda says that the FfD Forum will lead to ‘inter-governmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations’. This reinforces the role of the FfD Forum as a technical and practical forum which reflects the implementation of Addis, and sets clear guidance for the kind of outcome document it ought to be.

Second, Addis was decided less than a year ago, so we believe any conclusions and recommendations should be short and concise, focusing on illuminating and illustrating our shared implementation. We would support proposals for 1-2 pages.

In terms of the substance and focus of the outcome document, we note the strength of Financing for Development process is in its inclusiveness – in that it involves all financing and development actors, well beyond member states.

In order to reflect the inclusive and yet technical nature of these discussions, it would make a great deal of sense for the outcome document to be based upon the Inter-Agency Task Force report which will form the evidentiary basis for our follow up.

We note that overnight we have also received a note by the Secretary-General, titled 'Monitoring commitments and action in the Addis Ababa Agenda on Financing for Development', we look forward to considering its contents further in these consultations.

Finally in terms of substance we would also like to have it noted that this outcome document would normally capture the outcomes of the Development Cooperation Forum, which this year occurs after the Financing for Development Forum. We would see utility in future years for these forums to be appropriately sequenced so that the DCF can feed into the Financing for Development Forum.

We appreciate the thoughtful comments of others today. There is quite a lot of detail in some of these comments and we would value the opportunity to reflect on these proposals and to submit written comments in response.

Australia and Canada thank the co-facilitators for taking on this role and look forward to engaging further in these consultations.

Thank you.