



Co-facilitator,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

We would like to thank the co-facilitators for convening this meeting and would like to assure you of our full support.

According to its mandate, the ECOSOC Forum on financing for development (FFD) follow-up will address the follow-up and review of the Financing for Development outcomes and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, of which the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) is an integral part.

The Forum's intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations will be fed into the overall follow-up and review of the implementation of 2030 Agenda in the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF).

We consider that it is important to recognise and make use of the inaugural nature of the 2016 Forum. Since there will be limited scope for reviewing actual progress since the adoption of Addis, we have the opportunity this year to discuss the future set-up of the Forum, and we suggest that the result of these discussions is appropriately reflected in - and forms the focus of - the outcome document.

This is also consistent with the inaugural nature of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) Report, which this year focuses on how the Task Force proposes to monitor implementation of commitments in future years.

The agreements of Agenda 2030 and the AAAA present a refreshed, comprehensive vision of development. We confirm our commitment to the implementation of these agreements. We should ensure that the follow-up process for AAAA and Agenda 2030 is coherent and integrated. Bringing together of the 'means and ends' in this way is part of the transformational aspect of these Agendas and must be supported through a well-integrated implementation and review mechanism. There should be no duplication in the monitoring and review of the MOI of the Agenda 2030.

The annual review process should be based on a strong narrative report covering all aspects of the implementation of the AAAA and Agenda 2030, including through SDG 17 indicators and other SDG target indicators. It must cover hard to measure issues; not just those areas with more quantifiable data. This will require identifying which organisations and bodies, inside and outside of the UN, are best placed to contribute on

each area. There will also be a need to identify monitoring gaps and best ways to fill them.

The follow-up and review process must also be inclusive with all FFD financing stakeholders proactively playing their part as synergies between all sources of financing are key to move from Billions to Trillions.

And it must be coherent; the FFD forum should feed into the HLPF. There should be no duplication and MOI should only be reviewed once. In subsequent years we should keep the timing and duration of the FFD forum under consideration, to ensure that we achieve the most rational coherence and complementarity with the HLPF and other processes such as the Global Partnership for Development Cooperation (GPDC), the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) and the High level Dialogue which must also fit into this architecture too.

We welcome the approach you outlined in your letter and would make the following remarks in response to the useful questions raised:

- The outcome document, the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the Forum, should in future years provide a picture on where we stand with the implementation of the AAAA, identifying progress, best practices and flagging up areas for improvement. However, as mentioned earlier, we believe that this year's outcome document should reflect the inaugural nature of the event and provide guidance for future meetings.
- The outcome document should be considered as the Forum's major input to the ECOSOC High Level Political Forum, reporting on progress in the implementation of the AAAA, as well as the MOI.
- In future years the deliberations of the Forum should be informed by the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF), detailing progress and challenges in the different areas. We suggest that time be dedicated during this year's Forum to provide the IATF with feedback regarding their inaugural report. Issues such as presentation, readability and the possibility of a yearly thematic focus could be discussed, while options for reviewing progress in the different action areas could be considered in the context of the round tables.
- We must be cautious about picking only 'select' issues from the AAAA to discuss in the outcome document - the value added for the agenda is its comprehensiveness. The ambition and breadth of the agenda should be reflected, but beyond that the outcome document should take its cue from the IATF report, and this year focus primarily on the process and working methods for the years ahead.
- The outcome should give guidance on future forums, as regards dates and working methods. We can build on the discussions led by the ECOSOC Presidency over the last weeks, as well as on the work done by DESA. We

should use the opportunity of the inaugural forum to discuss the future set-up so that we will be able to focus on meaningful review from 2017 onwards.

As regards the approach and roadmap outlined in the letter, we welcome the proposed approach: seek views in the informal consultation, which will feed into a zero draft; zero draft to be circulated for written comments and revised; holding consultations with a view to reaching an agreement in advance of the Forum. And we strongly welcome the suggestion that the conclusions and recommendations form a concise statement (1-3 pages).

Thank you.