

## **2016 FfD Forum U.S. Initial Statement**

### **March 23, 2016**

- First of all, I would like to thank the co-facilitators for convening this meeting and for the chance to address the question of the Agreed Conclusions that were called for in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.
- As this is the inaugural Forum, and we are only 8 months out from Addis, we believe that the agreed conclusions should be brief and concise – no more than one page. It could be as simple as a few paragraphs welcoming the first Forum and taking note of the developments since Addis brought forward in the IATF report, which informs our agreed conclusions, just as agreed in Addis. Given the ambition and scope of the Addis document itself, we don't see a rationale for a lengthy, substantive debate about the issues addressed in it – there is no utility in attempting to re-litigate what was decided by ministers and heads of state less than a year ago. To this end, we reemphasize the holistic nature of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and want to make sure that is reflected.
- The primary function of the Forum's agreed conclusions should be to maintain momentum around the AAAA and to highlight the lessons learned and positive developments of the Forum itself, as aired in the expert dialogues, panels and events held as part of it. The agreed conclusions will be a chance for member states to formally recommit themselves to the AAAA. That's an important function, but at the same time, we should not lose sight of the fact that the real value of the Forum will, overwhelmingly, be in the assessment of progress represented by the IATF report and in the practical sharing of lessons learned and best-practices through the Forum itself – not in yet another negotiated intergovernmental outcome document.
- Regarding the Forum's proceedings, it should be as inclusive as possible, with wide and varied participation by stakeholders, particularly NGOs and the private sector, reflecting how critical partnerships and the full spectrum of resources will be to sustainable development. We recognize this is clearly laid out already in the AAAA, but wanted to emphasize the importance of this.
- We are also conscious of the fact that para 131 of the AAAA emphasizes the integrated nature of this effort and the need for "...follow-up and review for

the financing for development outcomes *as well as* all the means of implementation of the post-2015 development agenda ....” The Forum itself should address both the 2030 Agenda MOI and the contents of the AAAA. In order for this to happen, there must be coherence and synergy between the two processes. We must make sure that our themes for the following FfD forums are the same as those of the HLPF. This will help guide our work on the follow-up to both the SDGs and Addis in a consistent and coherent manner, and bring clarity to the following year’s IATF report.

- We want to emphasize that we feel a number of the questions you posed are already answered by Addis, which was a carefully negotiated document. The guidelines and work of the Forum are laid out explicitly in paras 131-133.
- We look forward to working towards a successful first FfD Forum with colleagues in this room and we will follow the co-facilitators’ lead in how we move forward, including by supporting the roadmap you have laid out in the letter.