

Remarks at 2016 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up

General Debate 4:30-6:00 pm

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Thank you Mr. Chair. We thank you for your leadership during the last days. UNICEF congratulates you and Member States on the conclusion of the inaugural Forum on Financing for Development follow-up.

Your Excellencies and Distinguished Guests, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is a crucial building block in the 2030 agenda - and it underscores our shared ambition of achieving sustainable development for all.

For UNICEF the strong commitments to child rights and investing in children in para 7 and several other paras of the Addis Agenda represent a real breakthrough. These commitments are not only morally right. They are also smart economics: Investing in all children, especially the most disadvantaged, is a powerful means to achieving sustainable and inclusive growth for the long term.

We are in the early stage of SDGs implementation, but already we can celebrate several achievements towards a successful implementation of the Addis Agenda. Such as the partnership to End Violence Against Children, and a new alliance for Early Childhood Development and the Education in Crisis Platform announced last week at the WB/IMF Spring meetings in Washington.

The report of the Interagency Task Force on FFD Follow up is another good step forward with concrete proposals for the monitoring of progress on child-focused investments and other outcome areas of the Addis Agenda. So we welcome the strong recognition of the report's recommendations.

Going forward we should address remaining challenges for children jointly and in a coordinated way under the FFD and SDG frameworks. This includes:

- Ensuring that investments that have *direct* and *indirect* benefits for children and youth are prioritized.
- Ensuring that our interventions address the needs of *all* children, including through the removal of bottlenecks and inequities in the delivery of essential services, ending discriminatory practices, and paying specific attention to children in humanitarian contexts.
- Lastly, and in line with the recommendations of the Inter Agency Task Force's Report, we need to improve how we monitor progress for children and in general. This includes investing in disaggregated data and new methods of child focused budgeting as called for by para 126 of the Addis Agenda and outlined in the Inter Agency Task Force report.

UNICEF stands ready to support you and other partners to work jointly towards a successful implementation of the Addis Agenda's far reaching commitments to children.

Thank you!