

2016 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up  
**Round Table C**  
**Domestic and international private business and finance**  
Tuesday, 19 April 2016, 4-6 PM, Trusteeship Council Chamber, United Nations, New York

**Tentative Program**

**Chair:** Mr. Christian Leffler, Deputy Secretary-General for Economic and Global Issues, European Union

**Moderator:** Ms. Marilou Uy, Executive Director, International Group of 24 (G24) Secretariat

*Domestic private business and finance*

**Panellists:** Mr. Gavin Wilson, Vice President of IFC and CEO of AMC, Asset Management Company of IFC

Ms. Fiona Reynolds, Managing Director, Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)

**Lead Discussant:** Mr. Steve Waygood, Chief Responsible Investment Officer, Aviva, UK

*International private business and finance*

**Panellists:** Ms. Keiko Honda, Executive Vice President and CEO, Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), World Bank Group

Mr. Richard Kozul-Wright, Director, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

**Lead Discussant:** Mr. Bill Streeter, Senior Finance Advisor, Global Clearinghouse for Development Finance

(followed by informal exchange of views among participants)

**Background Note**

*The objective of the Round Table is to: (1) take stock of commitments and actions contained in Action Area B (Domestic and international private business and finance) of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (the Addis Agenda) and the related means of implementation (Mols) of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); (2) review early actions taken towards implementation of the relevant provisions, as well as voluntary initiatives put forward at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 13-16 July 2015); (3) identify obstacles and bottlenecks that impede policy action; and (4) discuss the monitoring and assessment framework, building on the report of the Inter-agency Task Force (IATF) on Financing for Development.*

The Addis Agenda emphasizes that private finance, investment and innovation are major drivers of inclusive economic growth, employment and productivity. The Agenda calls on all businesses to apply their creativity and innovation to solving sustainable development challenges, and invites them to engage as partners in the development process, to invest in areas critical to sustainable development, and to shift to more sustainable consumption and production patterns. Nonetheless, it notes that finance and investment is not always allocated to where it is needed for sustainable development, and that the impact of sudden surges or exits of international private capital flows can seriously undermine sustainable development. It stresses the importance of the policy action for creating a conducive business environment and for incentivizing greater long-term investment in sustainable development.

The Addis Agenda contains a range of policy commitments for action in this regard. Chapter 2B of the IATF report (<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/2016-IATF-Chapter2B.pdf>) organizes these commitments by thematic clusters and presents proposals for monitoring their implementation in the future years. The main findings of the report are highlighted in the Note by the Secretary-General on Monitoring commitments and actions in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development (E/FFDF/2016/1).

**Guiding questions:**

- 1. How can public policies, regulations and resources effectively encourage long-term private sector investments? What reforms can be set in place to encourage long-term lending by institutional investors and banks?*
- 2. What are concrete examples of private initiatives aimed at enhancing the sustainability of investments, and can these be mainstreamed throughout the business or investment community? What do Member States see as the right balance between voluntary and mandatory approaches to encourage sustainable corporate practices and incentivize investments in sustainable development priorities? How do Governments want to take forward the commitment to harmonize the various initiatives on sustainable business and financing?*
- 3. What experience do Member States have with regulations and policies to develop public-private mechanisms to fund small and medium enterprises (SMEs)? What lessons can Member States share about strategically choosing whether or not to pursue private-public partnerships and then designing them so as to raise additional resources for sustainable development while ensuring that the risks and returns are fairly shared? What role can the Forum on Financing for Development play in this respect?*