

CONCEPT NOTE

HIGH-LEVEL THEMATIC DEBATE ON MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION FOR A TRANSFORMATIVE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA (9-10 FEBRUARY 2015)

Background

The President of the 69th Session of the General Assembly selected the theme “Delivering on and implementing a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda.” It underscores the need to focus not only on reaching agreement on the post-2015 development agenda, but also, and most importantly, on ensuring its effective implementation.

During the 69th session, Member States and other stakeholders will be preoccupied with intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, using inputs that will include the outcomes of the Open Working Group on SDGs, the Intergovernmental Committee on Sustainable Development Financing, structured dialogues on options for a facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies, as well as the Secretary-General’s synthesis report.

The intergovernmental negotiations will be underpinned by the need to formulate an agenda that is universal, transformative, inclusive and people-centered with eradication of poverty and the achievement of sustainable development as its overarching objectives. The agenda should be holistic, ambitious, action-oriented, and universally applicable, while taking into account different national realities, capacities, levels of development and respecting national policies, priorities and strategies.

Member States and other stakeholders will also be involved in preparations for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development to be held in Addis Ababa, July 13-16, 2015.

The outcome of this Conference should constitute an important contribution to and ensure the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

In this regard, addressing the issue of mobilizing adequate means of implementation, in terms of financial resources, technology development and transfer and capacity-building will be critical to delivering on and implementing a truly transformative and ambitious post-2015 development agenda.

The Outcome Document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) entitled “The Future We Want,” recognized “the need for significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and the effective use of financing, in order to promote sustainable development,” as well as the “crucial importance of enhancing financial support from all sources for sustainable development for all countries, in particular developing countries.” It also recognized the importance of international, regional and national financial mechanisms, including those accessible to sub-national and local authorities, for the implementation of sustainable development programmes, and called for their strengthening and implementation.

Financing needs for sustainable development are considerable in developing and developed countries, embodying strategic investments in all sectors spanning the social, economic and environmental dimensions. According to the Report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing,¹ the estimated cost of a global safety net to eradicate extreme poverty in all countries, measured as increasing incomes of the poorest to the US\$1.25-a-day standard, would amount to about US \$ 66 billion annually.

¹ A/69/315

Investments required in critical infrastructure are estimated to cost between US\$ 5 -7 trillion annually, while the unmet credit needs for SMEs are estimated to be around US\$ 2.5 trillion in developing countries and about US\$ 3.5 trillion globally.

The Rio+20 Outcome underscored the need to identify options for a facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies by, inter alia, assessing technology needs of developing countries and addressing them.

The Rio+20 Outcome also emphasized the need for enhanced capacity building for sustainable development and called for strengthening technical and scientific cooperation including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.

Objective

The main objective of the high-level thematic debate will be to provide an opportunity for participants to address key issues related to mobilizing the means of implementation such as:

- i) What actions are needed to scale up mobilization of financial resources from all sources: domestic public financing, domestic private financing, international public financing (including ODA), international private financing (FDI and remittances), trade, and partnerships?
- ii) What is required of the different development players/actors to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the use of available resources for sustainable development?
- iii) How can coherence and a common understanding for robust means of implementation in the post-2015 agenda and the Financing for development process be fostered and agreed? How can trade contribute to renewing the global partnerships for development?