

check against delivery

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Mr. President,
Distinguished Heads of State and Heads of Government,
Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by thanking the government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for hosting this conference and by extending my thanks to the President of the General Assembly.

This conference on Financing for Development is about our common future and about **opportunities for the generations to come**. Austria highly appreciates this opportunity to draw your attention to the needs of young people. We have to join hands to ensure sustainable development and to provide young people with a perspective.

Let me share some ideas with you:

In my view **ownership and self-determination** are key to reaching our common goals of reducing poverty and ensuring sustainable development.

Supporting sustainable development in poor countries is not only an act of solidarity, it is **an investment in our common future**, contributing to peace and security.

The FfD Conference comes at exactly the right time. It is high time for the International Community to act. Only by working together we will be able to meet the challenges before us.

Sustainable development finance needs domestic and international efforts go hand in hand:

Only with effective domestic resource mobilization, transparent and efficient use of public funds, private investment, trade and international cooperation any country, including developing countries, can create a sound economic and fiscal basis for sustainable growth.

Development Finance is necessary but not sufficient to ensure sustainable development. Many other factors like good governance, development of capacities or technology are also crucial.

In my view there are three key components to sustainable development providing perspectives for young people

1. Mobilization of a country's internal resources
2. Education and
3. Creation of jobs

1) **Taxation** plays an important role. Domestic public resources are a more stable and sustainable source of income. Austria fully supports the idea that 'no country should be dependent on others' resources for its own development'.

Transparent budgeting and effective oversight by parliaments and supreme audit institutions as well as effectively **combating corruption** in public services are thus key elements of domestic resource mobilization. At the international level we need to boost our efforts, increase our cooperation and exchange information to combat tax evasion, close tax havens and eliminate illicit financial flows.

Austria supports this endeavour by advocating and providing financial and technical support for following initiatives:

- **Strengthening Independent Supreme Audit Institutions**, as an effective tool for assuring effective and efficient use of public funds.
- Assisting partner countries in tackling corrupt practices by providing anti-corruption training and exchanging best-practices through the **International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA)** based in Austria.
- Supporting the use of technological advancements in **digitalization and E-governance** to more effective, transparent and citizen-friendly public service, such as introducing Internet-based filing of tax returns and tax payments.

2) **Education** is key for the progress of individuals and society, it enables people to actively participate in their country's development. Education and vocational training help people to put their skills, talents and creativity to work. Austria has been supporting education and **vocational training** for many years.

In this context Austria is paying **special attention to women**, who worldwide are still too often economically marginalized.

3) Offering **perspectives to the young generation** is about **jobs** providing enough income for an individual or a family to live a life in dignity. For job creation we need a vibrant and innovative **private sector**. The investments of the private sector are the engine of economic growth and development. Governments must be partners of the private sector, assuring the rule of law as well as labour and environmental standards.

Austria has been supporting economic partnership programmes, by sharing the cost of vocational training schemes and motivating companies to implement best practices on corporate social responsibility.

A **successful Addis-conference** will make a **crucial contribution** to the upcoming Post-2015 Summit in September and to the World Climate Conference in December.

I thank you.