

Statement

- Mr. President, Mr. Secretary General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen
- Setting the world onto pathways of inclusive, sustainable growth in the coming decades is a clear priority for the international community in 2015. Against the backdrop of a growing world population, delivering the myriad of essential services and infrastructure – whether food security, healthcare, or clean water and energy – is no mean feat. The decisions we make in the coming months will impact generations to come.
- More inclusive and sustained growth begins when nations integrate into the global goods and services market, and tap into global capital – and the private sector holds the key to this integration. But to unlock its power to transform markets and create employment opportunities, business needs the right enabling environment – economic, legal and regulatory – as well as the right incentives from government policy.
- The private sector needs a business environment that is competitive, with reduced barriers to market entry and to cross-border trade, with a sound regulatory framework. Of course no single model fits all countries, but all countries must be strategic in creating a business environment that encourages productivity growth; behind every extra percentage point of growth is a girl in Sub-Saharan Africa who can now go to school, a little boy who can now receive his life-saving vaccine, a family in South Asia who can now drink clean water.

- Leveraging the power of the private sector means mitigating risks—it is imperative to balance the need for sufficient risk-adjusted returns with the need for affordable services for all. That requires governments and the private sector working better together in solving common problems and advancing shared interests. Quantum change is possible when willing actors join hands in forward-looking coalitions and take the lead in contributing to sustainable development.

~~• The UN's Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia marks a major stepping stone towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the 193 member countries of the United Nations establish a new financing framework for sustainable development.~~

- The financing requirements to achieve the SDGs by 2030 will far surpass current development flows and will need complementary forms of financing – including from the private sector, foundations, and international financial institutions.
- The International Business Forum, as a part of the official FfD Conference programme, provides a platform for multi-stakeholder discussion where players across the global development community formally recognize and embrace the urgent need for further cooperation, creativity, and strategic dialogue with the private sector to better increase capital flows and capacity available to enable sustainable development solutions worldwide.
- Over the past two decades, there has been a significant increase in collaboration between the private and public sectors to jointly address developmental issues. Delivering the post 2015 development framework will require a scaling up of these efforts and the creation of new partnerships which harness the power of the private sector to drive economic growth, create jobs and reduce poverty. The private sector provides more than 90% of jobs in developing countries and accounts for more than 50% of GNP.

- Progressive companies understand that financing consumer, social, and environmental solutions that benefit society while increasingly represent smart investment opportunities for private capital is the way to stay competitive and credible. We know it is possible to simultaneously produce a healthy bottom line alongside good development outcomes. Profitable opportunities exist for the private sector in low-income countries, and profit is a measure of success and sustainability for business
- The diversity of the private sector, ranging from micro-enterprises to cooperatives to multinationals both foreign and domestic, offers creativity and innovation toward solving sustainable development challenges.
- We thank you for the opportunity to organise the International Business Forum concurrent with the Conference as it provides an exceptional opportunity to:
 - **Contribute** to the global dialogue on an enabling environment for business:
 - **Underscore** the role and success of the private sector and public-private cooperation in delivering development solutions: and
 - **Announce** new concrete initiatives and forms of partnership to mobilize action and engagement at scale.
- We expect to discuss key components of an **enabling environment for businesses** to grow and prosper resulting in more jobs and the potential for increased productivity and sectoral diversity. We'll explore how **reporting on performance and sustainable business practices** increases private sector transparency and investment in sustainability and we'll take a look at the **Financing Chain** to delve into the most effective role for key stakeholders and the new tools such as Blended Finance that can help play a critical role to attract increased private investment. And at the heart is **market innovation and sustainable supply chains** - demonstrating how companies, in cooperation with other

actors, are helping to shape new markets and build local capacity.

- Mirroring the framework of your negotiations we will also delve into **thematic areas** of infrastructure, support to SMEs, agriculture and key social services such as health and education where we expect to hear announcements of new initiatives and platforms.
- Most importantly, we look forward to continuing to partner with governments and other stakeholders to ensure our business is carried out in a responsible, sustainable and socially inclusive manner.
- It is increasingly clear governments, markets and people need to look beyond short-term transactional agendas and short-term political cycles. Incentives that currently favour short-termism in decision-making should be changed. Sustainable choices often have higher up-front costs than business as usual. They need to become more easily available, affordable and attractive to both poor consumers and low-income countries.
- The Business Forum has to date attracted more than 500 registrations globally from companies and financial institutions, business organizations, NGOs, foundations, multi-lateral organizations and Government officials, all at senior levels to discuss these issues in Addis Ababa and to ensure we advance expeditiously as the world demands of us.
- Expectations are high, and we have the means to move the needle in achieving a common agenda of shared prosperity.
- Let's not waste this opportunity
- Thank you.