

Statement
by Commissioner Neven Mimica
at the closing plenary session
Third International Conference on Financing for
Development
Addis Ababa
16 July 2015

Mr Chairman,

On behalf of the European Union and its Member States, let me thank and congratulate you for the organisation of the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development, for your wonderful hospitality and for your strong leadership over the past days. I would also like to thank again ambassadors H.E. Geir Pederson and H.E. George Talbot as well as the President of the General Assembly for their tireless efforts over the past months. Your work is greatly appreciated and I think we can all say that the Addis Conference has been a resounding success.

This is a defining moment in a crucial year. The landmark Addis Ababa Action Agenda provides us with the means to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. Together, we have agreed to an ambitious vision which addresses the full spectrum of the means of implementation. Together, we have agreed that everyone will need to take action to achieve the post 2015 agenda.

The true value and strength of the Addis Agenda is its comprehensiveness. By bringing together domestic resources, investments, international public finance – including ODA – and good policies, it shows that action on all fronts will be necessary to succeed in our common fight against poverty, inequality and exclusion. By integrating in a balanced manner the three dimensions of sustainable development, it paves the way towards a single universal framework and set of goals. We welcome the strong language on peace and security, gender equality, human rights, the rule of law and democratic governance.

The EU will continue to contribute its share to that effort, both domestically and abroad – with a particular focus on countries most in need and Africa. The EU is the most open market in the world for developing countries, the world's largest donor, a pioneer in the design and use of innovative financing mechanisms.

The successful outcome of this Conference symbolises Africa's contribution to multilateralism. It also constitutes the first and critical step towards the adoption of the post-2015 Agenda in September and the Paris Conference of Parties in December. By mainstreaming sustainable development in our common agenda, and by mobilizing all actors for its implementation, it provides us with the momentum we need to achieve success at the September Summit in New York and to conclude an ambitious and universal agreement on climate in COP21 in Paris.

The world has changed dramatically over the last decades, including the nature and magnitude of our global challenges, their cause and effects, and our respective capabilities to address them. The post-2015 development agenda needs to respond to these evolving dynamics. We will continue to engage constructively in the upcoming preparation of the September 2015 Summit. We still have some way to go, but this agreement brings us a lot closer.

Thank you.