

Portugal.



Statement of Portugal

at the

III United Nations Conference on Financing for Development

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

16th July 2015

Mr. President

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates

On behalf of the Portuguese Government, I would like to commend the United Nations for organizing this important Conference and to underline the great honor I have to address this most distinguished plenary.

I associate myself to previous speakers in thanking the Government of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia for their warm hospitality and for the organization of this meeting, which we believe will be a great success.

Portugal fully subscribes the vision of the European Union, presented in this plenary by the Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Mr. Neven Mimica.

Excellencies

We are at a crucial moment of the international agenda, with global challenges that require global, coordinated and coherent action by all actors: Governments, local authorities, parliaments, civil society and private sector.

The challenges of Humanity require, more than ever, a common response through a truly universal post-2015 agenda, that mobilizes all actors and is based on universal underlying principles, namely the respect of human rights, the rule of law and justice, good governance at all levels, and a strong commitment and action concerning gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

The complexity and interdependence of the today's world requires an important paradigm shift of international cooperation, different and distant from the already dated North South divide.

The world has changed and several countries, such as the emerging economies, now play an increasingly important role in the international sphere, what should allow us to build beyond the level of ambition of Monterrey and Doha, which took place in the beginning of this century, namely concerning shared responsibility.

With this, we do not wish, by any means, to shy away from our obligations and commitments, but to recognize that there is a variety of actors with unquestionable intervention capacities and resources which can and should be maximized and stepped up.

We should also bear in mind that financial resources are not infinite, requiring a more objective and pragmatic adoption of policies and measures aiming at an effective combination of means of implementation – financial and non-financial, public and private.

In other words, Official Development Assistance, although crucial, should not be seen as the main or single instrument of international cooperation. This would be extremely simplistic and would not recognize the valuable and growing contribution of other financial flows, of south-south cooperation, private sector engagement, as well as other innovative modalities and partnerships.

Portugal is, therefore, a strong supporter of the need to define, in an inclusive manner, a broader measurement, complementary to ODA, which better reflects the whole spectrum of efforts made in support to sustainable development.

Said this, the implementation of the post 2015 agenda also requires a more qualitative approach, through increased development effectiveness and policy coherence at all levels in the pursuit of the common goal of poverty eradication.

Political commitment and the promotion of an enabling environment are surely the most important Means of Implementation for the success of this agenda. This implies stable and inclusive societies, effective

institutions, and the adoption of the necessary institutional and regulatory frameworks.

We therefore believe, that the success of this Conference will be crucial and decisive for the agreement that we wish to achieve in September, in New York, and at the end of this year in Paris: an ambitious and transformative agenda for people and the planet.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Despite budgetary challenges Portugal has pursued a consistent and committed approach on financing for development, with a strong focus on Africa, and on sectors with an important structural and multiplier effect on sustainable development such as education, health and capacity building.

We have also been prioritizing the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies, reaffirming the strong link that exists between peace and security and sustainable development. This is particularly important in the case of Fragile States and of countries in post conflict situations, where international support can make an important difference in supporting those countries to ensure their basic functions - such as security and access to justice, health and education - promoting the necessary conditions to advance in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals.

For this reason, half the priority countries of the Portuguese Cooperation are Fragile States and Least Developed Countries, and many of them are simultaneously SIDS.

Mr. President,

Portugal strongly believes that there will be no sustainable development without a balance between its three dimensions, and has therefore made a major investment in renewable energies and blue growth, combining environmental protection, biodiversity, seas and oceans.

In this regard, I would emphasize the "Blue Week" event recently held in Lisbon, which brought together a wide range of countries and public and private entities, and that highlighted the importance of strengthening national capacities, and in particular of SIDS, in the areas of conservation and sustainable use of oceans and marine resources as essential tool of sustainable development.

Portugal is also working with partner countries in the area of mitigation of greenhouse effects and adaptation, which is a clear evidence of the importance we attach to the environmental dimension, both internally and externally. This has been a major government commitment, reflecting the need to mobilize the different financial sources in a comprehensive and integrated manner.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

To conclude this statement I would like to reiterate the importance of this Conference for the implementation of the common goals that we will adopt in September.

We are facing a unique opportunity that we cannot afford to waste, as the costs would be too high.

We have the privilege of being part of this historic moment, which also increases the level of our responsibility of leaving Addis with an ambitious Action Agenda that reflects our common aspiration for a more fair, more sustainable and more equitable world.

Thank you