



Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
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**Closing Remarks by H.E. Ato Hailemariam Dessalegn,
Prime Minister**

of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

To the

**Closing Session of the Third International Conference
on Financing For Development**

Addis Ababa, 16 July 2015

Your Excellencies,

This has been a milestone week. I am honoured to speak on this historical occasion where world leaders in fact rose up to the challenge of changing the fate of humanity to the better. The news that the world was waiting with great anticipation is now official. The world has gathered here in Addis Ababa to agree on a document that will guide our international efforts on sustainable development for the next decade and a half – and of course I am delighted that the action agenda we have agreed here bears the name of our capital city.

For me, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is especially significant in three ways.

First, because the world is clear in its resolve that no one is left behind as we make the Sustainable Development Goals a reality. That is the headline aim of the first Sustainable Development Goal, and it is right that it should be reflected prominently in this week's outcome document.

In particular, I believe that the commitment we have made here to a global social compact – with all of the world’s people enjoying access to health, education, social protection, and other basic rights – marks a crucial step forward. Of course there is more to be done to resource this and make it a reality around the world, but we have made the commitment, and what remains is to be equally resolute with respect to ensuring effective implementation and follow up.

Second, I believe that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is significant in its overarching message that everyone has something essential to contribute.

We have recognised that official development assistance and other forms of international public finance remain essential – as does the 0.7% target, and the need for least developed countries to receive a larger share of aid flows.

We have recognised the importance of domestic resource mobilisation, and made concrete steps forward in scaling it up, including the Addis Tax Initiative which I welcome very much.

We have recognised the essential role of the private sector in driving growth, jobs, and investment, and the need for a genuinely enabling environment – and this week’s Business Forum has provided a platform for catalysing many valuable conversations to that end.

And we have recognised the many other forms of financing that also have a crucial role to play – from South-South cooperation to innovative flows, and from climate finance to philanthropies.

Third and finally, I am delighted that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda recognises that the only development worth having is sustainable development – an area that was under-addressed in the Monterrey Consensus.

Our objectives and experience in Ethiopia reflect the importance we attach to all three of these principles.

The principle of leaving no one behind is right at the heart of our Growth and Transformation Plan in Ethiopia – and I am delighted that we are not only making rapid progress on growth and poverty reduction, including through one of the largest social protection systems in the developing world, but also doing so while keeping our inequality levels very low.

The principle that everyone has something vital to contribute is reflected in our valued partnerships with other countries, both North and South, in the rapid increase of foreign direct investment, in our successful Eurobond issue, and in the increase in our own tax revenues.

And the principle that the only development worth having is sustainable is reflected in our intention to become a middle income country by 2025 with zero net increase in greenhouse gas emissions. We bear minimal historical responsibility for climate change, and our per capita emissions are tiny compared to those of many other countries. Yet this has not hindered us from playing an important leading role globally in addressing the challenges of climate change.

Of course, this Conference has extended far beyond the formal negotiating room. A vast array of side events, initiatives and online discussions have contributed to the rich tapestry of Addis and will cement its legacy. I would like to make a declaration now to welcome and applaud the many commitments made and initiatives launched by partners at Addis Ababa to further global progress towards sustainable development.

And this week has also been significant in how many commitments have been unveiled by governments and others – among them:

- x A commitment made by the multilateral development banks and IMF to extend more than USD 400 Billion in financing over the next three years to help deliver the SDGs.
- x A new Global Financing Facility to end maternal and child mortality by 2030, with \$12 billion already aligned to four front runner countries, including Ethiopia.
- x The G7's commitment to lift 500 million people out of hunger and malnutrition by 2030, announced in the run up to Addis, together with an increase of up to 400 million in the number of people with access to climate insurance.
- x New public private commitments to share space data to serve disaster preparedness and other development needs.
- x Commitment to sustainable energy, and an expanded network of Solar Sister Entrepreneurs.

x A major expansion of Tax Inspectors without Borders.

Excellencies

We must realise that what is equally important as adopting the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is our resolve to implement the commitments we made in the Action Agenda. We must realize what we have agreed here in Addis so that all sustainable development goals and targets are achieved. We also need to build a robust monitoring and follow up system and ensure all promises and commitments are realised during the post 2015.

And I also want to recognise the vibrant discussions that have taken place all over Addis Ababa this week, with more than 200 Side Events taking place – as well of course as countless connections being made among conference participants. I would also like to mention the international business forum that brought wide range of business together in light of the indisputable role of the private sector to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. I also want to credit the Civil Society Forum for voicing important matters that should be addressed in this conference.

It only remains now for me to thank:

- x All participants for joining us this week and for working hard towards a successful Addis Conference
- x The many people who have helped to make the organisation of this summit such a success, including, the UN Secretary General, the President of the General Assembly, Undersecretary General Mr. Wu Hungbo and his colleagues with the UN FFD Office, Undersecretary General Mr. Carlos Lopez and his team in ECA, the Co-facilitators Ambassador George Talbot and Ambassador Gier Pederson, and Undersecretary General Dr. Tegegnwork Getu and his team.

I look forward to a thriving partnership in years to come. It has been our great pleasure and privilege to welcome you to Addis Ababa this week and I wish all save journey back to your homes.

Thank you.