

PROJECT DOCUMENT

**FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (FFDO) IN THE UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

TITLE: Preparatory process and organization of the third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 13-16 July 2015)

STARTING DATE: 1 October 2014

DURATION: 12 months

FINANCED BY: Multi-donor

TARGET BUDGET: USD 3,497,568 (*a more detailed budget can be provided upon request*)

SHORT DESCRIPTION: To maximize the impact of the third International Conference on Financing for Development, through strengthened substantive preparations, increased public outreach and communications, and inclusive engagement of representatives from developing and transition economy countries, including government officials, civil society and the private sector in the Conference, stakeholder forums and the preparatory process.

I. Background

In its resolution 68/279 of 30 June 2014, the General Assembly decided to hold the third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 13 to 16 July 2015, at the highest possible political level, including Heads of State or Government, relevant ministers, including ministers for finance, foreign affairs and development cooperation and special representatives and other representatives, as appropriate. The Conference will result in an intergovernmentally negotiated and agreed outcome.

In accordance with the resolution, the Conference will (i) assess the progress made in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration and identify obstacles and constraints encountered in the achievement of the goals and objectives agreed therein, as well as actions and initiatives to overcome these constraints; (ii) address new and emerging issues, including in the context of the recent multilateral efforts to promote international development cooperation, taking into account the evolving development cooperation landscape, the interrelationship of all sources of development finance, the synergies between financing objectives across the three dimensions of sustainable development, as well as the need to support the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015; and (iii) reinvigorate and strengthen the financing for development follow-up process.

The Conference, which is being held in the run-up to the Post-2015 Summit (New York, 21 – 23 September 2015), at which the post-2015 development agenda is to be adopted, will effectively provide the financing framework for the new development agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). There is broad consensus that the Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration on Financing for Development provide a strong foundation for the elaboration of a sustainable development financing framework. They contain commitments to policy actions in the following six areas: i) domestic financial resources; ii) foreign direct investment and other international private flows; iii) international trade; iv) international financial and technical cooperation for development; v) external debt; and vi) systemic issues. At the same time, the international development and financing landscape has further evolved over the past decade. The Addis Ababa Conference should take into account major challenges and opportunities that have emerged since Monterrey, such as the impact of the financial crisis, the greater focus on the private sector, the growth of middle-income countries, and the additional costs of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

In accordance with the same resolution, the reports of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF) and of the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the synthesis report of the Secretary-General, will provide important inputs to the preparations for the Conference.

- The ICESDF report has made three major contributions: first, it develops a new analytical framework for financing sustainable development; second, it proposes a basket of policy options for countries to choose from; third, it suggests areas for advancement of the global partnership for sustainable development.
- The OWG report proposes 17 goals and their associated targets. Goal 17 calls for a “revitalized global partnership for development and strengthened means of implementation,” including in the areas of finance, technology, capacity building and trade, as well as other systemic issues.

- The synthesis report of the Secretary-General will synthesize the full range of inputs available and serve as input to intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda in preparation for the September 2015 Summit. The report will be ready by the end of 2014.
- The reports of the Secretary-General to the 69th session of the General Assembly on: (i) Follow-up to and implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration on Financing for Development; (ii) International financial system and development; (iii) International trade and development; and (iv) External debt sustainability and development will also provide relevant inputs to the substantive preparation of the Conference.

II. Preparatory process

The preparation of the Conference is conducted under the leadership of the President of the 69th session of the General Assembly and includes substantive informal sessions on relevant thematic areas of a maximum duration of eight working days, plus two working days of informal interactive hearings with representatives of civil society and the business sector, to be held through March 2015. In addition, a series of informal consultations and drafting sessions of the outcome document will be held as follows: three days in January 2015, five days in April 2015, and five days in June 2015. A first draft of the outcome document should be presented by February 2015. The United Nations Secretary-General has nominated Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, as the Secretary-General of the Conference. The Financing for Development Office of the Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) will provide support to the preparations for the Conference. In doing so, it will closely engage with the Government of Ethiopia, supporting them to play a key role as Conference hosts in achieving broad participation in the preparatory process and the Conference itself.

Substantive informal sessions

By his letter dated 24 October 2014, the President of the 69th session of the General Assembly circulated the updated programme of work for the substantive informal sessions:

Substantive Informal Sessions	
17 October 2014 3-6 pm	Opening session - <i>Financing sustainable development - setting the stage</i> - <i>Discussion of the proposed roadmap</i>
10 November 2014 3-6 pm	The global context - <i>Global context</i> - <i>Financing across the three dimensions of sustainable development – major trends and data</i> - <i>Implications for sustainable development, including poverty eradication and inequalities</i>
11-13 November 2014	Mobilisation and effective use of resources - <i>Domestic and international public finance, including Official Development Assistance</i> - <i>Private (domestic and international) and blended finance</i>
9-12 December 2014	Enabling environment, systemic issues, follow-up process and learning

from partnerships

- *Enabling and conducive policy environment*
- *Trade, technology and capacity building and other non-financial means of implementation*
- *Governance*
- *Learning from partnerships and follow-up process*

Individual sessions follow three alternative formats: panel discussions, round table discussions and debates. The format matches the substantive requirements of each topic. Panel discussions allow a limited number of panellists to provide substantive inputs and then give time to Member States to respond and raise questions. Round table discussions include a larger number of speakers and provide opportunity for them to share experiences in a larger group. Debates are used to address contentious issues and elicit potential areas of agreement.

In addition to the 8 working days of substantive informal sessions (which will include 16 meetings), side events on additional topics will be organised in collaboration with other interested stakeholders.

Informal interactive hearings with civil society and the business sector

In its resolution 68/279, the General Assembly “*invites and encourages* non-governmental organizations and business sector entities, including small and medium enterprises from developing countries, to participate in the third International Conference on Financing for Development and its preparatory process, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, in particular the accreditation procedures and modalities of participation utilized at the Monterrey and Doha Conferences and their preparatory processes”.

The two working days of informal interactive hearings are tentatively scheduled on 14-15 January 2015. They will provide civil society and the private sector with an opportunity to share their views and recommendations on a broad range of substantive issues to be addressed by the Conference. The hearings will foster dialogue between Member States and non-governmental actors. Their format and substantive focus will be determined in consultation with the relevant civil society and business sector groups involved in the FFD follow-up process.

The UN Secretariat will provide substantive guidance to the organization of the hearings and the broader contributions of civil society and the business sector to the Conference and its preparatory process, in collaboration with the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service and other relevant actors. The engagement of non-governmental actors will culminate in the global forums of civil society and the business sector on financing for development on the eve of the Conference in Addis Ababa.

Regional consultations

Regional commissions are encouraged to hold regional consultations, with the support of regional development banks and other relevant entities, the outcome of which could serve as input to the preparations for the Conference. The Financing for Development Office (FfDO) will provide substantive support to the organization of the regional consultations, as appropriate

Other global events

In parallel to the preparatory process conducted under the auspices of the General Assembly, a number of relevant international events and intergovernmental processes addressing issues related to the Conference will be taking place, within and outside the United Nations, in the lead up to the Conference. The outcomes of these events and processes may provide some relevant inputs to the preparations for the Conference and may complement the discussions held in the substantive informal sessions, informal interactive hearings with civil society and the business sector, and regional consultations.

Drafting sessions of the outcome document

The three drafting sessions of the outcome document of the Conference will be held on 27-29 January 2015, 13-17 April 2015 and 15-19 June 2015. The draft outcome document will be prepared by February 2015 on the basis of the substantive informal sessions and other relevant inputs. During the opening substantive session, which was held on 17 October 2014, several delegations expressed strong need to secure the participation of representatives from Ministries of Finance and other relevant ministries in the drafting sessions.

Major institutional stakeholders

General Assembly resolution 68/279 “*reaffirms* the special role that the international financial and trade institutions, in particular the major institutional stakeholders involved in the financing for development follow-up process, should play in all aspects of the third International Conference on Financing for Development, including their active involvement in its preparatory work, following the experience of the Monterrey and Doha Conferences.”

The UN Secretariat is setting up an ad hoc and time-bound *Advisory Group* to contribute to the substantive preparation of the Conference, including substantive informal thematic sessions, informal interactive hearings and other relevant intergovernmental meetings. The Group will be comprised of the major institutional stakeholders (i.e. the World Bank, IMF, WTO, UNCTAD and UNDP) and other UN entities willing to contribute to the process. It will seek to strengthen coherence, coordination and cooperation across the UN system in the lead up to the Conference.

III. Objective of the project

The overall objective of the project is to prepare for a meaningful outcome of the third International Conference on Financing for Development, which should constitute an important contribution to and support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. To that end, the project seeks to (i) ensure the inclusive engagement, contribution and participation of country representatives and relevant stakeholders in the Conference and its preparatory process, especially from developing and transition economy countries; (ii) provide significant outputs of thematic discussions and consultations through the commissioning and preparation of policy papers; and (iii) promote and mobilize significant support for the Conference through public outreach and communications activities.

IV. Outputs and activities

General Assembly resolution 68/279 invited all Member States and other potential donors to consider contributing generously to the Trust Fund for the Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD Trust Fund), in order to support the activities involved in the preparations for the third International Conference on Financing for Development and the travel and participation of representatives from developing countries, in particular the least developed countries. The proposed outputs and activities are in line with the Terms of Reference of the FFD Trust Fund.

Output 1 Inclusive engagement of country representatives, civil society, academia, business sector and institutional stakeholders in the Conference and its preparatory process

The broad engagement of government representatives and non-State actors in the Conference and its preparatory process will be critical for the preparation and adoption of a meaningful outcome document. Importantly, the participation of representatives from developing and transition economy countries will ensure inclusive and balanced deliberations in preparation of and during the Conference and build broad-based sense of ownership.

Notwithstanding the fact that delegates of Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York will attend the substantive informal sessions of the preparatory process of the Conference, convened under the auspices of the General Assembly, Member States and other stakeholders expressed strong demand to facilitate the participation of government representatives from capitals, notably from Ministries of Finance and other relevant ministries, in these substantive sessions. In the same vein, the participation of such experts from the capitals in the drafting sessions of the outcome document will contribute to the successful preparations for the Conference.

Further consultations with major institutional stakeholders and other relevant UN entities will also be conducted to reinforce coherence and collaboration across the UN system.

Activities

1.1	Participation of up to 50 government representatives and 15 representatives of civil society, academia or the business sector, from developing and transition economy countries, as well as up to 10 panelists, in each of the substantive informal sessions to be held over a maximum duration of eight working days up to March 2015
1.2	Participation of up to 20 representatives from civil society, academia and the business sector from developing and transition economy countries, as well as up to 5 panelists, in each of the informal interactive hearings to be held over two working days by March 2015
1.3	Participation of up to 50 government representatives, from developing and transition economy countries, in each of the three drafting sessions to be held in January (3 days), April (5 days) and June (5 days)
1.4	Participation of FfDO staff members in regional consultations, consultative meetings with major institutional stakeholders (i.e. World Bank, IMF, WTO, UNCTAD and UNDP) and other UN entities in Geneva and Washington D.C., as

	well as other global events relevant to the preparatory process of the Addis Conference
1.5	Participation of up to 49 2-person delegations from Least Developed Countries (Minister and one advisor) in the Addis Conference
1.6	Participation of up to 30 government representatives from other developing and transition economy countries in the Addis Conference
1.7	Participation of up to 40 representatives of civil society, academia or the business sector from developing and transition economy countries in the Addis Conference and the global forums of civil society and the business sector on the eve of the Conference
1.8	Participation of up to 6 panelists in side events on the margins of the Addis Conference

Output 2 Compendium of policy papers

A series of policy papers will inform and build upon the thematic discussions and consultations to take place in the lead up to and during the Conference. They will focus on different thematic areas and complement the analysis and findings of the report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, the Secretary-General's synthesis report on post-2015, as well as the relevant reports of the Secretary-General to the 69th session of the General Assembly.

Activities

2.1	Preparation of up to 16 policy papers for the substantive informal sessions (including possible side events)
2.2	Preparation of up to 4 policy papers for the informal interactive hearings with civil society and the business sector (including possible side events)
2.3	Preparation of background papers for each of the six interactive round tables of the Conference
2.4	Preparation of up to 4 policy papers for the global forums of civil society and the business sector
2.5	Preparation of up to 6 policy papers for side events to be held on the margins of the Addis Conference

Output 3 Public outreach and communications

Various communications activities will be carried out to raise awareness and galvanize significant political support towards an ambitious outcome of the Conference. Traditional and social media channels will be used to disseminate information and draw the attention of the general public before, during and after the Conference. Post-conference documents will be produced and distributed in different fora to scale up the momentum of the Conference.

Activities

3.1	Preparation of a communications strategy for the Conference
3.2	Development and maintenance of the Conference website
3.3	Production and distribution of public information materials (e.g. posters, banners, brochures, videos, press kits, etc.)
3.4	Media coverage of the Conference, including through internet, social media and other communications channels
3.5	Printing and distribution of the Conference report and the outcome document

[A detailed budget can be provided upon request]