

Inter-agency Task Force on the follow-up to the Financing for Development outcomes and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (IATF on FfD)

Terms of Reference

Overall context

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda provides a new global framework for financing sustainable development, which supports implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Addis Agenda aligns all domestic and international resource flows, policies and international agreements with economic, social and environmental priorities. It incorporates all the SDG means of implementation (MoI) targets into a comprehensive financing framework. It also serves as a guide for further actions by governments, international organizations, the business sector, civil society, and philanthropists.

Successful implementation of the Addis Agenda will rely on engagement by all relevant stakeholders in a vibrant and revitalized global partnership. Mechanisms for monitoring, follow-up and review will be essential in this regard. In the Addis Agenda, countries commit to staying engaged through a dedicated and strengthened follow-up process.

In this context, the Addis Agenda establishes an annual ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up (FfDF) with universal intergovernmental participation to review the implementation of financing for development outcomes and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Its intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations will feed into the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The deliberations of the Development Cooperation Forum, according to its mandate, will also be taken into account.

To support the deliberations of the FfDF and the HLPF, an inter-agency task force (IATF) will report annually on progress in implementing the FfD outcomes and the MoI of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Based on the statistical monitoring of the MoI indicators and analysis of data and information relevant to additional commitments in the Addis Agenda, it will further advise the intergovernmental process on progress, implementation gaps and recommendations for corrective action, taking into consideration national and regional dimensions.

Mandate

The mandate for the IATF emanates from paragraph 133 of the Addis Agenda:
133. To ensure a strengthened follow-up process at the global level, we encourage the Secretary-General to convene an inter-agency task force, including the major institutional stakeholders and the United Nations system, including funds and programmes and specialized agencies whose mandates are related to the follow-up, building on the experience of the Millennium Development Goals Gap Task Force. The inter-agency task force will report annually on progress in implementing the financing for development outcomes and the means of implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and advise the intergovernmental follow-up thereto on progress, implementation gaps and recommendations for corrective action, while taking into consideration the national and regional dimensions.

Purpose and tasks

The purpose of the IATF is (i) to report annually on progress in implementing the Addis Agenda and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and (ii) to advise the intergovernmental follow-up processes on implementation gaps and recommendations for corrective action, while taking into consideration the national and regional dimensions.

The IATF Report's primary role will be to inform the deliberations of Member States on the implementation of the FfD outcomes at the annual ECOSOC FfDF and on the MoI of the SDGs at the HLPF on Sustainable Development. Every four years, an extended version of the Report – assessing progress over the preceding four years – will also support deliberations at the High-Level Dialogue of the General Assembly on Financing for Development, which will be held back-to-back with the quadrennial HLPF on SD under the auspices of the General Assembly.

The IATF Report should be analytical, policy-oriented, concise and provided in the official UN languages. As many sets of data and information will be required for monitoring implementation of the Addis Agenda and the MoI of the 2030 Agenda, the IATF will select the data and information to be included in its official reports, complemented by standard on-line data and information appendices for fuller treatments.

The IATF Report will be primarily targeted at Member States, particularly policymakers from ministries of finance, trade, foreign affairs and development cooperation, as well as central banks, local authorities, regulators and parliaments. Its analysis and recommendations should also inform implementing agencies that are guided by the priorities set in the Addis Agenda and the 2030 Agenda, and those outside the public sector that assess progress or advocate for change, including academics, think tanks, civil society and the private sector.

Composition and working methods

The Inter-Agency Task Force will be convened by the Secretary-General, and chaired by USG/DESA and/or ASG/DESA for Economic Development, as appropriate. It will include the major institutional stakeholders of the FfD process, the UN regional commissions and funds and programmes and specialized agencies of the UN system as well as UN offices whose mandates are related to the follow-up. In addition, other international institutions, such as the OECD, will be invited to join with the UN system in preparing specific chapters of the IATF Report, in accordance with their relevant expertise.

Building on the experience of the MDG Gap Task Force, and to ensure effective and timely production of the IATF Report, DESA will coordinate a core group of agencies that take the lead in drafting the main chapters of the report, including in particular the major institutional stakeholders of the FfD process. The full Task Force as convened by the Secretary-General will be invited to contribute to specific chapters on a self-selecting basis and under the guidance of the chapter lead agencies.

Agencies that take the lead in drafting chapters will include:

- UN-DESA as the overall coordinator and editor (with FfDO/DESA serving as the focal point)

- The five major institutional stakeholders of the FfD process: WBG, IMF, WTO, UNCTAD and UNDP
- Other relevant agencies which could play a coordinating role in specific chapters, along with UN-DESA and the institutional stakeholders, such as the OECD (international public finance) and the co-convenors of the UN Task Team on science, technology and innovation for the SDGs (technology).

The full Task Force will be open to all agencies of the UN system, through the EC-ESA Plus, that wish to contribute to the Report. The UN Regional Commissions (ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP and ESCWA), in particular, may help bring national and regional perspectives to the Report.

The Report will also benefit from inputs from other stakeholders, including academia, civil society, foundations and the private sector. Such inputs will be procured either through targeted outreach to accredited stakeholders and interested experts, inviting written contributions or participation in IATF meetings, and/or through on-line open calls for comments and feedback on draft reports.

Thematic scope of the IATF Report

The IATF Report will assess progress in the seven action areas of the Addis Agenda, such as (i) domestic public resources; (ii) domestic and international private business and finance; (iii) international development cooperation; (iv) international trade as an engine for development; (v) debt sustainability; (vi) addressing systemic issues; and (vii) science, technology, innovation and capacity building.

The Report will be analytical in nature, with a focus on monitoring progress in implementing commitments made in the MoI of the SDGs and in the Addis Agenda. The initial report will map out these commitments, emphasizing the relationship between the MoIs of the SDGs and the Addis Agenda. The analysis will build on the statistical indicators currently developed by the Statistical Commission for the SDG MoI targets. It will also draw on additional data and information in areas that are central to the Addis Agenda but not covered in the SDG indicators, based on existing data without adding to the reporting burden of countries. Together, the indicators and data will provide the basis for evidence-based policy analysis, with a view to providing Member States with policy recommendations. The Report will thus complement the statistical focus of the SDG Progress Report, which is mandated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to annually assess progress in implementation of the 17 SDGs, including SDG 17 on means of implementation and the global partnership. In addition, all seven chapters will address emerging issues and challenges to progress in implementation, and will focus on implementation and data gaps. The Report can also draw on insights and findings by scientific and technological communities, as reported in the Global Sustainable Development Report, as well as inputs from deliberations of the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF).

The Report's geographic scope will primarily be global, in order to ensure a complete picture of progress. The Report will disaggregate analysis and discuss trends by regions and by country groups according to their levels of development. The regional analysis will draw upon specific inputs and ongoing work by the UN regional commissions. National and sub-national developments could be analysed as case studies.

To further deepen analysis and allow for assessment of cross-cutting issues that are relevant to progress in implementation, an overview chapter will be included. An additional thematic chapter that would focus on one or two cross-cutting issues pertinent to the FfD agenda may also be included. The detailed treatment of these themes would serve to further inform intergovernmental deliberations at the FfDF and the HLPF.

Every four years, an expanded version of the Report would serve to inform the High-level Dialogue of the General Assembly on Financing for Development. For this purpose, the Report would adopt a broader perspective, analysing developments over the preceding four years. Additional thematic chapters could also be considered to arrive at a more complete picture of progress in implementation and remaining obstacles to achieving the Action Agenda's objectives.