

## Retreat

### **Advancing the Financing for Development Agenda in 2019: the FfD Forum, High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, and 2019 FSDR**

9-10 December 2018

#### **Background**

Mobilizing financing and other means of implementation for sustainable development will be high on the global agenda in 2019. In September, the international community will chart a way forward to accelerate progress in implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, at the General Assembly High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development and the High-level Political Forum at the level of Heads of State and Government. Major milestones leading up to the September meetings include the 2019 ECOSOC FfD Forum and the SDG Investment Fair, to be held in April, and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July. Under the guidance of the Secretary-General's Strategy for Financing the 2030 Agenda, the Secretariat will also step up its actions to accelerate progress. To make the most of this opportunity, preparations for these events will need to be brought together in a strategic manner, and substantive deliberations by Member States and other stakeholders throughout the year need to build on each other.

Analytical work of the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development and its annual Financing for Sustainable Development Report (FSDR) will be tailored to support these events and discussions. The FSDR has become an authoritative assessment of progress in implementing the Addis Agenda and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The 2019 thematic chapter of the report will examine the state of play in mounting integrated national financing frameworks to help support implementation of national sustainable development strategies. This will be complemented by an analysis of an increasingly challenging global economic context and its impact on development financing, and a detailed assessment of progress in each of the action areas of the Addis Agenda.

#### **Objectives**

The retreat will serve to:

- i. Discuss the substantive focus and objectives of the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, the outcome of the ECOSOC FfD Forum, along with the SDG Investment Fair; and
- ii. Share and discuss analysis and emerging messages of the 2019 FSDR, to ensure the report is helpful to Member State deliberations, and to understand how the FSDR can best inform intergovernmental discussions on FfD in 2019.

Key guiding questions include:

- What are the key substantive expectations for the 2019 High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development?

- How can the FfD Forum and the SDG Investment Fair be most effectively used to support preparations of the High-level Dialogue?
- How best can the FfD Forum, SDG Investment Fair and High-level Dialogue complement discussions at the HLPF, in July and in September?
- How can FSDR analysis and policy recommendations help achieve these objectives?
- How can the FSDR, the 2019 FfD Forum, the High-level Dialogue on FfD and the HLPF be best used to strengthen momentum for Addis Agenda implementation?
- How to strengthen engagement of stakeholders in the FfD Forum and FfD process?

### **Participants**

The primary target groups are Second Committee Delegates and representatives from capitals. Special efforts will be made to ensure participation of developing country representatives, especially from least developed countries. The retreat would be organized jointly by FSDO/DESA, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and the South Centre.

### **Agenda**

#### **Sunday, 9 December**

15-15:30

#### ***Opening Session***

*Welcome remarks by hosts:*

**Ms. Luise Rürup**, Executive Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung New York Office

**Mr. Manuel Montes**, Permanent Observer to the United Nations, South Centre

*Opening remarks:*

**H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King**, President of the Economic and Social Council

**Mr. Liu Zhenmin**, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

15:30-16:30

#### ***The global economic context and its impact on financing sustainable development***

*Moderator:*

**Mr. Navid Hanif**, Director, Financing for Sustainable Development Office

*Presentations:*

**Ms. Dawn Holland**, Chief, Global Economic Monitoring Branch, Development Policy and Analysis Division, UNDESA

**Ms. Victoria Perry**, Assistant Director, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF

**Mr. Marc Stocker**, Senior Economist, Development Prospects Group, World Bank

**Ms. Pamela Coke Hamilton**, Director, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD

16:30-17:30 ***Financing for Development in 2019 – Making the most of the High-level Dialogue***

- *What are the key substantive expectations for the 2019 High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development?*
- *What should be its substantive focus and outcome?*
- *How best can it complement the High-level Political Forum at HoSG level?*

*Setting the stage:*

**Mr. Kwabena Osei-Danquah**, Chef de Cabinet, Office of the President of the GA

*Introductory remarks:*

**H.E. Mr. Marc-Andre Blanchard**, Permanent Representative of Canada to the UN

17:30-18:30 ***Milestones to a successful High-level Dialogue – the 2019 FfD Forum, SDG Investment Fair, and FSDR***

- *What are lessons learned from the 2018 FfD Forum?*
- *How can FSDR analysis and policy recommendations help achieve these objectives, and strengthen momentum for Addis Agenda implementation?*
- *How to strengthen engagement of stakeholders in the FfD Forum and process?*

*Setting the stage:*

**H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King**, President of the Economic and Social Council

*Introductory remarks:*

**H.E. Mr. Lazarous Kapambwe**, Permanent Representative of Zambia to the UN

*Comments:*

**Mr. Lorenzo Morini**, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Italy to the UN

19:00 ***Reception and Dinner***

*Keynote address*

**Mr. Jan Kregel**, Director of Research, Levy Economics Institute of Bard College

**Monday, 10 December**

9:00-10:30

***Overview of 2019 FSDR and its thematic chapter***

*Discussion of key points and brief update across the action areas of Addis Agenda, and the thematic chapter on integrated national financing frameworks for the 2030 Agenda*

Introduction by **Mr. Navid Hanif**, Director, Financing for Sustainable Development Office

**Ms. Shari Spiegel**, Chief, Policy Analysis and Development Branch, FSDO, and representatives of the major institutional stakeholders

10:30-10:45

***Coffee Break***

10:45-11:45

***Progress in the action areas******Break-out session 1: Domestic Public Resources***

The FSDR chapter on domestic public resources will focus on fiscal policy, including raising revenues, expenditures, and incentives in a challenging global context. The session will be facilitated by representatives of DESA and the IMF.

***Break-out session 2: Private Business and Finance***

The FSDR chapter on private business and finance will include discussions on building domestic sustainable and inclusive financial markets, and on how to align the global financial system with sustainable development. In response to the request in the negotiated outcome of the 2018 FfD Forum, the chapter will include further analysis on the relationship between ESG investing and financial returns. The session will be facilitated by representatives of DESA, UNCTAD and the World Bank.

***Break-out session 3: International Development Cooperation***

The FSDR chapter on international development cooperation will cover a range of issues on development cooperation from the Addis Agenda. It will highlight national development cooperation policies, as a link to the thematic chapter. In response to the request in the negotiated outcome of the 2018 FfD Forum, the chapter will also highlight an analysis of the use of ODA and climate and disaster resilience in development cooperation. The session will be facilitated by representatives of DESA, UNDP and the World Bank.

11:45-12:45      ***Progress in the action areas (cont.)***

*Break-out session 4: Trade and Technology*

The FSDR chapters on trade and technology will address challenges in the current challenging global environment. In response to the request in the negotiated outcome of the 2018 FfD Forum, the chapters will include a focus on trade finance, and also assess digital technologies and their impact on access to finance and innovation, employment and development prospects. The session will be facilitated by representatives of DESA and UNCTAD.

*Break-out session 5: Debt and Systemic Issues*

FSDR chapters on debt and systemic issues will focus on risks in the global economy that threaten to further exacerbate debt challenges and financial stability, curtailing fiscal space for SDG investments. In response to the request in the negotiated outcome of the 2018 FfD Forum, the chapters will look into innovative instruments to reduce risks, continue to monitor the decline in correspondent banking and its effects, as well as the possible unintended consequences of international financial regulation, and also examine practices related to risk management issues by development banks and related financial institutions.<sup>1</sup> The session will be facilitated by representatives of DESA, the IMF and UNCTAD.

13:00-15:00      ***Working Lunch***

*Reports back from the break-out sessions and concluding remarks*

15:00              ***Departure***

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<sup>1</sup> Some elements of these requests will be divided between the Systemic issues, DRM and the Private Business and Finance chapters.